

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



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

“I have come  
so that they may have life  
and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

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**

“This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John’s Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus’ teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd. Today’s reading falls between the stories of Jesus’ healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year’s season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees. Throughout John’s Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus’ ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be “robbers and thieves” because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus’ disciples) should follow. The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd. Today’s Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus’ words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus’ allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.”

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

### **Interested in working with children and young people?**

Leaving school or university in the summer and deciding what to do next? In between jobs, or would like to do something 'different'? The Diocesan Youth Service is looking for people age 18-35 to join the Ignite Team, sharing the Gospel Message with young people. These are full-time positions initially for either 12 months (September intake) or 6 months (January intake), with training, food, accommodation and a monthly allowance provided. For more information see [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth)

## **Radio Maria**

Whether you find encouragement praying with others on-air or tuning into a conversation between listeners and interesting guests who can bring you new insights and help you feel less alone in your faith, Radio Maria is an invaluable Christian voice wherever you may be. We broadcast on Digital Radio in Cambridge, London, South Birmingham and Bristol areas. There is a free Radio Maria Play App for your mobile phones. Ask Alexa to “Play Radio Maria England” or – listen online at [www.RadioMariaEngland.uk](http://www.RadioMariaEngland.uk).

## **Annual Marriage Celebration Mass**

Bishop Peter invites all married couples in the Diocese to join him at the annual Marriage Celebration Mass on Saturday June 3rd at 11.30 at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist. All married couples and their families are welcome! Those couples who are celebrating significant anniversaries (one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter, or individual years from 60 years onwards) will receive a certificate from the Bishop. If you would like to register for a certificate please visit the website <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/> or contact the Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, Dr Antonia Braithwaite, on [mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk) Join us after Mass for tea and cake in the Cathedral Hall. Photographs of couples with the Bishop will be available online after the day.

## **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>

## **Upcoming Second Collections for 2023**

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

**20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> May** – Catholic Communications Network – World Communications Day.

**17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> June** – Life Charities – Day for Life.

**1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> July** – Peter’s Pence – The Holy Father’s Charitable Work.

**8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July** – Missio – Mill Hill Mission Appeal.

**29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> July** – Society of St Columban – Mission Appeal.

## **Weekly Collection**

Thank you for last week’s collection which amounted to £338.60 (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 30<sup>th</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year A)*  
Offered for: Elizabeth Summerville (RIP)
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year A)*  
Offered for: Maureen O'Sullivan (RIP)
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year A)*  
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - NO MASS TODAY** *(Mem, St Joseph the Worker)*  
Offered for:
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Athanasius)*  
Offered for:
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - 08:30 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, St Philip & St James)*  
Offered for:
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Mary's RCPS** *(Feast, The English Martyrs)*  
Offered for: The Children & Teachers of St Mary's RCPS
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*  
Offered for: King Charles III
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> - NO MASS TODAY** *(Easter Feria)*  
Offered for:
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year A)*  
Offered for: Therese Le Mercier (RIP)
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year A)*  
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year A)*  
Offered for:

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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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