

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



6th Week of Lent, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week II

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heavens!”

Matthew 21:10

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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

“Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today’s liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. The events of Jesus’ Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today’s Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday’s Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy. In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus’ Passion and death in Matthew’s Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus’ prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father’s will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew’s description of Jesus’ death shows Jesus’ obedience to the Father. Another theme of Matthew’s Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfilment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus’ Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament. Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord’s Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: “. . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28) While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas’s death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate’s wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus’ death. Finally, Matthew’s Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus’ death. Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus’ death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus’ death. Throughout Matthew’s Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus’ Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today. There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus’ Passion. In the characters of Matthew’s Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in

which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven. The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us."

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

This Week's Lenten Devotions...

Monday 3rd: Stations of the Cross at 10am.

Tuesday 4th: Extra early Morning Mass at 7am!

Tuesday 4th: Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, Norwich, beginning at 11:30am.

Wednesday 5th: Stations of the Cross at 10am.

Friday 7th: Walk of Witness departing OLSS at 10:15.

Friday 7th: Stations of the Cross in the Parish Church (OLSS) at 11am.

Saturday 8th: Polish Food Basket Blessing in the Stella Maris Hall at 11am.

Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

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

29th/30th April – Vocations – the formation of Seminarians for the Priesthood.

Knights' News

1. Thanks to all who supported the Tuesday Lent Soup Lunch scheme - £146-20 was raised for Lowestoft Food Bank.
2. Last chance this week to take up a Lowestoft Knights 2023 Lottery ticket before the first draw at Easter.
3. The Easter Young people's photo and prayer writing competitions are worth entering - see posters in church.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £364.55 (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: April 2nd – April 8th

- Saturday 1st - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(Palm Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: Fr Paul Graham (RIP)
- Sunday 2nd - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(Palm Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 2nd - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(Palm Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: In Thanksgiving (Michael Franks)
- Monday 3rd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Monday of Holy Week)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 4th - 07:00 - Our Lady's** *(Tuesday of Holy Week)*
Offered for: Our Lady's Intentions
- Wednesday 5th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Wednesday of Holy Week)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 6th - 19:00 - Our Lady's** *(Maundy Thursday)*
Offered for: Fr Neville, Fr Stephen & Fr Pádraig
- Friday 7th - 15:00 - Our Lady's** *(Good Friday)*
Offered for: NA
- Saturday 8th - 20:00 - Our Lady's** *(Holy Saturday)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 9th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(1st Sunday of Easter, Year A)*
Offered for: A Private Intention
- Sunday 9th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(1st Sunday of Easter, Year A)*
Offered for: Irene Tall (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.
