

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea



2nd Week of Christmas, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week II

“As for Mary,
she treasured all these things
and pondered them in her heart.”

Luke 2:18

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
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Parish Address: **The Catholic Presbytery**
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Parish Web Site: www.ourladystarofthesealowestoft.wordpress.com

R.C. Diocese of East Anglia:
A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

Parish Church: Catholic Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Gordon Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1NL.

Chapel of Ease: St Nicholas' Catholic Church, Morton Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0JQ.

Other Clergy: Rev. Fr. Stephen Bould; Rev. Fr. Neville McClement, Rev. Mr. Stephen Pomeroy.

Sacramental Preparation: Applications are made by Contacting Fr Pádraig – one month's notice is required for the Sacrament of Baptism and six months' notice for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Parish Newsletter: Items for consideration need to be sent to Fr Pádraig - frpmfoh@gmail.com – by Wednesday Evening please. The Completed Newsletter will be posted on the Website each Saturday.

Gospel Reflection

“Today’s reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds’ visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfilment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ. In the context of today’s Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby Jesus as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised. Mary’s faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God’s will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God’s plan of salvation. Because of Mary’s faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God’s Son and accept her role in God’s plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church. Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God’s presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.”

Please do visit the “Wednesday Word” Website each week for short Reflections on the Sunday Readings: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm>

Solemnity of the Epiphany – Friday 6th January – Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Times: 9:30am at St Nicholas, 12noon at OLSS, and 6pm at OLSS

“The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Matthew’s Gospel tells a version of Jesus’ birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . .” The story of the census is found only in Luke’s Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew’s Gospel. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent

the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana." **The Epiphany is a Holy Day of Obligation and Masses will be celebrated at 9:30am in St Nicholas', at 12noon and at 6pm in the parish church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea.**

Youth Candlelight Mass – 7th January 2023

On Saturday 7th January 2023 there will be a special Mass for the young people of our Diocese celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins at 4pm in the Parish church of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland (NR14 7SH). Mass will be followed by refreshments (inc. hotdogs!) and fireworks and will end at 6pm. There will be a collection of gifts for the "Welcome Rucksack Project" which seeks to help refugee children. Suitable gifts (please bring unwrapped) include small games, stickers, suitable shampoo and bodywash. For more information please visit the website of the Diocesan Youth Service: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Catholic Primary School

A reminder to all our parents that the local Catholic Primary School is St Mary's, located on Kirkley Cliff Road (NR33 0DG). For anyone who is considering a school placement for their child, from reception through to Year 6, I would recommend contacting the school and arranging either a tour or a meeting with the Head of School, Mrs Ewa Parker, Tel: 01502 565384. For more information please visit: <https://www.stmarysrtps.com>

Job Vacancy

The Diocese is seeking a Deputy Director of Schools Service. Please see Diocesan Website for more details: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies/>

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to c.£400.00 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£403). Your continued financial support for your parish, the diocese and the wider Universal Church is much needed and very much appreciated.

We Pray for...

We pray for all in our Parish who are currently unwell and who are suffering from illness of one kind or another, praying especially for the housebound who are not able to join us for regular worship. We pray also for those who have recently passed away and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time; may they rest in peace. Names of the Sick and the Deceased may be written in the Parish Prayer Books and will be prayed for.

Mass & Service Times for the Coming Week: January 1st – January 7th

- Saturday 31st - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Christmas, Year A)*
Offered for: Thinking of & Praying for us All (MS)
- Sunday 1st - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(2nd Sunday of Christmas, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 1st - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Christmas, Year A)*
Offered for: A Private Intention
- Monday 2nd - 10:00 – Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Basil the Great & St Gregory)*
Offered for: Mabel Leavey (RIP)
- Tuesday 3rd - 12:00 – Our Lady's** *(Christmas Feria)*
Offered for: Mr & Mrs Frost (RIP)
- Wednesday 4th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Christmas Feria)*
Offered for: Mr & Mrs Leavey (RIP)
- Thursday 5th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Christmas Feria)*
Offered for: James Leavey (RIP)
- Friday 6th - 09:30 - St Nicholas'** *(The Epiphany)*
Offered for:
- **12:00 - Our Lady's**
Offered for:
- **18:00 - Our Lady's**
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Saturday 7th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Christmas Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 7th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(The Baptism of the Lord, Year A)*
Offered for: Gordon William Thomas Pullman (RIP)
- Sunday 8th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(The Baptism of the Lord, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 8th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(The Baptism of the Lord, Year A)*
Offered for:

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place every week during Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (from 9:30 to c.10am) following the 9am Mass on Saturday Morning. One may also make an appointment with Fr Pádraig for confession at another suitable time.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered for someone, living or deceased, or for a particular intention (exams, interview, etc.), please collect a pre-printed envelope from the back of the church. Details of your request, including the preferred date, can then be entered on the front of the envelope (legibly please) and then your offering may be placed inside before being given to Fr Pádraig.
