

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 Stephen Barker ☎ 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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Lætare Sunday)

Sunday Readings: Year B

Weekday Readings: Year II – Fourth week of Lent

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

Services This Week

Sunday 11 th March	8 am 10 am * 6 pm	Fryatt family Guisepina, Emilia Guiseppa and Rosa Giovanni The people of the parish
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Monday 12 th March	Lent Feria 9:30 am	Janes family
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Tuesday 13 th March	No Mass Today	
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Wednesday 14 th March	Lent Feria – Mass in St Pancras School 9:30 am	Open intention
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Thursday 15 th March	Feast of St Felix 9:30 am	Albertina Vieira
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Friday 16 th March	Lent Feria 12 noon 1:00 pm	Stations of the Cross Requiem Mass for Henry Teuma
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Saturday 17 th March	Feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland 9:30 am	Albertina Vieira followed by Exposition and Benediction
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Sunday 18 th March	8 am 10 am * 6 pm	Fryatt family Fr A S Bull – foundation Mass The people of the parish
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Sacrament of Penance

The Sacrament of Penance is available on Saturday mornings at 10:00, upon request after weekday Masses or by appointment.

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

Lætare Sunday

Today is the fourth, or middle, Sunday of Lent, called Lætare Sunday from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "Lætare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem". Strictly speaking, the Thursday before Lætare Sunday is the middle day of Lent, and it was at one time observed as such, but afterwards the special signs of joy permitted on this day, intended to encourage the faithful in their course through the season of penance, were transferred to the following Sunday.

Today's Gospel

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a holiday celebrated by Catholic and Protestant Christians in some parts of Europe. It falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter. During the 16th century, people returned to their mother church for a service to be held on Lætare Sunday; in this context, one's 'mother church' was either the church where you were baptised, the local parish church, or the nearest cathedral. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone "a-mothering". Today, the secular celebration of Mother's Day has come to represent a day when children honour the mother of the family, by presenting gifts and cards in recognition of the service and sacrifice made by their mothers in raising their children. Today we pray especially for all mothers.

Re-Scheduled Lenten Station Mass

Lenten Station Masses are held in the seven deaneries across the Diocese of East Anglia, celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes. Each Mass begins with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6pm, followed by the Station Mass at 7pm celebrated by Bishop Alan and priests of the deanery. The Mass is followed by soup, bread and cheese afterwards. The Ipswich Station Mass was due to have taken place on Friday March 1st but was postponed due to the bad weather. It will now take place Friday, 16th March, at St Pancras Church.

Palm Sunday Passion Reading

We are looking for volunteers to take part in the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday, March 25th. There are a number of small parts in the reading and it would be nice to have more volunteers to read these in order to make the reading more expressive.

If you would like to take part, please contact Martin Pakes in person, or by using the contact form on the parish web site, or speak to Fr Mathew.

Parish Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Committee met on Monday 22nd February. The minutes of the previous meeting, held Thursday 26th October 2017, were approved and signed by the chairman. A copy of these minutes is available for inspection on the notice board in the narthex, and can also be downloaded from the parish web site.

Henry Teuma RIP

Henry Teuma, a well known parishioner and benefactor, passed away unexpectedly on Friday 19th January in Ipswich Hospital, having been taken suddenly ill. His requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Mary Magdalens next Friday, 16th March at 13:00.

Richard Collis RIP

Many of you will know Richard Collis, father of Fr Michael Collis. Richard sadly passed away recently and his Requiem Mass will be held on Monday 19th March at 2:00 pm followed by burial at Claydon cemetery.

Felix Hennon RIP

On Thursday 22nd March, the requiem mass for Felix Hennon will be held at St Mary Magdalen church at 10:00.

The Sick of the Parish

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

If you are unable to get to Mass on Sunday, please let Fr Mathew know. We can arrange for a visit to be made by one of our Eucharistic Ministers to bring Holy Communion at home, to those unable to get to Mass.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Richard Collis, Felix Hennon, Michael Mongan, Michael Parmenter and Henry Teuma recently deceased and for Edward Clarke, Gerard Healey, Harry Frost, Arthur Watkinson, Isabel White, John Roche, Marion Keenan, Margaret Quinn, Jean Keenan, Margaret Stobo, Patricia Porteous, Winifred Grant, and Lillian Zagni 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.

Offertory

The offertory collection from Sunday 25th February was £364.52 and the retiring collection for CAFOD on the same day was £420.43. Thank you.

Parish Vacancies

Laura Krolchik has kindly agreed to manage the Parish Hall bookings. I would like to thank her for being so generous to our parish and offer her our support and co-operation. Sharon Barnes has done this for us until now. We are very grateful for her dedicated service to the parish.

Laura has arranged a "spring clean" day for the hall on 18th March at 12:00 noon. She has already enlisted 2 other people to help her but it would make life much easier if a few more volunteers could be recruited to help out for an hour or two. If you can spare some time on that day, please contact Laura to let her know. She can be contacted by email (hallbookings@marymagdalens.org) or you can use the contact form on the parish web site.

John Anderson-Hurst has agreed to be our Treasurer. I would like to thank him for his willingness and support. He will join the Finance Committee. Teresa Rose who is our current Treasurer will continue to be the Gift Aid officer and member of the Finance Committee. While thanking her for her dedicated service as the treasurer, I am looking forward to working with both of them, in the temporal administration of the parish.

John Anderson Hurst at present is our representative for FIND (Families In Need in Ipswich). As he takes up this new role as the parish treasurer, we now need a new FIND representative.

Chrism Mass

On Tuesday March 27th, the Chrism Mass will be held in the Cathedral of St John, Norwich. At this Mass the oils for the Sacraments are blessed, and priests, deacons and people renew their commitment to serve. This is one of the main Diocesan events of the year and every year the Cathedral is packed. St Mary's parish is running a coach for any persons interested in going to the cathedral for this celebration. The coach will leave St Mary's, Woodbridge Road, car park at 3:45 pm and will return to St Mary's at approximately 10:30 pm. The fare will be £10 per seat, payable on the coach on the day.

Entrance Antiphon:	Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.
First Reading:	2 Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23 <i>The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people.</i>
Responsorial Psalm:	Psalm 136: 1-6 O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!
Second Reading:	Eph. 2:4-10 <i>You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Glory and praise to you O Christ!</i> God loved the world so much that he gave his only son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. <i>Glory and praise to you O Christ!</i>
Gospel:	John 3:14-21 <i>God sent his son so that through him the world might be saved.</i>
Communion Antiphon:	Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Children's Liturgy

As discussed at the parish forum in September last year, we are going to be starting a children's liturgy group within the parish. The Ignite Team, the diocesan youth mission team, are visiting us today and the 10:00 Mass will be led by Fr Luke Goymour with the team providing music for the Mass and some information about its work around the diocese. After Mass, the team will spend about an hour with the individuals who volunteered to be involved, to provide advice on delivering Children's Liturgy and guidance on suggested resources. All those who have put their names forward to help with children's liturgy are asked to attend a meeting in the Guild Room at 11:00 for one hour. Anybody else who is interested in engaging with our young people in this way is also welcome to come along at 11:00. This does not in any way commit you but will allow you to find out a little more about what's involved. Subject to sufficient support, it is intended to commence the children's liturgy group after Easter.

Forthcoming Baptism

Baby Victoria Majchrzak will be baptised after the 10:00 Mass today. We welcome her to our community.

Novena to St. Joseph (APF)

Novena to St. Joseph: 10-18th March at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Community prepares for the Feast of St. Joseph with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's Blessing on their society and the missionary work of the church, as well as, for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are welcome to send your petitions and intentions to Novena Director, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email: novenamhm@gmail.com or visit www.millhillmissionaries.co.uk.

Dates for Your Diary

Unfortunately the Catholic Women's League Valentide Tea Party, due to have been held Tuesday 27th February, had to be cancelled due to the bad weather. The organisers have advised ticket holders to keep their tickets as these will instead be valid for a Spring Time Tea Party to be organised as a replacement event. Further details of this will be announced soon.

The Ipswich Life Group will be holding its annual *Cakes & Conserves* sale in St Pancras church hall after all Masses this weekend. All donations of baked or home made products gratefully received. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to LIFE education. Your generous support would be gratefully appreciated.

Next Friday, March 16th, the Friends of St Albans are holding a St Patrick's Night Ceilidh in St Albans School Hall from 7:00 until 11:00 pm. There will be a licensed bar. Tickets available from Geraldine Byrne (01473 270472), Jo Chow (01473 620082) or the school reception (01473 726178). Admission: adults £8 children (14-18) £5.