

**The Catholic Parish
of
Our Lady, Star of the Sea**



1st Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week I

“And a voice spoke from heaven,
‘This is my Son, the Beloved;
my favour rests on him.’”

Matthew 3:17

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.

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

“The baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue between Jesus and John, however. Another difference in Matthew’s presentation of this event is the announcement made by the voice from heaven, which says, “This is my beloved son . . .” In Mark and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: “You are my beloved son . . .” The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew’s Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: “I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:11). The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ’s baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians. This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today’s feast is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus’ birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God’s son and inaugurates that mission.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 538-540: “The Gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John. Driven by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus remains there for forty days without eating; he lives among wild beasts, and angels minister to him. At the end of this time Satan tempts him three times, seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God. Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate the temptations of Adam in Paradise and of Israel in the desert, and the devil leaves him "until an opportune time." The evangelists indicate the salvific meaning of this mysterious event: Jesus is the new Adam who remained faithful just where the first Adam had given in to temptation. Jesus fulfils Israel's vocation perfectly: in contrast to those who had once provoked God during forty years in the desert, Christ reveals himself as God's Servant, totally obedient to the divine will. In this, Jesus is the devil's conqueror: he "binds the strong man" to take back his plunder. Jesus' victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience of his filial love for the Father. Jesus' temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him. This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: "For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning." By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.”

Thank You!

Fr Pádraig, Fr Stephen, Fr Neville, Eric and Deacon Stephen wish to thank you all for the many cards, gifts and Christmas Wishes received over the past few weeks. Your continued affection and generosity is very much appreciated.

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.stmarysrcps.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/>

Results of Knights of St. Columba Council 518 Christmas 2022 Lottery Draw

1st - no 124 - Margaret Bray - £20; 2nd - no 53 - Pat Walmsley - £20; 3rd - no 17 - Don Blakeman - £20; 4th - no 41 - Faith Marie Risebro - £20; 5th - no 11 - Eric McClement - Bottle of Whisky. Many thanks to all supporters of the 2022 Lottery draw which is now completed having raised funds for good causes. Bro. Mike Fathers (tel 01502 565342) is seeking supporters for the four 2023 quarterly Draws, each having four prizes of £20, the first being in April. Tickets to enter the 2023 draw remain at £10 each.

Thanks from the CWL

The Lowestoft Section of the CWL thanks parishioners for supporting their Christmas Food Hamper Draw - £231 was raised for local and national charities.

Dates for you Diary...

16/02/23 – Parish In-Council Meeting at 7:30pm in the Stella Maris Hall (postponed from the 2nd Feb) – Topics to be discussed and Items for the Agenda to be sent to Fr Pádraig, please, by Sunday 12th February. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £c400.00 (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 8th – January 14th

- 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:
- Monday 9th - 09:00 – Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for: Private Intention
- Tuesday 10th - 12:00 – Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 11th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 12th - 09:30 - St Nicholas'** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Friday 13th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Requiem Mass)* *(Feria)*
Offered for: Dorothy Bennet (RIP)
- Saturday 14th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 14th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for:
- Sunday 15th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 15th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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.
