

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.*

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, always pondering spiritual things,
we may carry out in both word and deed
that which is pleasing to you.
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 Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: "Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 102

RESPONSE: *The Lord is compassion and love.*

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!
When anyone obeys what Christ has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL Matthew 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

"You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord,
with the observance that is your due,
we humbly ask you,
that what we offer to the honour of your majesty
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.*

Or

*Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of the living God, who is coming into this world.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we may experience the effects of the salvation
which is pledged to us by these mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th February 2023: Sunday Readings: Liturgical Year A.

Sunday Hymns: Entrance: No. 337 Love Divine All Loves Excelling Offertory: No 342 Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Communion: No. 175 God Forgave My Sin: No. 122 Do Not Be Afraid

Services During the Coming Week

Saturday 18 th February	5:30pm	Confessions
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass offered for Mathew Joseph & Lucy Mathew RIP. Reader M Kenning, offertory Kenning family
Sunday 19 th February	8:00 am	Mass, open intention. Reader C Moore, offertory Moore family, Eucharistic Minister C Moore
	10:00 am	Mass, offered for the people of the parish. Reader A James, offertory M Geisel, Eucharistic Minister J Poll
		Please join us for tea and coffee in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass today prepared and served by Nigel & Dorothy
Monday 20 th February	Feria	No Mass Today
Tuesday 21 st February	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass, open intention
Wednesday 22 nd February	Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence marking the beginning of the penitential season of Lent	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass with distribution of the Ashes
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass with distribution of the Ashes
Thursday 23 rd February	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 24 th February	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass followed by Exposition and a Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday 25 th February	5:30pm	Confessions
	6:00 pm	First Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel: The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give them what they ask for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasises that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness. *Courtesy of Loyola Press.*

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 symbolise 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, fasting and abstinence marking 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 10:00 am and 6:00 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.

Ladies Tea and Cake: As it is the last Friday of the month, the ladies of the parish will be meeting in the Garden Room on Friday at 2:30 for the monthly tea, cake and chat session. This is open to all, just come along on the day.

Confirmation Classes 2023: Classes to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation will this year be run jointly with St Mark's parish. The first session will be held at St Mark's church, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich, on 25th February at 3:30 pm. Candidates, who must be a minimum of 13 years of age, are invited to register for this by contacting Fr Luke by email using parishpriest@marymagdalens.org and completing a registration form, available from the church porch. Please return the completed registration form to the parish office before 25th February, or bring it with you to the first session.

The Sick of the Parish: We ask your prayers for all our brothers and sisters who are unwell, afflicted, housebound 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, 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 Patrick Kavanagh, Cynthia Woollard (2002), Peter Grimwood (1982), Kathleen Smy (2000), Kate Brown (1976), Margaret Hutchinson, Frederick Adams (1994), Anne Gambo (2012), Felix Hennon (2018), Gladys Cooper (1996), Helen Hinton (2013), Angela Hurren (2013), Walter Reynolds (1968), Audrey Hartery (2009) and Sidney Mason (2010) 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.