

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



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

“They were still talking about this
when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,
‘Peace be with you!’ ”

Luke 24:36

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A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

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Gospel Reflection

“On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus’ appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today’s reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus’ appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today’s Gospel. Consistently in the reports of Jesus’ post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, “Peace be with you.” This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today’s Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses. Even as they hear Jesus’ greeting of peace, the disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement. As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke’s Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper. Luke’s report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus’ forgiveness of sins.”

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 7:30pm. Please come if you can. There is no charge.

Dates for your Diary

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

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.

Children's Liturgy of The Word

Commencing on Sunday the 5th May 2024 and each Sunday thereafter (unless otherwise announced) during the 11am Mass for 3-8 year olds, who have not yet done their First Holy Communion. Please come directly to the Stella Maris Hall by 10.45am for registration and so that parents and children can be settled and ready to participate in the Mass and Children's Liturgy respectively. Leaders are DBS checked. Children, please come ready to engage with the Liturgy and leave snacks and drink until afterwards.

Financial Matters

The Parish Treasurer is currently doing a review on collections made on a Saturday/Sunday at both churches. 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

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £423.34 (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: April 14th – April 20th

- 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: The Deceased of the Siblesz Family (RIP)
- Monday 15th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 16th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 17th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 18th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Friday 19th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 20th - NO MASS TODAY** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 20th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Kathleen Wood (RIP)
- Sunday 21st - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Odete Sousa & Joaquim De Sousa (RIP)
- Sunday 21st - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Josie Langan (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.
