

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



20th Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV

“Ah yes, sir;
but even house-dogs can eat
the scraps that fall from their master’s table.””

Matthew 15:27

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

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

“Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew’s Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples’ confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew’s entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean. Knowing about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today’s Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus’ exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone. The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, “dog.” But the woman cleverly turns Jesus’ insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter. Jesus’ unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today’s Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world. Behind Matthew’s text we can hear this early Christian community’s struggle to understand how God’s selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel’s rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles’ acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today’s second reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern. The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God’s abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.”

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

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Preparation Classes for First Holy Communion (Year 3 and above) and for Confirmation (Year 8 and above) will be starting at the end of September – please collect your application form for either Preparation Class directly from Fr Pádraig at the end of whichever Mass you happen to attend.

Jeremy De-Mierre (RIP)

The Requiem Mass for the late Jermy De-Mierre takes place at Our Lady's at 12noon on Wednesday 30th August followed by Cremation at the Waveney Crematorium at 2pm.

Parish 100 Club

We are currently setting up a Parish '100 Club' and have produced forms for parishioners to purchase 'Numbers'. A single number for a whole year (October to September) costs just £12 and you can purchase as many 'Numbers' as you like. On the first Sunday of each month, beginning this October, a draw will be made from among all the purchased 'Numbers' producing three Winners, 1st, 2nd and 3rd, each of whom will win a cash prize. The size of the cash prize will be determined by the number of 'Numbers' in play, but as the name suggests, we hope to have at least 100 parishioners with their own. To buy your own 'Number' please collect a form from either Fr Pádraig or Mrs Caroline Langan on email: cazzylangan_249@hotmail.com.

75th Anniversary Exhibition

Commemorating the great 1948 Cross Carrying Pilgrimage to Walsingham

From July until the end of October 2023, the Shrine is holding an exhibition to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Cross Carrying "Pilgrimage of Prayer and Penance for Peace", between 10.00 and 16.00, in the Welcome Centre at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady, the Slipper Chapel at Houghton St Giles. The Exhibition contains details of the pilgrimage together with excerpts from reminiscences of the cross carriers, together with news clippings and photographs from the papers of the time. Entry is free.

Vacancy with the SVP

Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) would like to recruit a Membership Support Officer (MSO) for East Anglia Diocese. 15hrs per week for 2 years, £10,475.40 per annum. The role of an MSO is to help conferences to recruit new members, set up new conferences and to give help and assistance to conferences in any way they can. This role has been successful in many other parts of the country. For more details please contact Lance Philpott: lancep@svp.org.uk or visit: <https://svp.org.uk/work-with-us>

Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

16th/17th September – Home Mission Sunday.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £c400.00 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£398). 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: August 20th – August 26th

- Saturday 19th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (20th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 20th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (20th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: In Thanksgiving (Recovery of Peter McGeown)
- Sunday 20th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (20th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Intention
- Monday 21st - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Mem, St Pius X)
Offered for:
- Tuesday 22nd - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Mem, The Queenship of the B.V.Mary)
Offered for: Elizabeth Summerville (RIP)
- Wednesday 23rd - 11:45 - Our Lady's** (*Requiem Mass*) (Feria)
Offered for: Sean Lawless (RIP)
- Thursday 24th - 18:00 - Our Lady's** (Feast, St Bartholomew)
Offered for: The Souls in Purgatory
- Friday 25th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: Our Lady's Intention
- Saturday 26th - NO MASS TODAY** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Saturday 26th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Kathryn Munden (RIP)
- Sunday 27th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 27th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for:

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.
