

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



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

“As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.”

John 15:9

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A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

Gospel Reflection

“Today’s Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today’s reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others. When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John’s intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today’s Gospel. One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today’s Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John’s Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love. In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is agape. The second is philia. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, philia. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God. Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude. Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love. This reading, like last week’s, is part of Jesus’ Last Supper discourse. In the context of John’s Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus’ Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.”

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

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.

26/05/2024 – There will be a Cake Sale in the Stella Maris Hall after the 11am Sunday Mass on the 26th May – Please bring any baked donations to the Hall beforehand.

Church Flowers

We have recently established a new Team of Flower Arrangers and are looking for more volunteers who would like to help look after the Flowers for Mass each week. If you are interested please speak to Fr Pádraig who will point you in the right direction.

Vacancy

Deputy Head Teacher vacancy at Notre Dame High School, Norwich. For more details please see Diocesan Website: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/schools/school-vacancies/>

Annual Marriage Celebration Mass!

Bishop Peter invites all married couples and their families to the annual Marriage Celebration Mass on Saturday 1st June, starting at 11.30am, at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. 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 £445.34 (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: May 5th – May 11th

- 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
- Monday 6th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 7th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for: Family Wellbeing (Dinesh, Daniel & Reami)
- Wednesday 8th - 19:00 - Our Lady's** *(Solemnity, Vigil of The Ascension)*
Offered for: Cancio Da Costa (RIP)
- Thursday 9th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Solemnity, The Ascension)*
Offered for: Stella Bostock's Intention
- Friday 10th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 11th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Saturday 11th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(7th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Marie Walshe (RIP)
- Sunday 12th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(7th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Therese Le Mercier (RIP)
- Sunday 12th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(7th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Alec Sampson (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.
