

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea



3rd Week of Lent, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week III

“If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: give me a drink, you would be the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.”

John 4:10

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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

“In today’s Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law. The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus’ promise of “living water” in a literal sense: “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her “many husbands.” Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come. The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman’s questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship. After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him. The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people. The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God’s mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.”

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

Knight's News

- 1 - Bro Neville Hiremath being raised to Full Knighthood at 5 pm Mass Saturday.
- 2 - KSC 2023 Lottery fees - Bro Chris Brooks continues collections - see leaflet.
- 3 - Young people's Easter Altar photo competition - practise OLSS 12 noon this Sunday and next - competition deadline now extended till end of April.

Parish Lenten Alms – Aid to the Church in Need

To donate a Lenten Gift of Faith and support the work of Aid to the Church in Need please use this link: [Aid to the Church in Need/Lenten Gift of Faith](#)

This Week's Lenten Devotions...

Tuesday 14th: Mass at 10am (Wake in S.Maris Hall), Stations of the Cross at 11:15am.
Thursday 16th: Stations of the Cross at 5pm, Confessions at 6pm, Mass at 7pm.
Saturday 18th: Confessions take place from 9:30-10am, during Exposition & Adoration.

Lent Bible Studies

Begun last Monday and Continuing for the next 4 consecutive Mondays, there is a series of 'Lent Bible Studies' taking place at the URC, London Road, from 10:30am. You may attend in person or via Zoom: Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926. Passcode: 811885

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7760441926?pwd=R2k5VENDaENHVUhFakpFZnk4VDJaZz09>

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...

16/03/23 – Deanery Station Mass Celebrated by Bishop Peter. There will be Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm and then a Lenten Meal of Soup and Bread Rolls will be available for all in the Stella Maris Hall.

Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

18th/19th March – Easter Flowers for Our Lady's & St Nicholas.

1st/2nd April – Holy Land Shrines – for the Holy Places of Palestine

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £435.29 (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: March 12th – March 18th

- Saturday 11th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A)
Offered for: Fr Brendan Moffatt's Intention
- Sunday 12th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 12th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A)
Offered for: Glenn Francis Bowdidge
- Monday 13th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)
Offered for:
- Tuesday 14th - 10:00 - Our Lady's (Requiem Mass)** (Lent Feria)
Offered for: Mary Teresa (Maize) Waring (RIP)
- Wednesday 15th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)
Offered for:
- Thursday 16th - 19:00 - Our Lady's (Station Mass)** (Lent Feria)
Offered for: The People of the Deanery
- Friday 17th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feast, St Patrick)
Offered for:
- Saturday 18th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)
Offered for: John Lodwick (RIP) (Novelist)
- Saturday 18th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year A)
Offered for: A Special Intention
- Sunday 19th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 19th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year A)
Offered for: Federico Rieder (RIP)

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.
