

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



2nd Week of Easter, Year B
Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week II

“Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.”

John 20:22

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)

Gospel Reflection

“Today’s reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus’ appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus’ dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted. Part of the mystery of Jesus’ Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John’s Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke’s Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today’s that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion. In today’s Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus’ words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others. Thomas, the doubting disciple in today’s reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.”

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

The Bohemian Choir

This choir from the University of Liberec in the Czech Republic performed in Our Lady's in 2021 and was very well received. They are paying another visit to Suffolk and will perform at Our Lady's on Thursday 25th April at 7:30 pm. Please come if you can. There is no charge.

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 6th May. See www.ignitefestival.co.uk for more information. It is expected that all young people being Confirmed throughout the Diocese this year will attend this weekend.

Dates for your Diary

09/04/2024 - NSPCC Coffee Morning from 10-12 noon. £2 including tea/ coffee . Children Free. Cakes, games, craft , raffle. All welcome.

09/04/2024 - The next CWL meeting at 1:30pm in the Parish Hall - All Welcome.

11/05/2024 – There will be a celebration of our Parish Diversity with an International Food Evening being Hosted by our Filipino Community. More info will be available soon...

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.

Weekly Collection

As per tradition the Easter Collection is gifted to your parish priest, something for which I am most grateful and which will help considerably towards my own upkeep – thank you all very much for your continued generosity, your kindness and your support. Fr.P.

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: April 7th – April 13th

- 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)
- Monday 8th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Solemnity, The Annunciation)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 9th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 10th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 11th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Stanislaus)*
Offered for: David Johnson's Intention
- Friday 12th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 13th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 13th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(3rd Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Caroline Langan's Intention
- Sunday 14th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(3rd Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 14th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(3rd Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Margarita Siblesz (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.
