

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



31st Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week III

“You must therefore do what they tell you
and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do:
since they do not practice what they preach.”

Matthew 23:2

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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’s Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week’s reading from Matthew and this week’s, we find Jesus’ question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being “David’s son.” Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees. The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew. This part of Matthew’s Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew’s Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honoured and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church. Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. Phylacteries are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. Tassels refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person’s garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments. The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honour in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants 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>

Dates for your Diary

02/12/2023 – The Parish Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 2nd December 10am to 1pm. Any donations for raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

09/12/2023 – The Christmas Quiz will take place on Saturday 9th December at 7pm. Teams of 6. £5 per Ticket and will include a buffet and refreshments.

17/12/2023 – The Parish Carol Concert will take place at 2:30pm on Sunday 17th December, Gaudete Sunday, followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

Are you considering a vocation to the priesthood?

There will be a gathering of those who feel that God may be calling them to be a priest, even if this desire is in its very early stages, at St John's Cathedral, Norwich, for the 11am Mass on Sunday November 19th and afterwards in Cathedral House to meet Bishop Peter Collins and others for lunch and an informal meeting about vocations. If you intend coming, please email our Vocations Director, Canon Patrick Cleary, vocations@rcdea.org.uk by Monday 13th November so that we know how many will be present for lunch.'

Red Wednesday 2023: Break the silence on Christian Persecution

Red Wednesday, an annual initiative from Aid to the Church in Need, returns again this year on Wednesday 22nd November with a special focus on Africa. Christians in Africa are enduring a 70% increase in violence. Africa is now a priority for ACN with 9 countries in the emergency category. In a bid to seek awareness and justice, Aid to the Church in Need is asking Christians to light up and speak out for our brothers and sisters around the world, by wearing red, lighting up our churches, schools, and buildings in red again this year.

Parish Christmas Fayre - 2nd December - 10am till 1pm

Any donations of bric-a-brac, books, CD's, DVD's, toiletries, toys etc. together with any other donations for raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated. There will also be a cake stall at the Fayre and donations of cakes (homemade or shop bought) would be much appreciated nearer the time, these items being brought into church on the morning of the Fayre or to the Church/Presbytery in advance. Any help on the day, to run a stall and/or generally help out would also be much appreciated, if you can help in any way at all please speak to Barbara Radforth, Caroline Langan or Father Padraig. Thank you. **Raffle tickets** will also be on sale before and after Mass for the Christmas Fayre. **Tickets** for the Christmas quiz are now on sale, £5.00 per ticket per person to include a buffet supper and refreshments.

Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

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 £425.39 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£477). 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: November 5th – November 11th

- Saturday 4th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: Thomas Cooke, William Cooke, Anette Wilson (RIP)
- Sunday 5th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 5th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: Cate Maddox – For a Speedy Recovery from Surgery
- Monday 6th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 7th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for: All Souls & Deceased Family Members (Reami)
- Wednesday 8th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 9th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)*
Offered for:
- Friday 10th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Leo the Great)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 11th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Martin of Tours)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 11th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(Requiem Mass for the War Dead)*
Offered for: For the Souls lost through War & Conflict
- Sunday 12th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 12th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: Harry & Iris Pascoe (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.
