

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign
for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights
above." "No," Ahaz answered "I will not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said:

"Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 23

**RESPONSE: *Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.***

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

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

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an
apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God
promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human
nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ
our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that

was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his
resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and
our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan
nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and
by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's
beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was
betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she
was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband
Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity,
decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do
this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and
said "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home
as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the
Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him
Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their
sins." Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord
through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us". When Joseph woke up he
did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife
to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 18th December 2022: Sunday Readings: Liturgical Year A.

Sunday Hymns: Entrance: No. 516 The Angel Gabriel

Recession: No. 384 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Services This Week

Saturday 17 th December	5:30 pm	Confessions	
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass	Reader R Cork
Sunday 18 th December	8:00 am	Holy Mass	offered for the people of the parish, reader J Cleary
	10:00 am	Holy Mass	offered for Richard Fox RIP. Reader A James, Eucharistic Minister J Poll
Tea and coffee will be available in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass – please do come and join us			
Monday 19 th December	Advent FERIA No Mass Today		
Tuesday 20 th December	10:00 am	Holy Mass	offered for Gabriele Nicosia
Wednesday 21 st December	12:00 noon	Holy Mass	offered for the Vieira Family
Thursday 22 nd December	10:00 am	Holy Mass	
Friday 23 rd December	10:00 am	Advent FERIA Holy Mass offered for the Vieira Family, followed by Exposition and a Chaplet of Divine Mercy	
Saturday 24 th December	10:00 pm	Mass of Christmas Midnight Holy Mass offered for the people of the parish, Eucharistic Minister W Lobo	
Sunday 25 th December	8:00 am	Mass of Christmas Dawn offered for the Vieira Family, Eucharistic Minister C Moore	
	10:00 am	Mass of Christmas Day offered for Heather Poll RIP, Eucharistic Minister M Geisel	

Advent Wreath

Today, the fourth and last Sunday in Advent, we light the final purple candle, often called the *Angel's Candle*, which represents peace.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

Christmas Flowers: Today, 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. After 10:00 Mass, we will be decorating our Christmas tree, and children are invited to help. If there are any special decorations they would like to put on the tree, then please bring them along. On Friday 23rd December, the Christmas flowers will be arranged starting at 10:30. You need no particular skills or experience for this and any enthusiastic individuals that would like to come along and help would be most welcome.

Christmas Cleaning: At 9:00 on Wednesday 21st December, there will be a cleaning session to prepare the church for Christmas. This will be followed by a light breakfast in the Garden Room. If you can spare an hour, please do come along and lend a hand.

Christmas Offering: Next weekend, the collection from all three Masses will form the traditional personal gift from the parish community to our priest, Fr Paul. For those using the Gift Aid envelopes, there is a special one in your box for this purpose. If you pay by standing order or bank transfer, please use "Christmas Gift" as your payment reference. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Eucharistic Ministers: All Eucharistic Ministers should have received a copy of the new rota by email. This rota starts next weekend. There is a copy in the church porch and it can also be downloaded from the parish web site. If you would like to be a Eucharistic Minister, then in the first instance, please speak to Fr Paul.

Parish 150 Club: The December draw of the 150 Club is actually due to be made on Christmas Day, but instead will be made today after 10:00 Mass in the Garden Room. This prize draw will include the third quarter bonus prizes. Why not pop in after Mass for a cup of coffee and join us for the draw?

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 Kathleen McCullar, John Woodstock, Valerie Jenkins, Giuseppe Nelli, Jean Ward, Elvira Cucurullo, Fr Alfred Bull, Bernice Chaisty, Richard Fox, Richard Miller, Eric Mountford and Michael Dooley whose anniversaries occur about this time. A complete list of parish anniversaries can be found on the 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.