

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea



32nd Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV

“So stay awake,
because you do not know
either the day or the hour.”

Matthew 25:13

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

“In this week’s Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week’s reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared. When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home. As with many of Jesus’ parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week’s Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity’s struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel. In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today’s parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus’ return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?”

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

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.

Catholic Women’s League

The next meeting of the Catholic Women’s League (CWL) will take place in the Stella Maris Hall on Tuesday 14th November at 1:30pm. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

100 Club Winners for November – Congratulations!

1st Prize - £20 - no.10 – Mrs B M Corrigan

2nd Prize - £10 - no.16 – Stella Bostock

3rd Prize - £5 - no.51 - Mrs B M Corrigan

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.

Inviting Applications to ‘The Sibyl Collective’ - The East Anglia School of Contemporary Catholic Music

- This is an exciting new initiative from the Diocesan Youth Service which seeks to bring together young (age 16 – 30) contemporary Catholic musicians from around the Diocese. Under the leadership of Fr. Peter Wagnanski, the aim is to grow as a community committed to discipleship in Christ through prayer and praise & worship music, and then to be able to lead others at events and retreats in the Diocese. For more information and to apply, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

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 £428.45 (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 12th – November 18th

- 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)
- Monday 13th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 14th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 15th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 16th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Friday 17th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 18th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Saturday 18th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: Lately Dead (PM)
- Sunday 19th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: Aelian Fernando (RIP)
- Sunday 19th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)*
Offered for: Deceased Knights of St Columba, Council 518 Lowestoft

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.
