

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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🌐 [www.marymagdalens.org](http://www.marymagdalens.org)

📘 @marymagdalens

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

🌐 [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

Parish priest: Canon Mathew George

✉ [parishpriest@marymagdalens.org](mailto:parishpriest@marymagdalens.org)

Parish school: St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Stratford Road, Ipswich, IP1 6EF

Head teacher: Mr Ian Kearns

☎ 01473 742074

Catholic chaplain to the Ipswich hospitals: Fr A Gates

*Please contact Fr Gates if you are going into hospital (☎ 01473 726701) or let Fr Mathew know.*

Mass is celebrated in the Ipswich Hospital chapel each Monday at 4 pm – all are welcome.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday

### Sunday Readings: Year B

### Weekday Readings: Fourth Week of Easter

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and especially to any visitors.

### Services This Week

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
8:00 am Robert and Sean  
10:00 am \* Richard Collis RIP  
6:00 pm The people of the parish

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
Feast of St George – patron of England  
9:30 am Janes family

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Feria – **in St Pancras school**  
9:30 am George and Gladys Collins

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Feast of St Mark the evangelist  
**No Mass today**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Feria  
**No Mass today**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Feria  
**No Mass today**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Feria  
**No Mass today**

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
8:00 am Open intention  
10:00 am \* Open intention  
6:00 pm The people of the parish

\* Tea and coffee is available in the church hall after Sunday 10:00 Mass – all are welcome

## **Today's Gospel**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. Our Gospel is taken from the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39) and this controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father. In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

## **World Day of Prayer**

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis has published a message to all Catholics regarding this, the fifty-fifth world day of prayer for vocations. His message can be read on the Vatican web site, or you can follow the link in the news item on our own parish web site.

## **Retiring Collection**

There will be a retiring collection after all Masses today for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund.

## **Easter House Blessings**

There is a beautiful tradition of having one's home blessed with the water that was blessed at the Easter Vigil. You are very welcome to ask Fr. Mathew to do this for you during Eastertide.

## **Weekday Masses**

Please note the changes to service times this week. There will be no Masses at St Mary Magdalens on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Also, the Mass on Tuesday this week will be at St Pancras School rather than Wednesday as it is usually.

## **St Pancras School Head**

Ian Kearns has been appointed as the new Headteacher at St Pancras school. Mr Barker has retired after 26 long and successful years at the school and it is hoped we can say a proper goodbye to him in due course, but for now we want to say a big thank you to him and wish him a long and wonderful retirement.

## **The Sick of the Parish**

Please pray for those who are sick or housebound, especially for Collett Long who goes into hospital this week and for Margaret Arbon, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, Deacon Peter Coates, Fabiana Di Mascio, Ron Green, Fr. David Hennessy, Jo Kelly, Molly Mc Garry, Roger Mayhew, Yvonne Metcalf, Robert Mullan, Mary O'Reilly Maureen Sparks and Ken Banbridge.

Fr Mathew is preparing a list of the housebound who would like a regular visit from a priest or a Eucharistic Minister so that they can be offered adequate pastoral care. If you know someone who would like a visit from a priest, with their permission please pass on their details to Fr Mathew.

## **150 Club - End of Year**

The accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March have been audited and signed off by the accountant. The total income for the year was £2,676 with £1,045 given as prizes and expenses of £20 resulting in a contribution to the parish of £1,611. This has been paid over by cheque to Fr Mathew. Thank you to all our members for their support during this year – we hope we can continue to enjoy your support going forward and look forward to welcoming many new members!

## **Parish Vacancies**

Following the recent appointment of John Anderson-Hurst as parish treasurer, we are looking for a new parish representative for FIND (Families In Need in Ipswich). If you would be interested in filling this role, or would like to know more about it, please speak to Fr Mathew.

## **Our Own Dear Departed**

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Charles Aldis, Giovanni Iannelli, Nigel Jack Shee, Amelia Wright, Elsie Mary Lacey, Bernard Oliver, Lucy Mountford, Martin Mongan and Joan Haznos whose anniversaries occur about now.

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

## **Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**

The Monday after Pentecost will from now on be celebrated as the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. A decree was issued on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote that the new celebration will “*help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who makes her offering to God.*”

The memorial will appear in all calendars and liturgical books for the celebration of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. This year, the celebration will fall on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2018.

## **Children's Liturgy**

Following the meeting last Sunday, preparations are in hand to start our children's liturgy at 10:00 Mass on Sundays. We have to meet the Diocesan Safe Guarding requirements, and whilst these necessary processes are carried out, we will be organizing materials and resources ready to start as soon as possible.

## **Rosary on the Coast – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

This is a UK-wide initiative (inspired by similar days in Poland and Ireland) to pray for the renewal of the Catholic faith in our land, for the recognition of the dignity of unborn human life in our society, and for peace in our world. Catholics will be gathering at different points around the coast to pray from 2 to 4 pm. Our nearest location is Felixstowe Ferry. More details can be found at: [www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk](http://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk)

## **Quiz Evening**

The Friends of St Albans are holding a Quiz Evening at St Alban's Catholic High School, Digby Road, Ipswich, IP4 3NJ -Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 7.00 for 7.30 pm start. Teams of up to 8 (age 15 and over), however if not in a team, come along and you can be assigned to a team. £8.00 per person, including fish/sausage/vegetarian roll and chip supper (advanced booking essential due to food orders). Licensed bar, raffle prizes. For tickets please contact the School Office on 01473 726178. All proceeds go to the Friends of St Albans (registered charity).

## **Ipswich Catholic Women's League**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, the CWL will be holding a Springtime Tea Party in St Pancras church hall from 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm. There will be a raffle and a *bring and buy* sale. This event replaces the Valentide Tea Party that had to be cancelled earlier in the year due to poor weather. Anybody with a ticket to the Valentide Tea Party can use it for admission to this event. Otherwise, tickets are available from members or at the door for £3. Proceeds to charities.

## Mass Readings 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year B) 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.
<b>First Reading:</b>	Acts. 4:8-12 <i>This is the only name by which we can be saved.</i>
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b>	Psalm 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
<b>Second Reading:</b>	1Jn. 3:1-2 <i>We shall see God as he really is.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 10:11-18 <i>The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	The good shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

### Regina Caeli

Celebrant: Queen of heaven, rejoice!	Response: Alleluia!
Celebrant: For He whom you did merit to bear	Response: Alleluia!
Celebrant: Has risen again as He said!	Response: Alleluia!
Celebrant: Pray for us to God.	Response: Alleluia!
Celebrant: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary!	Response: Alleluia!
Celebrant: For the Lord is truly risen.	Response: Alleluia!

Celebrant: Let us pray, O God, who was kind enough to give joy to the world through the resurrection of Christ your son, grant we beseech you that that through His Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Response: Amen.

### Eucharistic Ministers

Will Eucharistic ministers please note there is a new rota for the period May – July pinned on the notice board in the narthex, or it can be downloaded from the parish web site.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

This is one of the major events of the year in the life of the Diocese as Catholics from across the region gather at the National Shrine of Our Lady. This year, the pilgrimage takes place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 12 noon with Mass followed by lunch, and procession to the Abbey grounds in Walsingham with prayer at the Site of the Holy House and Benediction. The Diocesan Pilgrimage is one of only three Pilgrimages which will in future be allowed to process down the holy mile, so it will be a significant, if not an historic, moment for us this year! It is hoped to arrange shared coach transport with other Ipswich parishes, so if you are interested in going, please let Fr Mathew know.

### Celebrate East Anglia

The *Celebrate Conference* – a local faith-filled, family friendly conference for people in all stages of life – will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bury St Edmunds. The weekend includes talks, workshops, praise and worship, music, performing arts and opportunities for prayer. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan on the Saturday, and there will be professionally organised activity programmes for young people in different age groups. Martin Pakes is part of the team organising this event, and is happy to offer a spare seat in his car to anybody wishing to attend. For more information go to [www.celebrateconference.org](http://www.celebrateconference.org) and click on East Anglia.

### Ignite Festival

The Ignite Festival is the main diocesan youth event of the year. All young people from year 8 upwards are invited to this festival which will take place in Swaffham over the weekend 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The weekend will include powerful talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff including sumo suit wrestling! This year the organisers, the Diocesan Youth Service, are particularly pleased to be welcoming Gabby and Paige from the TV show Bad Habits, Holy Orders. More information can be found at the festival web site [www.ignitefestival.co.uk](http://www.ignitefestival.co.uk).