

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



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

“Hosanna! Blessings on he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest heavens!”

Mark 11:10

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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

“This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted “Hosanna!” This event is reported in each of the four Gospels. At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death. When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus' passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance. Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' death. In Mark's telling of the passion narrative, Jesus understood his death to have been preordained, and he accepted this death in obedience to God's will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfilment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood his anointing in

Bethany as an anticipation of his burial, and he announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At his arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before his accusers. After he was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until his final cry from the cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that he was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in his death on the cross. During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son."

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

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.

13th/14th July – Sea Sunday – the Work of Stella Maris.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £412.61 (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 24th – March 30th

- 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: Fr Pádraig & Fr Stephen's Intention
- Monday 25th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Monday of Holy Week)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 26th - 11:30 – *St John's Cathedral, Norwich*** *(Tuesday of Holy Week)*
****Chrism Mass Celebrated by Bishop Peter****
- Wednesday 27th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Wednesday of Holy Week)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 28th - 19:00 - Our Lady's** *(Maundy Thursday)*
Offered for: Private Intention
- Friday 29th - 15:00 - Our Lady's** *(Good Friday)*
Offered for: NA
- Saturday 30th - 18:30 - Our Lady's** *(Holy Saturday)*
Offered for: Private Intention
- 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: People of the Parish

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.
