

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea



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

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

Mark 1:15

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.

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

“On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus’ temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John’s Gospel. This year we read Mark’s account of this event. Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark’s narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark’s account of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert. In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark’s Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus’ public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark’s Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. Jesus’ preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfilment of God’s promises is here. The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent. In Mark’s Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus’ battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus’ final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.”

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

09/03/2024 – Beetle Drive in the Stella Maris Hall at 6:30pm – entry £5 Adult £2 Child, light refreshments included + Tea & Coffee, but please B.Y.O.B. (or alternative drinks!) If you hope to attend then please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church so that we can make arrangements to cater for the event. Thank you.

Lenten Devotions

Throughout the Season of Lent the Rosary will be prayed in Our Lady's Chapel (Front/Right of OLSS) 30 minutes before the start of each weekday Mass, and Stations of the Cross will take place 5 minutes after the end of each weekday Mass. Please volunteer to lead either devotion on a particular day by signing the List. The Deanery Station Mass takes place on Thursday 6th March in St Mary's, Great Yarmouth; Exposition and Confessions from 6pm, Mass at 7pm followed by refreshments. Confessions in the Parish continue to be heard on Saturday Morning and by appointment.

Action against Modern Slavery

A new group is forming in the Diocese to help to reduce modern slavery here and is looking for young & older volunteers to join the group. No previous knowledge or experience required, just a wish to end slavery in our Diocese. Please contact john_simong@hotmail.com to discuss possibly volunteering and read the leaflet about St Bakhita (regarded as the patron saint of Modern Slavery) at: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/caritas-east-anglia/modern-slavery>

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages April - October 2024:

7 Nights Apartment B&B from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer available on request. Contact us for details and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 020 3239 8662 or website www.med-irishcentre.com Email: reservations@med-irishcentre.com

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@rachelsvineyard.org.uk

For further information, you can also visit: <http://www.rachelsvineyard.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 £382.82 (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: February 18th – February 24th

- Saturday 17th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(1st Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Paddy Rooney & Rooney Family Members (RIP)
- Sunday 18th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(1st Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Michael Doherty (RIP) & Family
- Sunday 18th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(1st Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Shaun Godfrey (RIP)
- Monday 19th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: Grace's Intention – in Thanksgiving
- Tuesday 20th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Wednesday 21st - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 22nd - 18:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, the Chair of St Peter)*
Offered for: Isobel Philip (RIP) & Family of Cramond, Scotland
- Friday 23rd - 07:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 24th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Saturday 24th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Seamus Divine (RIP)
- Sunday 25th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Neil Pearson's Intention
- Sunday 25th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Lent, 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.
