

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



3rd Week of Ordinary Time, Year B
Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week II

“ ‘The time has come’ he said
‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand.
Repent, and believe the Good News.’ ”

Mark 1:15

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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 we begin a continuous reading of Mark’s Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Remember that in Cycle B of the Lectionary, most of the Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to Mark. The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus’ birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus’ baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus’ public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus’ own ministry. As we learn at the beginning of today’s Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus’ pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus’ preaching is greater than John’s. Jesus begins the time of fulfilment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus’ words and in the actions that follow. Jesus’ healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching. In contrast to last week’s Gospel, in Mark’s Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them “fishers of men.” James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus’ words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat. Mark’s Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today’s Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus’ disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfilment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God’s kingdom?” **Please do visit the “Wednesday Word” Website each week for short Reflections on the Sunday Readings:** <http://www.wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm>

100 Club Winners for January – Congratulations!

1st Prize - £20 - no.3 – Daniel Burden

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

3rd Prize - £5 - no.14 – Jan Long

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 - "Go and Do Likewise..."

Sunday 21st January - 3pm Main United Service at Lowestoft South Methodist Church on the corner with Carlton Road.

Monday 22nd January – 12 noon at Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Gordon Road, Lowestoft.

Tuesday 23rd January - 12.30pm at United Reformed Church, London Road North, Lowestoft.

Wednesday 24th January - 9.30am St Mark's, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad.

Refreshments are served after each service. Everyone is most welcome.

A 'Thank you' from the Catholic Women's League

"Our Christmas Raffle raised £213.50 for our local charities - some of which will be: Royal British Legion, Lowestoft Lifeboat, Norwich Air Ambulance, Fyffe Centre etc. We would like to thank everyone for their generous support again this year - in what has been a difficult financial year for everyone."

Dates for your Diary

27/01/2023 – 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.

Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard offers Catholic retreat weekends for those who are suffering after an abortion/s. The next retreat to be held in this Diocese will be from 8-10 March, 2024 in Suffolk. Contact Sona on sona@rachelvineyard.org.uk

For further information, you can also visit: <http://www.rachelvineyard.org.uk>

Upcoming Second Collections for 2024

17th/18th February – Holy Land Shrines – Holy Places of Palestine.

20th/21st April – Vocations Sunday – for the Formation of Priests.

11th/12th May – World Communications Sunday – Catholic Communications Network.

15th/16th June – Day for Life – Bishops' Conference Life Charities.

29th/30th June – Peter's Pence – The Holy Father's Charitable Works.

13th/14th July – Sea Sunday – the Work of Stella Maris.

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: January 21st – January 27th

- Saturday 20th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 21st - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: Mary Segasby (RIP)
- Sunday 21st - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: Ray Thompson (RIP)
- Monday 22nd - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: For Church Unity
- Tuesday 23rd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: Bishop Alan Hopes' Intention
- Wednesday 24th - 11:00 - Our Lady's (Requiem Mass)** (Mem, St Francis de Sales)
Offered for: Victor Wickard (RIP)
- Thursday 25th - 10:45 - Our Lady's (Requiem Mass)** (Feast, the Conversion of St Paul)
Offered for: Louisa Savage (RIP)
- Friday 26th - 18:00 - Our Lady's** (Mem, St Timothy & St Titus)
Offered for:
- Saturday 27th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Saturday 27th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: Joe Summerville (RIP)
- Sunday 28th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 28th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (4th 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.
