

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



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

“It was very early on the first day
of the week and still dark,
when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb.”

John 20:1

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A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

Gospel Reflection

“Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body). The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.”

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

May God bless you at Easter,
And keep you all year through.
May God give you all the faith it takes,
To make your dreams come true.
May His love and wisdom always help,
To guide you on your way.
May His light shine down upon you now,
To bless your Easter Day.



Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter.

Inviting ALL young people in Year 8 upwards to the Ignite Festival 4th – 5th May

Come and experience your faith in a new and dynamic way at the Ignite Festival. The weekend will include inspiring talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff! Followed by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday May 6th. See www.ignitefestival.co.uk for more information.

Keys for Stella Maris Parish Hall

We are currently trying to ascertain who holds keys for the church hall. We would be grateful, therefore, if all church hall keys could be returned to either Father Padraig or Tom Langan (Stella Maris Hall Manager) as soon as possible please. Keys will then be re-issued to those who require them and a keyholder list will be put in place, thereby satisfying a requirement of our insurers. Thank you for your cooperation.

Financial Matters

The Parish Treasurer is currently doing a review on collections made on a Saturday/Sunday at both churches. It has become apparent that the Parish could be making better use of the benefits afforded by Gift Aid and in particular gift aiding contributions made by way of donations in cash in the weekly collections. The Parish can claim back 25% of donations made if they are gift-aided as long as the giver is a UK taxpayer: it doesn't cost the person donating anything but could benefit the Parish in a very positive way. I am asking, therefore, if those who make donations in the weekly collection by cash would consider either setting up a Standing Order or paying via the envelope scheme and completing the appropriate forms for Gift Aid, at the present time the average weekly loose cash collection is approximately £340.00 and if this was gift aided the Parish could claim back an additional £85.00 per week!! If you are willing to sign up for Gift Aid via either Standing Order or the envelope scheme, appropriate forms will be available after all Masses over the next few weeks. Thank you.

Upcoming Second Collections for 2024

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 £412.45 (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: March 31st – April 6th

- Saturday 30th - 18:30 - Our Lady's** *(Holy Saturday, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 31st - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(1st Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Joseph Keogh (RIP)
- Sunday 31st - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(1st Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Private Intention
- Monday 1st - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Monday)*
Offered for: Ray Chan (RIP)
- Tuesday 2nd - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Tuesday)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 3rd - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Wednesday)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 4th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Thursday)*
Offered for:
- Friday 5th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Friday)*
Offered for: Lindsay Cecile (RIP)
- Saturday 6th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Saturday)*
Offered for: Knights of St Columba
- Saturday 6th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Millie McAvoy's Intention
- Sunday 7th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 7th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Trevor Stone (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.
