

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



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

“It is to the glory of my Father
that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.”

John 15:8

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R.C. Diocese of East Anglia:
A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

Catholic Primary School: St Mary's, Kirkley Cliff Road, NR33 0DG. Tel: 01502 565384. For more information please visit the school website: <https://www.stmarysrcps.com>

Gospel Reflection

“Today’s reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus’ discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus’ Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John’s Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus’ farewell discourse. In these chapters of John’s Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus’ prayer for his disciples. Today’s Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John’s Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfilment of God’s promises to Israel. In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus’ presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began. Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ’s disciples is sustained through God’s Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name. We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbour. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.”

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

Diocesan Listening and Prayer Ministry

Do you need to talk to someone in a prayerful Catholic environment? Whatever you are going through right now it can help to talk; it can ease the burden and help you to see the way through. We offer a free Ministry of listening and prayer for parishioners in need. Trained volunteers will meet with you to explore any life difficulties you are going through, to listen, to pray and to offer advice and guidance. Sessions can take place on Zoom or face-to-face. For more information and to request sessions, please go to our webpage: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/listening-and-prayer/>

Children's Liturgy of The Word

From Sunday 5th May 2024 all children aged 3-8 wishing to attend the Children's Liturgy of the Word will need to be taken directly to the Stella Maris Hall by 10:45am for registration – there will be a limited number of places available depending on the number of adult, DBS checked, Leaders. Parents must then remain in the church where their children will be brought after the General Intercessions have taken place.

Dates for your Diary

11/05/2024 – There will be a celebration of our Parish Diversity with an evening of Indian Cuisine from 6:30pm on Saturday 11th May. Tickets are £5 per person.

100 Club Winners for April – Congratulations!

1st Prize - £20 - no.13 – James Walker

2nd Prize - £10 - no.21 – Elizabeth Franks

3rd Prize - £5 - no.32 – Fr Pádraig

Annual Marriage Celebration Mass!

Bishop Peter invites all married couples and their families to the annual Marriage Celebration Mass - This will take place on Saturday 1st June, starting at 11.30am, at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich. Those couples celebrating significant anniversaries are invited to fill in the online Booking Form and so have their names read out during Mass, and receive a certificate. Certificates are for one year, five years and every multiple of five, until 60 years, then every individual year after 60 years. The Mass will include a renewal of Marriage Vows for all couples, and there will also be a photographer present to take family/couple photos with the Bishop. After the Mass there will be tea, coffee and cake. There is no charge for the day or for the photos, but donations are welcome. To book a place please fill in the Booking Form at: www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/

For all enquiries please contact: Dr Antonia Braithwaite mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk

Upcoming Second Collections for 2024

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 £459.79 (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 28th – May 4th

- Saturday 27th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Elizabeth Summerville (RIP)
- Sunday 28th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 28th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Rodger Potter (RIP)
- Monday 29th - NO MASS TODAY** *(Feast, St Catherine of Siena)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 30th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for: Bernard Cushing (RIP)
- Wednesday 1st - 09:00 - St Mary's RCPSchool** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for: Children and Staff of St Mary's RCP School
- Thursday 2nd - 18:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Athanasius)*
Offered for:
- Friday 3rd - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, St Philip & St James)*
Offered for: Louisa Savage (RIP)
- Saturday 4th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, The English Martyrs)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 4th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(6th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Kathleen Wood (RIP)
- Sunday 5th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(6th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 5th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(6th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Tom Langan's Intention

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.
