

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



1st Week of Ordinary Time, Year B
Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week I

“We saw his star
as it rose and we
have come to do him homage.”

Matthew 2:3

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.stmarysrcps.com>

Gospel Reflection

“The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Matthew’s Gospel tells a version of Jesus’ birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . .” The story of the census is found only in Luke’s Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew’s Gospel. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent the Gentiles’ search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’ kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’ death. The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ’s early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.”



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

Funeral Notices

Kieran O’Driscoll (RIP) – Wednesday 17th January – 12:30 @ St Nicholas’

Victor Wickard (RIP) - Wednesday 24th January – 11am @ Our Lady’s

Louisa Savage (RIP) – Thursday 25th January – 10:45 @ Our Lady’s

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – 8th January

“In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist 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; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners. The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians. Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.”

Dates for your Diary

09/01/2024 - The next CWL meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 1:30pm in the church hall, all welcome.

27/01/2024 – The Parish is holding a Scottish Themed Night on Saturday 27th January at 6:30pm. Entrance is £5 per person payable on the evening and will include a Beautiful Scottish Meal of Tatties, Neeps and Haggis.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £398.83 (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: January 7th – January 13th

- Saturday 6th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 7th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B)*
Offered for: Michael Doyle (RIP)
- Sunday 7th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B)*
Offered for: Nevish Nevil Hiremath's (4th Birthday & Good Health)
- Monday 8th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, The Baptism of the Lord)*
Offered for: Fr Neville & Eric's Intention
- Tuesday 9th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 10th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 11th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Friday 12th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 13th - NO MASS TODAY** *(Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 13th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)*
Offered for: Damian Smith (RIP)
- Sunday 14th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 14th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)*
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.
