

# 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 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.



## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### Sunday Readings: Year B

11 Sunday

12 Monday (Feria)

13 Tuesday (Feria)

14 Wednesday – **Ash Wednesday**

15 Feb Thursday (Lent Feria)

16 Friday (Lent Feria)

17 Saturday (Lent Feria)

### Weekday Readings: Year II – Sixth Week of the Year

8 am Elsie Robinson (foundation Mass)

10 am Open intention

[Tea/coffee after Mass in the Church Hall – All welcome!]

6 pm Open intention

9:30 am

9:30 am

9:30 am and 7:00 pm including the distribution of ashes.

9:30 am

9:30 am followed by the Rosary

9:30 am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Intentions for Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February

8 am: Open intention

10 am: Open intention

6 pm: Open intention

### Welcome

We welcome back Fr Mathew from his visit to India. We also offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and especially to any visitors.

### Sacrament of Penance

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

### Today's Gospel

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy, a disfiguring, infectious skin disease. In Jesus' time, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request, but his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this - there might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms, as in touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power and even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

### World Day of Prayer

Today 11<sup>th</sup> February, is World Day of Prayer for the sick and a day of prayer for the unemployed. Today we pray especially for these special intentions.

### **Ash Wednesday**

*"By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."* Genesis 3:19

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting - the practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting and marks the beginning of Lent, a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm in church, and whilst not a Holyday of Obligation, it is good to attend Mass on this day to mark the beginning of this penitential season and begin preparations for Easter in the right way.

### **Henry Teuma RIP**

Henry Teuma, a well known parishioner and benefactor, passed away on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January in Ipswich Hospital, having been taken suddenly ill. There are still no confirmed details available regarding his funeral arrangements. Please remember Henry and his family in your prayers.

### **Baptism**

Next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Feng Yu will be baptised during the 10:00 Mass. Also at that Mass, Philip Maddock and Hannah Soulsby will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church and be confirmed. Please remember them all, their parents, godparents and sponsors in your prayers.

### **Offertory**

The offertory collection from Sunday 28th January was £480.32 and from Sunday 4th February £453.68. Thank you.

### **Fertility Awareness Methods**

Fertility Awareness Methods (FAM) are the practices of observing a woman's signs of fertility and interpreting them to determine her fertile and infertile days. This information can be used to achieve or postpone pregnancy in a highly effective manner, in unity with the Catholic Church's teaching. There are some information leaflets available in the narthex - please take one. Further information can be found on the Diocesan web site.

### **Job Vacancy**

Tools With a Mission (TWAM) is a Christian charity sending tools across the world to third world countries like Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania. There is a vacancy in their Ipswich, Hadleigh Road refurbishment centre as a centre manager. TWAM is looking for somebody with experience managing volunteers and overseeing a busy workplace. Full details of the position, job description and application form can be found on their website. Applications must be submitted by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### **Church Gallery**

The work on re-structuring the church gallery front wall, building the new confessional, the redecoration of the kitchen in the presbytery, the re-glazing of the window broken in the recent burglary, and the replacement of the radiator in Fr Mathew's study is all now complete. We are once again indebted to the workers from Hollesley Bay who have worked so hard on our behalf to complete these works, and for all the parishioners who have provided meals and support over the past weeks whilst the work was carried out. Special thanks to Chris Croker, Jim Poll and Andrew Ford for overseeing these works.

### **Catholic East Anglia**

The editor of the Diocesan newspaper, Keith Morris, is keen to identify communications champions in each parish who would send in news items and pictures and help distribute the paper, making sure it is displayed prominently and handed out at the end of Mass. If you would be interested in this role at St Mary Magdalen parish, please speak to Fr Mathew or advise him using the contact form on the web site.

### **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.

### **Our Own Dear Departed**

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Henry Teuma recently deceased and for Mary Conlon, Edmund Miles, Ellen Farrell, Catherine Bates, Lucile Spence, William Lower, Margaret (Peggy) Cleary, Arthur Bonner, Victoria Pagnillo, Mary Cuffe, Willie Long, Harry McAuliffe and Maureen Mulligan 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.*

### **Parish Vacancies**

We are seeking to appoint a new parish treasurer – our current treasurer, Teresa Rose, will be stepping down this year and we need a new person sometime in March or April. If you have some finance / accounting experience and are happy to give generously some of your time for the parish, please let Fr Mathew know. The treasurer will be a *de facto* appointment to the parish Finance Committee.

We are also seeking to appoint a new manager for our parish hall bookings. Managing the hall is very important for us as 29% of our annual income comes from hiring it out. Without that income we would not be financially viable as a parish. If you can help with this, again please let Fr Mathew know.

### **Altar Servers**

We are in great need of additional recruits to our small team of Altar servers. Anybody can apply, male or female, young or old, although it is recommended (but not mandatory) that individuals should have made their first Holy Communion.

We would like to re-establish the St Mary Magdalens branch of the archconfraternity of the Guild of St Stephen, but will need a greater number to make this worth while. If there are any persons who would be interested in becoming an altar server, please make contact by email to [altarserving@marymagdalens.org](mailto:altarserving@marymagdalens.org), use the contact form on the church web site or speak to Fr Mathew on his return. Our younger parishioners would be especially welcome – ongoing training will be provided over time to allow our altar servers to take increasingly more responsible roles in our services and provide them with a greater understanding of what they are doing so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness.

### **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**

At a recent meeting of the deanery clergy, it was proposed to look into the establishment of a St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Conference for Ipswich.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international Christian voluntary membership organisation. Membership is open to anyone who can adopt the SVP's ethos. The SVP believes that everyone should have the means to life with dignity. Inspiration is taken from Blessed Frederick Ozanam, one of the SVP's principal founders who, as a young university student in Paris, with 6 companions set up a *Conference of Charity* in 1833, visiting the poor, bringing food, clothing and friendship. They adopted St Vincent de Paul as their patron. Today, volunteer SVP members are people of all walks of life who want to make a difference to the lives of people in need.

If you are interested in helping to set up a new SVP Conference for Ipswich, have any previous experience of the SVP, have belonged to an SVP Conference in the past or are just interested in being part of a new SVP Conference for Ipswich, please pass your details to Fr Mathew, or use the contact form on the parish web site. An initial meeting for all those interested will then be arranged. Further information about the aims and objectives of the SVP can be found on its website [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk)

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)****11<sup>th</sup> February 2018****Entrance Antiphon:**

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me,  
for the sake of your name.

**First Reading:**

Lev 13:1-2, 44-46  
*The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of  
salvation.

**Second Reading:**

1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1  
*Take me for your model, as I take Christ.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!** May the Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see  
what hope his call holds for us. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

**Mark 1:40-45**  
*The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.*

**Communion Antiphon:**

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord  
gave them; they were not disappointed in what they  
craved.

**Dates for the Diary**

Support for World in Need is holding a Beetle Drive on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February in St James' Parish Hall, 482 Landseer Road, Ipswich IP3 9LU, 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Adults £5.00; Children (up to 10 years) £2.50. Refreshments and tea/coffee/squash included. You are invited to an evening of fun for all the family - whatever your age! Tables of 4 will be organised on the night so, if you are coming on your own, there will be a table for you to join. Tickets from Violet Gitzer 01473 271671 and Sue Coppens-Browne 01473 738909.

As part of the Diocesan Celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes, Bishop Alan will celebrate a solemn Mass with the Anointing of the Sick, at the Cathedral of St John, Norwich, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February. All are welcome.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February is the CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day. This is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity? With malnutrition still killing almost three million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough good food to eat. And this Lent, your donation will make double the difference – every £1 donated to CAFOD will be matched by the UK government up to £5 million. Please think carefully about what you can do this year to make this Lenten appeal a memorable one.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, a Diocesan Charismatic Renewal Day will be held at the Bowthorpe Church Centre, Norwich. The day will consist of Holy Mass, prayer and praise, Reconciliation and prayer for healing. The day is open to all – tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own packed lunch. More details can be found on the poster in the narthex.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, the Ipswich Catholic Women's League will be holding a Valentide Tea party in St Pancras church hall starting at 2:30 pm. Tickets are £3 each and can be purchased after Mass or on the door on the day. There will be a raffle and a Bring 'n' Buy sale – more details can be found on the poster in the narthex.

Once again this year, the Bishop will be travelling throughout the Diocese leading a series of Station Masses in various towns. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the Ipswich Lenten Station Mass will be celebrated in St Pancras church, starting at 6:00 pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation, followed by Mass celebrated with all the Deanery clergy at 7:00pm. All will be welcome.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.