

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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🌐 www.marymagdalens.org

📘 @marymagdalens

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

🌐 www.rcdea.org.uk



Parish priest: Canon Mathew George ✉ 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.

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday Readings: Year B

Weekday Readings: Fifth Week of Easter

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

Services This Week

Sunday 29th 8:00 am GCJ Vieira
April 10:00 am * Mary & Dennis Miller RIP
6:00 pm The people of the parish

Monday 30th Easter Feria
April **No Mass today**

Tuesday 1st May Easter Feria
No Mass today

Wednesday 2nd Feast of St Athanasius
May **No Mass today**

Thursday 3rd May Feast of Saints Philip and James apostles
No Mass today

Friday 4th May Feast of the English Martyrs
No Mass today

Saturday 5th May Easter Feria
9:30 am Holy Souls – followed by Benediction

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 6th 8:00 am Charles Vieira
May 10:00 am * Geraldine Lofthouse, Ken Bainbridge
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

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service. Jesus also speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures in which 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 fulfillment 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.

Today we see 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.

Readers

We are organising a Readers Evening for all those who exercise the ministry of reader within the parish. This will be held on Wednesday 6th June from 7:00 until 9:00 pm. This will be an occasion to reflect on the ministry of reader, *a proclaimer of the Word of God*, to our parish community, to get to know each other and improve our skills in reading. The evening will have both a theological and a practical input. It will also be an opportunity for anybody wishing to become a reader to be introduced to this ministry. Will all our current readers please save this date, and if you think you can support your parish by becoming a reader, please speak to Fr Mathew.

Easter Offering

Fr Mathew writes: *I would like to say a very big thank you to everybody for the cards, prayers and good wishes expressed over Easter, and especially for the generosity shown in the Easter offering which came to £1,059.17. I am very grateful.*

Weekday Masses

Please note the changes to service times this week. There will be no weekday Masses at St Mary Magdalens during the week as Fr Mathew is away on pilgrimage to Lourdes.

First Holy Communion

Nine of our children (parish Group) will be celebrating their First Holy communion during the Mass at 10.00 am on Sunday 13th May. On the same day 15 others (school group) will celebrate their First Holy Communion at a special Mass at 11.30 am. Please pray for our children and their families. Since the school is not able to provide music for the special Mass, I would like to invite as many parishioners as possible to be present for the Mass at 11.30 am to support the families and to lead the singing.

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection after all Masses next Sunday, 6th May, for first Holy Communion Flowers.

Weekly Offertory

The retiring collection taken on Good Friday for the Shrines of the Holy Land came to £180.

The offertory on Sunday 8th April was £379.87 and on Sunday 15th April it was £414.99. Thank you.

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.

150 Club

The first prize draw of the new Club year, the April draw, is due to take place today, 29th April. However, as there remain a large number of subscriptions unpaid, it has been decided to postpone this until Sunday 6th May to allow a little extra time for these to be received and included in that draw. If you have not yet paid your subscription, please do so straight away.

The Sick of the Parish

Please pray for those who are sick or housebound: Margaret Arbon, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, Deacon Peter Coates, Fabiana Di Mascio, Ron Green, Fr. David Hennessy, Jo Kelly, Collett Long, Molly Mc Garry, Molly & 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.

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 Eszarina Meyer, Doris Carvey, Mary Dodson, Charles (Freddy) Ashard, Salvatore Falucci, Catherine Head, Patrick McManus, Manuel Giner and Ronald Blake 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 3rd 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 21st 2018.

Rosary on the Coast – Today, Sunday 29th 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

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 19th 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).

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.

Mass Readings 5th Sunday of Easter (Year B) 29th April 2018

Entrance Antiphon:	O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.
First Reading:	Acts. 9:26-31 <i>Barnabus explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey.</i>
Responsorial Psalm:	Psalm 21:26-28, 30-32 You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.
Second Reading:	1Jn. 3:18-24 <i>His commandments are these: that we believe in his son and that we love one another.</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!</i>
Gospel:	John 15:1-8 <i>Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.</i>
Communion Antiphon:	I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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.	

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 7th 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 2nd and 3rd 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 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 5th/6th 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.