

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



8th Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV

“Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.”

John 20:23

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
Parish Priest's Phone Number: **01502-572453**
Parish Priest's E-Mail: **frpmfoh@gmail.com**

Parish Address: **The Catholic Presbytery**
19 Gordon Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR32 1NL

Parish Web Site: 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 – by Wednesday Evening please. The Completed Newsletter will be posted on the Website each Saturday.

Catholic Primary School: St Mary's, Kirkley Cliff Road, NR33 0DG. Tel: 01502 565384. For more information please visit the school website: <https://www.stmarysreps.com>

Gospel Reflection

“The Season of Easter concludes with today’s celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today’s first reading. The account in today’s Gospel also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John’s Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is enough that we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world. We already heard today’s Gospel proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter this year. That Gospel passage, however, also included the description of Jesus’ appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led reflect on belief and unbelief. In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus’ act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God’s act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for “spirit” can also be translated as “breath.” This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church’s sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.”

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

‘Saints Alive’

Christians Together in Lowestoft & District are supporting ‘Saints Alive’ - a Musical in a Day - by Roger Jones at the Trinity Methodist Church - Saturday 28th October at 7.30 pm. Singers are needed from all the churches with occasional rehearsals from June. For contact details see the poster at the back of Church.

Hope Now Ukraine

Boxes have been provided in church for parishioners to offer specific needed donations listed on the poster - no tins, bottles or jars please. See the Poster and Knights Newsletter on the church noticeboards for further details.

Dates for your Diary...

29/05/2023 – The community of Our Lady of Walsingham are holding an ‘Open Gardens’ event on Monday 29th May from 12:30pm to 5:30pm at the House of Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, NR20 4AZ. For more information, or to book a Cream Tea, please visit their website: <https://walsinghamcommunity.org/>

11/06/2023 – There will be a Bring and Buy Cake Sale after the 11am Mass on Sunday 11th June. Donations of baked goods, in any shape or size, would be much appreciated, being brought either to the church on the morning of or to the Presbytery in advance.

24/06/2023 – There will be a Parish Bingo Evening in the Stella Maris Hall on Saturday 24th June starting at 7pm. Tickets costing £5pp will go on sale soon and will include entrance and a delicious Meal of a Baked Potato and a selection of Toppings. Bingo Strips and Raffle Tickets will be on sale throughout the night. Donations of prizes for this event would be greatly appreciated; please drop them at the church at any time.

02/07/2023 – The Parish First Holy Communion Celebration will take place at the 11am Mass on Sunday 2nd July. Please continue to pray for all of our children at this time.

Family Enrichment Conference

Raising a family as a couple or as a single-parent has always been challenging. Issues range from spousal relationship, social media influence, challenging behaviour at home, how to pass on the Catholic Faith and many others. Everyone is invited to attend the Family Enrichment Conference on Saturday 10th June 2023 to explore these topics and to take home practical tips and encouragement from the four guest speakers. The conference will start at 11:00am at Our Lady Immaculate and Saint Etheldreda church hall in Newmarket. To book tickets and for more details, please visit <https://familyenrichmentconference.eventbrite.co.uk> or email fecjune2023@gmail.com. Children’s activities and lunch are free but need booking due to limited spaces. Free parking.

Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

26th/27th May – Life Charities – Day for Life.

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

8th/9th July – Missio – Mill Hill Mission Appeal.

29th/30th July – Society of St Columban – Mission Appeal.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week’s collection which amounted to £380.31 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£398) and £92.87 for the Catholic Communications Network. 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: May 28th – June 3rd

- Saturday 27th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(Pentecost Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: Tony & David Fernando (RIP)
- Sunday 28th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(Pentecost Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 28th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(Pentecost Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: Ita Millar's Intention
- Monday 29th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, Mary, Mother of the Church)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 30th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Walstan)*
Offered for: In Thanksgiving (Reami)
- Wednesday 31st - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, The Visitation)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 1st - 18:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest)*
Offered for: The Souls in Purgatory
- Friday 2nd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Marcellinus & St Peter)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 3rd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Charles Lwanga & Comps.)*
Offered for: Our Lady's Intention
- Saturday 3rd - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(Trinity Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: Kathleen Walshe (RIP)
- Sunday 4th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(Trinity Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 4th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(Trinity Sunday, Year A)*
Offered for: Noela Da Costa's Intention

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.
