

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
"Courage! Do not be afraid.

"Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 145

RESPONSE: Come, Lord, and save us.

Or **Alleluia!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer:
how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it
has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to
be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be
soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so
as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already
to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in
submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name
of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent
his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or have
we got to wait for someone else?" Jesus answered, "Go back and
tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are
raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and
happy is the man who does not lose faith in me."

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the
people about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to
see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out
to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine
clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for?
To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet:
he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send
my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I
tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than
John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom
of heaven is greater than he is."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Catholic chaplain to the Ipswich hospitals: Awaiting new appointment.

Please contact either Fr Paul, Fr Luke or one of the other Ipswich priests if you or a family member are going in to hospital.

Please consider setting up a standing order in favour of the parish instead of a weekly cash offering. If you can Gift Aid your donation, please complete a form which you can find in the church porch.

Bank: Barclays **Account Name:** St Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Parish **Account number:** 70777323 **Sort code:** 20-44-51



Third Sunday of Advent – 11th December 2022: Sunday Readings: Liturgical Year A.

Sunday Hymns: Entrance: No. 201 Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling

Recession: No. 384 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Today we welcome Fr Luke Goymour who will be saying all three Masses at St Mary Magdalen church.

Services This Week

Saturday 10 th December	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Confessions Vigil Mass	Reader R Cork
Sunday 11 th December	8:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	offered for Fr Francis Leeder RIP (FV), reader F Vieira offered for the people of the parish. Reader P Newton, Eucharistic Minister M Geisel <i>Tea and coffee will be available in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass – please do come and join us</i>
Monday 12 th December	Advent FERIA No Mass	Today	
Tuesday 13 th December	Advent FERIA 12:00 noon	Holy Mass	offered for Fr Anthony Sketch RIP (FV)
Wednesday 14 th December	St John of the Cross No Mass	Today – Episcopal Ordination Mass at St John's Cathedral at 11:00 am	
Thursday 15 th December	Advent FERIA 10:00 am	Holy Mass	offered for John Dooley RIP
Friday 16 th December	Advent FERIA 10:00 am	Holy Mass	offered for Phyllis May McBride RIP, followed by Exposition and a Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Today's Gospel: The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus' message to John about the signs being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Advent Wreath – Gaudete Sunday: Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass, and Gaudete Sunday is one. The name comes from Philippians 4:4-5 *Gaudete in Domino semper* – Rejoice in the Lord always. Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus' return. Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments, but on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. Similarly today, the pink or rose-coloured candle of our Advent Wreath is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the Shepherds Candle and it represents joy:

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

Advent Mass: Next Saturday 17th December at 11:00 am, there will be a special Advent Mass at St Mark's church, Hawthorne Drive, with the opportunity for Confession with visiting priests from the St Edmund's Deanery. The Mass will be offered by Fr Luke, assisted by Fr Paul, and all St Mary Magdalen's parishioners will be warmly welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Dependent Priests Fund: There will be a retiring collection for this cause after each Mass this weekend. Please Gift Aid your donations if you can, but note that, as this is a charity independent of the diocese, it has a separate charity registration number and as such the special Gift Aid envelopes provided must be used and not the printed Diocesan ones.

Find Christmas Appeal 2022: Please remember today is the last day to put any donated gift vouchers, along with the corresponding receipt, in an envelope marked FIND and drop it in the collection plate at Mass.

Ladies at Christmas: The ladies of the parish will be meeting next Friday 16th December at 2:30 in the Garden Room for a Christmas themed afternoon tea and chat session. Men are invited to attend too! Add to the fun by wearing your Christmas jumper!

Christmas Flowers: Next Sunday, 18th December, there will be a retiring collection taken after each mass for Christmas flowers so we can suitably decorate the church ready to greet our new born Saviour. Alao next Sunday, after 10:00 Mass, we will be decorating our Christmas tree, and children are invited to help. If there is any special decoration they would like to put on the tree, then please bring them along.

November 150 Club Draw: The winners of the November prize draw were £25, no. 57 Mrs L Dolby, £20, no. 163 Mrs G Allan, £15, no. 31 Mrs A Bardwell and £10, no.13 Mrs V Davison. Congratulations to them all.

November Offertory: The November offertory total was £1210.00 standing orders and £1248.46 cash - total £2458.46. The Diocesan Youth Service collection realised £108.18 and a further £68.85 was received for Mission. Thanks you for your generosity.

The Sick of the Parish: We ask your prayers for all our brothers and sisters who are unwell, afflicted or distressed. Comfort and relieve them according to their needs, and grant them the love and consolation of your Spirit:

John Anderson-Hurst, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, Sheila Curry, Fabiana Di Mascio, Patrick Doran, Ron Green, Josephine Kalagira, Jo Kelly, Molly Mc Garry, Yvonne Metcalfe, Robert Mullan, Pauline Newton, Mary O'Reilly, Carol Sims and Pippa Williamson.

Our Own Dear Departed: Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for James Finn, Fr Gerard P Conlon, Gwendoline Lockwood, Peggy Sallabank, Marie Quinn, Betty Smythe, Ellie McDonagh, Joan Baron, Edward Richardson, William Schemensky, Thomas Baldwin, Peter Tierney, William Hoey, Johannah Parlone, Isabella Stiff and Karen Sutton whose anniversaries occur about this time. A complete list of parish anniversaries can be found on the parish web site.

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