

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



**4th Week of Lent, Year A**  
*Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV*

“It is for judgment that I have come into this world,  
so that those without sight may see  
and those with sight turn blind.”

John 9:39

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Parish Web Site: [www.ourladystarofthesealowestoft.wordpress.com](http://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](mailto: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 healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus’ response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man’s blindness—his own or his parents’. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man’s disability, God’s power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man. The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus’ time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment. The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind. As in last week’s Gospel about Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman, today’s reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man’s encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.”

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

### **Parish Lenten Alms – Aid to the Church in Need**

In many parts of the world, Christianity remains under huge pressure. War, targeted violence and discrimination and the effects of economic collapse and COVID-19 means that many Christian communities are on their knees. Faith is their rock against adversity – even when life would be easier if they gave in to pressure to abandon it. This Lent, as they walk their own Way of the Cross, please join us in prayer and why not show your solidarity with a Gift of Faith– a lifeline for Christians suffering today and to build God’s church on earth. 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...and Adjusted Mass Times**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup>: **Mass at 12noon** (Solemnity of St Joseph).

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>: Stations of the Cross at 11:15am, Mass at 12pm, Lent Lunch at 12:30pm.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Stations of the Cross at 5pm, **Mass at 6pm** followed by Adoration.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>: **Mass at 10am** (Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord).

## **The Catholic Women's League**

1) The CWL will be selling tickets for their Easter Raffle after each of the Sunday Masses over the next 3 weekends (18/19<sup>th</sup>, 25/26<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> April). The Draw will take place in the Stella Maris Hall following the 11am Mass on Palm Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> April).

2) The CWL AGM will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March in the church hall at 1.30pm.

## **Lent Bible Studies**

Continuing for the next 3 consecutive Mondays at the URC, London Road, from 10:30am or via Zoom: Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926. Passcode: 811885

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7760441926?pwd=R2k5VENDaENHVUhFakpFZnk4VDJJaZz09>

## **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...**

**04/04/23** – Chrism Mass at the Cathedral church of St John the Baptist, Norwich, beginning at 11:30am – the whole Diocesan Family is invited to this great celebration.

**\*Mass and Service times for the Triduum and Easter are on the Parish Website.\***

## **Upcoming Second Collections for 2023**

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

**1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Holy Land Shrines – for the Holy Places of Palestine

**29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> April** – Vocations – the formation of Seminarians for the Priesthood.

## **Weekly Collection**

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £390.89 (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 19<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>**

- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year A)  
Offered for: A Special Intention
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year A)  
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year A)  
Offered for: Federico Rieder (RIP)
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Solemnity, St Joseph)  
Offered for: In Thanksgiving (Josephine Cohen)
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)  
Offered for:
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)  
Offered for:
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> - 18:00 - Our Lady's (Followed by 1/2hr Adoration)** (Lent Feria)  
Offered for:
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)  
Offered for:
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 - Our Lady's** (Solemnity, The Annunciation of the Lord)  
Offered for: Paddy Rooney's Intention
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (5th Sunday of Lent, Year A)  
Offered for: A Special Intention
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (5th Sunday of Lent, Year A)  
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (5th Sunday of Lent, Year A)  
Offered for: Peter & Christopher Bostock (RIP)

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**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.

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