

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



5th Week of Lent, Year B
Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week I

“Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.”

John 12:30

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
Parish Priest's Phone Number: **01502-572453**
Parish Priest's E-Mail: **frpmfoh@gmail.com**

Parish Address: **The Catholic Presbytery**
19 Gordon Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR32 1NL

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

“Today’s Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John’s Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John’s Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John’s Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus’ conflict with the Jewish authorities. John’s Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John’s Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus. Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John’s account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another. The final section of today’s Gospel might be read as John’s parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus’ anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today’s reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus’ prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus’ baptism and at Jesus’ Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John’s Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John’s Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him. In today’s Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus’ dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.”

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

Catholic Women’s League Notices

The C.W.L. members will again be selling tickets for their Easter Egg Raffle at Masses over this weekend; tickets will be £1 per strip. The draw will take place in the parish hall after 11am Mass on Palm Sunday - 24th March.

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. Confessions in the Parish continue to be heard on Saturday Morning and by appointment.

CSSA audit backs safeguarding services in Diocese of East Anglia

The Diocese of East Anglia has been awarded a judgment of Comprehensive Assurance by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) in an audit of its safeguarding provision. Bishop Peter, the clergy and all who work and volunteer in the diocese are encouraged by this and remain committed to following up on the small number of recommendations to further improve. Particular gratitude is due to the Diocese's Safeguarding Coordinator and Administrator, and to all Parish Safeguarding Representatives for their hard-work and commitment, which is reflected in this report, the Executive Summary of which have been published here:

<https://www.rcdea.org.uk/cssa-audit-backs-safeguarding-services-in-east-anglia/>

Caritas Festival – Save the Date!

Our parish and others in the Coastal deanery will come together at the Bishop's invitation and celebrate the work of organisations involved in social outreach at a Caritas East Anglia Festival on Saturday 25th May at St Peter the Apostle Church, Gorleston from 09:30 to 13:00. If there are charitable social actions or organisations, i.e., people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities, that you would like to see or think that should be represented at the Festival, particularly if you are involved in them yourself, please e-mail your ideas to caritas@rcdea.org.uk now. The Festival will begin at 9.30 am with Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter and be followed by refreshments and opportunities to find out about local projects. It will end at 12:30 pm with prayer and reflection on the day. ALL WELCOME to attend for part of or the whole event.

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.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £381.96 (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 17th – March 23rd

- Saturday 16th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: James McCarthy (RIP)
- Sunday 17th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(5th Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 17th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Mary Howarth (RIP)
- Monday 18th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: Joseph Keogh (RIP)
- Tuesday 19th - 11:00 - Our Lady's Requiem Mass** *(Solemnity, St Joseph)*
Offered for: Fr Neville McClement (RIP)
- Wednesday 20th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: Joseph Keogh (RIP)
- Thursday 21st - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: Fr Jude Belnas' Intention
- Friday 22nd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for: 13 x Chief Officers - September Batch 2023
- Saturday 23rd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Lent Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 23rd - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(6th (Palm) Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: Penny West & Family's Intention
- Sunday 24th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(6th (Palm) Sunday of Lent, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 24th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(6th (Palm) 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.
