

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



6th Week of Ordinary Time, Year B
Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week II

“ ‘If you want to’
he said
‘you can cure me.’ ”

Mark 1:40

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
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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

“In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses. Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses. Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.”

Ash Wednesday – 14th February

“Today we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. In this season, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the high point of our Christian life, Easter. The readings for Ash Wednesday call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during the season of Lent, we renew our commitment to them. The meaning behind tracing a cross on our foreheads with ashes (the liturgical sign of Ash Wednesday) is a summary of our Christian life. On one level, the ashes remind us of our origin and our death. (In the words of the prayer said when we receive ashes: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”) The ashes are also the sign of our victory: the cross of Christ. In his death and resurrection, Christ conquered death. Our destiny as Christians is to receive the victory over death that Christ won for us. We acknowledge that victory when we “[t]urn away from sin and [are] faithful to the gospel,” words from the alternative prayer when we are signed with ashes. Today's reading is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, Jesus warns his followers against acting for the sake of appearance. When Jesus' disciples give alms, pray, and fast, they are to do so in such a way that only God, who sees the heart and knows what is hidden, will know. Although our Lectionary reading omits the Lord's Prayer, we can recall that Matthew presents that prayer as a model for the disciples' prayer (Matthew 6:9-15).”

Fr Neville McClement (RIP)

It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of Fr Neville McClement who returned to God on the Morning of Tuesday 6th February: May he rest in peace. His funeral arrangements will be made known to the Parish as and when they become available.

Dates for your Diary

13/02/2024 – The next CWL meeting will take place on Tues 13th Feb - all are welcome.

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!).

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.

Volunteers Please!

We are looking for volunteers with a view to setting up church cleaning teams and counting teams for after Mass on a Sunday, so that we can set up weekly/monthly rotas. If anyone can offer their time to help, could they please contact either Father Padraig or Caroline. Thank you.

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 £402.20 (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 11th – February 17th

- Saturday 10th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: Harrold Morris (RIP)
- Sunday 11th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: Neil Pearson's Intention
- Sunday 11th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)
Offered for: Kevin James Burden & Mrs Mary Savage (RIP)
- Monday 12th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Tuesday 13th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: CWL / Special Intention
- Wednesday 14th - 07:00 - Our Lady's** (Ash Wednesday)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Wednesday 14th - 09:00 - St Mary's RCPSchool** (Ash Wednesday)
Offered for: St Mary's Children and Staff
- Wednesday 14th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Ash Wednesday)
Offered for: Isabel Clarke's Intention
- Thursday 15th - 18:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)
Offered for:
- Friday 16th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)
Offered for:
- Saturday 17th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Lent Feria)
Offered for:
- 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: People of the Parish
- Sunday 18th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (1st Sunday of Lent, Year B)
Offered for: Shaun Godfrey (RIP)

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.
