

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



**5th Week of Lent, Year A**  
*Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week I*

“I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25

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](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**

“Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. Today’s Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John’s Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today’s reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life. The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders’ growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy. Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus’ obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus’s resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus. The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha’s sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus’s tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus’ death. Set against the backdrop of Jesus’ impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus’ own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus’s tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus’ tomb. With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin’s power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.”

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

## Holy Week Services

**6<sup>th</sup> April - Maundy Thursday (Inc. Washing of Feet) – 7pm**

**7<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday (Inc. Adoration of the Cross) – 3pm**

**8<sup>th</sup> April - Holy Saturday (Full Vigil Mass) – 8pm**

**9<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday – 9am at St Nicholas & 11am at Our Lady's**

## This Week's Lenten Devotions...

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>: Stations of the Cross at 11:15am, Mass at 12pm, Lent Lunch at 12:30pm.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>: Stations of the Cross at 5pm, **Mass at 6pm**, followed by Adoration.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>: Confessions take place from 9:30-10am, during Exposition & Adoration.

## Lent Bible Studies

Continuing for the next two Mondays 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...

**30/03/23** - Prayer Group at 4pm at Our lady, Star of the Sea: everyone is welcome to join us to sing, pray and praise the Lord. Please bring your bible.

**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.

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

## Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

**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 £382.57 (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 26<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 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)
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*  
Offered for:
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*  
Offered for:
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*  
Offered for:
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> - 18:00 - Our Lady's (Followed by 1/2hr Adoration)** *(Lent Feria)*  
Offered for: Our Lady's Intentions
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*  
Offered for:
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*  
Offered for: Ray Chan (RIP)
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(Palm Sunday of Lent, Year A)*  
Offered for: Fr Paul Graham (RIP)
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(Palm Sunday of Lent, Year A)*  
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(Palm Sunday of Lent, Year A)*  
Offered for: In Thanksgiving (Michael Franks)

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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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