

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



24th Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV

“Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?” Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times’.”

Matthew 18:21

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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.stmarysrcps.com>

Gospel Reflection

“Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness. The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison. A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another. There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.”

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) are due to begin – please collect your application form for either Preparation Class directly from Fr Pádraig at the end of whichever Mass you happen to attend.

NB - Those preparing for Confirmation will meet for the first time at 3pm Saturday 23rd September. Parents and children beginning FHC preparation will meet for the first time at 3pm on Saturday 30th September. Both meetings will be in the Stella Maris Hall.

Dates for your Diary...

23/09/2023 – St Mary's RCPSchool are holding a 'New to You' Sale on Saturday 23rd September from 10am to 1pm. Entry is free and there will be a collection of pre-loved stalls, local crafters and small businesses and children's activities. If you would like to book a table (£10 per table) please contact office@stmarysrcps.org.

23/09/2023 – There will be a Parish Quiz and Supper Evening organised by the Knights of St. Columba on Saturday 23rd September from 6pm till 9pm in the Stella Maris Hall in aid of Church Funds. Payment by admission on the day - Adult meal £10; Child meal £5. Please bring a prize for the raffle. For full details and pre- booking of meals see the poster at the back of church.

Parish 100 Club

Why not join the Parish '100 Club'?! 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. To buy your own 'Number' please collect a form from either Fr Pádraig or Mrs Caroline Langan on email: cazyylangan_249@hotmail.com.

St Vincent de Paul Open Festival

S.V.P. East Anglia is holding two Open Festival Days, on 30th September in Norwich and 1st October in Newmarket. If anyone would like to come along and find out more about the work of S.V.P. please contact PresidentE06@svp.org.uk for more details.

Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

16th/17th September – Home Mission Sunday – we are invited to pray for and support the Church's work of Evangelisation in England and Wales. We are reminded that the work of evangelisation begins within our own families - in our own homes - and also within the spiritual family of our parish. As we listen to today's readings during Mass we are to reflect especially on how the Lord might be calling us to reach out to those that we know, in our home and parish family, who are non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics.

21st/22nd October – Missio – APF – World Mission Sunday.

25th/26th November – Diocesan Youth Service – Youth Sunday.

16th/17th December – Diocesan Dependant Priests' Fund.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £348.27 (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: September 17th – September 23th

- Saturday 16th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: David & Joan (RIP) Johnson (56th Weddings Anniversary Remembrance)
- Sunday 17th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Pamela Hope (RIP)
- Sunday 17th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Stephen Langan (RIP)
- Monday 18th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Tuesday 19th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Wednesday 20th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Mem, St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Comp.s)
Offered for:
- Thursday 21st - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Feast, St Matthew)
Offered for: The Souls in Purgatory
- Friday 22nd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: John O'Brien (RIP) (1st Anniversary)
- Saturday 23rd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Mem, St Pius of Pietrelcina)
Offered for: Our Lady's Intnetion
- Saturday 23rd - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Tony Manning (RIP)
- Sunday 24th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 24th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Anthony Beenham (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.
