

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea



4th Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV

“Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward
will be great in heaven.”

Matthew 5:12

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
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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

“Today’s reading is the beginning of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew’s Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God. We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls “blessed” and “happy” are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus’ blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness. “Blessed” is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favoured. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day. The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.”

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



The Feast of the Presentation / Candlemas – Thursday 2nd February: On this day the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians

who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles. Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel. Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Saviour, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfilment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all." **The Catechism of the Catholic Church (529):** "The presentation of Jesus in the temple shows him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. With Simeon and Anna, all Israel awaits its encounter with the Saviour-the name given to this event in the Byzantine tradition. Jesus is recognized as the long-expected Messiah, the "light to the nations" and the "glory of Israel", but also "a sign that is spoken against". The sword of sorrow predicted for Mary announces Christ's perfect and unique oblation on the cross that will impart the salvation God had "prepared in the presence of all peoples"."

NB – Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) will take place in the Parish church (OLSS) on Thursday 2nd February at 6pm. All are welcome.

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>

Dates for you Diary...

22/02/23 – Ash Wednesday / The Beginning of the Penitential Season of Lent...

02/03/23 – 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 26th February. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £388.72 (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 29th – February 4th

- Saturday 28th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Jean Smith's Intention
- Sunday 29th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Gaetan (Colombo) (RIP)
- Sunday 29th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Monday 30th - 09:00 – Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: Paddy Rooney
- Tuesday 31st - 12:00 – Our Lady's** (Mem, St John Bosco)
Offered for:
- Wednesday 1st - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Thursday 2nd - 10:00 - Our Lady's** (Requiem Mass)
Offered for: Fiona Mary Oldman (RIP)
- 18:00 - Our Lady's** (Feast, The Presentation of the Lord)
Offered for:
- Friday 3rd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Saturday 4th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Saturday 4th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for:
- Sunday 5th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 5th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (5th 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.
