

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.*

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. 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 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: "As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 64

RESPONSE: *Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.*

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.*

Alleluia!

Or

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
whoever finds this seed will remain for ever.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, "Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!" <

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, "Why do you talk to them in parables?" "Because" he replied "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes,

hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

"But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

"You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.*

Or

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 6JS

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☎ 01473 741975

✉ 07414 735102 (text only)

🌐 www.marymagdalens.org

📧 @marymagdalens

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

🌐 www.rcdea.org.uk

Parochial Administrator: Fr Luke Goymour ✉ parishpriest@marymagdalens.org

Assistant Priest: Fr Paul Chanh ✉ paulchanh@gmail.com

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

Head of School: Mrs Lucille Martin ☎ 01473 742074

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



The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday 16th July 2023: Sunday Readings: Liturgical Year A

Services during the coming week – Fifteenth Week of the Year, Year I

Saturday 15 th July	5:30 pm	Confessions
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass for the 15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, offered for Angelo & Fiorenzina Paoletti. Reader R Cork, Offertory Cork Family
Sunday 16 th July	8:00 am	Holy Mass, offered for the Vieira Family. Reader F Vieira, Offertory Moore Family, Eucharistic Minister E Cleary
	10:00 am	Holy Mass offered for the people of the parish. The children will read and present the offertory gifts, Eucharistic Minister W Lobo
	12 noon	Holy Mass offered for the First Holy Communion children and their families. The children will read and present the offertory gifts.
<i>Please join us for tea and coffee in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass, prepared & served by Julie & Michael</i>		
Monday 17 th July	Feria	No Mass Today
Tuesday 18 th July	Feria	11:00 am Requiem Mass for James Fitzgerald RIP
Wednesday 19 th July	Feria	12 noon Holy Mass, open intention
Thursday 20 th July	Feria	10:00 am Holy Mass offered for the Vieira Family
Friday 21 st July	Feria	10:00 am Holy Mass, open intention, followed by Exposition and a chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday 22 nd July	5:30 pm	Confessions
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass of 16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, open intention.

Today's Gospel: Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward - of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil. Jesus then explains his use of parables, suggesting that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium - the parable - models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit. To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties, some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out and some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit. *Courtesy of Loyola Press*

This Morning: The children of the parish will be making their First Holy Communions at the 10:00 Mass, and also at the additional special Mass at 12 noon. Please pray for Ellie-May, Darcie, Tuscani, Noah, Penelope, Jedidiah, Seweryn, Ernestas, Elianna and Jessica who will make their First Holy Communion at the 10:00 am Mass and for Olivia, Faustas, Kacper, Santino, Mila, Oliwer, Oliver, Rudairo, Aibhilin, Amari-Rose, Deneal and Albie who will make theirs at the noon Mass. Please also remember their parents on this very special occasion. We also give our grateful thanks the team of catechists who have prepared them to receive Our Lord today for the first time. Parents and families are reminded that this is a solemn occasion and are asked to be respectful of proceedings and not take photographs during the First Holy Communion Masses. Opportunities for photographs will be available after each of the Masses.

Parish AGM: The AGM took place last Tuesday evening in the Garden Room. Minutes of the meeting will be made available in the church porch and on the parish web site in due course.

The Sick of the Parish: The names of the sick have been published weekly now for many years. In order to ensure it is current, and, under GDPR rules we do not breach any individual's confidentiality, we ask that any person who is sick or unwell and wants to ask for prayers to be said for them, give their names to Fr Paul so the list can be re-established.

We ask your prayers for all our brothers and sisters who are unwell, afflicted, housebound or distressed. Lord, comfort and relieve them according to their needs, and grant them the love and consolation of your Spirit. Amen.

Our Own Dear Departed: Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Jessie Lubeck (1991), Rose Lee (2013), Bridget Atkins (2018), Adam Pawlowski-Brooks (2020), Lilian Barnes, Jeremiah Cahillane (1994), Peggy Oxley (2006), John Welham (1974), Margaret Faul (2009), Alice Reilly (1987), Neil Ford (1989), Elizabeth Thrower (2001) and Robert Coyle whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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