

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



3rd Week of Lent, Year B
Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week III

“Destroy this sanctuary,
and in three days
I will raise it up.”

John 2:19

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

“In today’s Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus’ action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax. Jesus’ action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus’ arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus’ public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John’s Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus’ relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John’s Gospel. Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus’ cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative. After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John’s Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus’ authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John’s Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus’ miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus’ passion, death, and Resurrection. During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.”

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

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 7th 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.

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..

Inviting young adults (age 18 -30) to walk the Camino

Join Bishop Peter as he leads a walking pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela from 21st – 29th July 2024. For more information and to book a place, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth. Places are limited and bookings accepted on a first come first serves basis.

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

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 £406.92 (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 3rd – March 9th

- Saturday 2nd - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Louisa Savage (RIP)
- Sunday 3rd - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 3rd - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: In thanksgiving (new Baby)
- Monday 4th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 5th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 6th - 12:30 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: Fr Neville McClement (RIP)
- Thursday 7th - 19:00 - **St Mary's, Great Yarmouth**** *(Lent Feria)*
Deanery Station Mass Celebrated by Bishop Peter
- Friday 8th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 9th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 9th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Pat Tynon (RIP)
- Sunday 10th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(4th Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 10th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th 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.
