

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



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

“Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said,
‘Look, there is the lamb of God
that takes away the sins of the world.’”

John 1:29

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

“This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew’s Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John’s Gospel. We heard Matthew’s account of Jesus’ baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus as found in John’s Gospel. John’s Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God. In today’s reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John’s testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him. John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” and the “Son of God.” By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus’ ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity. John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John’s baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus’ ministry. The purpose of John’s baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel. John the Baptist’s sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John’s witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.”

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

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (608 & 719): “After agreeing to baptize him along with the sinners, John the Baptist looked at Jesus and pointed him out as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”. By doing so, he reveals that Jesus is at the same time the suffering Servant who silently allows himself to be led to the slaughter and who bears the sin of the multitudes, and also the Paschal Lamb, the symbol of Israel’s redemption at the first Passover. Christ’s whole life expresses his mission: “to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – “John the Baptist is “more than a prophet.” In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the “voice” of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John “came to bear witness to the light.” In John’s sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfils the longing of the angels. “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. .. Behold, the Lamb of God.”



Christians Together in Lowestoft

The United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place on Sunday January 22nd at 3.00pm, at the Salvation Army South Church, Carlton Road, Lowestoft NR33 0RU. All are welcome to attend this service.

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/>

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 15th – January 21st

- Saturday 14th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 15th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for:
- Sunday 15th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for:
- Monday 16th - 09:00 – Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Tuesday 17th - 12:00 – Our Lady's** (Mem, St Antony)
Offered for:
- Wednesday 18th - 09:30 – St Mary's Catholic Primary School** (Feria)
Offered for: The Children & Teachers of St Mary's RCPC
- Thursday 19th - 09:30 - St Nicholas'** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Friday 20th - 14:00 - Our Lady's** (Nuptial Mass) (Feria)
Offered for: Millie and Declan McAvoy's Intention
- Saturday 21st - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Mem, St Agnes)
Offered for:
- Saturday 21st - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for:
- Sunday 22nd - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 22nd - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd 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.
