

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



**2nd Week of Advent, Year B**  
*Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week II*

“A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.”

Mark 1:2

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**  
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Parish Address: **The Catholic Presbytery**  
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**Lowestoft**  
**Suffolk**  
**NR32 1NL**

Parish Web Site: [www.ourladystarofthesealowestoft.wordpress.com](http://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](mailto: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 is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus’ birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us. Mark’s description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John’s continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark’s description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark’s Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist’s role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John. Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John’s preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus’ baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today’s Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him. In today’s Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John’s baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.”

**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**

**16/12/2023** – The Big Clean – please come along at 10am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December and help to clean the Church in preparation Christmas – mince pies will be provided.

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

The C.W.L. are currently selling raffle tickets for their Christmas Hampers.

## **Christmas Masses**

### **Christmas Eve: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

5pm: Vigil Mass of the Nativity at Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

9pm: Mass During the Night at Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

### **Christmas Day: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

8am: Mass of the Dawn at Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

10am: Mass of the Day at Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

### **The Octave of Christmas: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December ff.**

10am: Masses on each Weekday of the Christmas Octave at Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

## **Memory Tree – Praying for Loved ones at Christmas**

Throughout Advent there will be a Memory Christmas Tree at the back of the church (OLSS). There will be tags available to write the names of loved ones on who are no longer with us that can then be attached to the tree in their memory. There will also be a basket for donations located by the tree, donations going to the ‘School of Joy’ in Bethlehem [www.schoolofjoy.org](http://www.schoolofjoy.org) via the ‘Friends of the Holy Land’ [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

## **A Great Big Thank You!**

The Parish Fundraising Committee would like to thank all those who helped with the Christmas Fayre, those who helped by running a table, those who sold raffle tickets, those who helped set up for the event, to those who donated/brought items, to Father Christmas for taking time out of his busy schedule to come and visit and anyone else who helped in any way whatsoever, thank you very much for making this event such a success. The sum raised from this event for Parish funds totalled a whopping £1050.00!!  
**THANK YOU!**

## **100 Club Winners for December – Congratulations!**

1st Prize - £20 - no.81 – Josephine

2nd Prize - £10 - no.27 – Kathy Fallon

3rd Prize - £5 - no.33 – Fr Neville

## **Upcoming Second Collections for 2023**

**16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> December** – Diocesan Dependant Priests’ Fund.

## **Weekly Collection**

Thank you for last week’s collection which amounted to £c400.00 (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: December 10<sup>th</sup> – December 16<sup>th</sup>

- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B)  
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B)  
Offered for: Joel Parkinson (RIP)
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B)  
Offered for: Joan Frances Bunyan (RIP)
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Ad.Feria)  
Offered for:
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - 16:00 - Our Lady's** (Ad.Feria)  
Offered for:
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Mem. St Lucy)  
Offered for:
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Mary's RCPSchool** (Mem. St John of the Cross)  
Offered for: Children and Staff of St Mary's RCPS
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Ad.Feria)  
Offered for:
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Ad.Feria)  
Offered for:
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)  
Offered for: Daniel Burden & Louise Burden's Intention
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)  
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)  
Offered for:

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**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.

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