

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

COLLECT

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
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 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons." When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him," but the Lord said to Samuel, "Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart." Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." He then asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" He answered, "There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes." Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, "Come, anoint him, for this is the one." At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 22

RESPONSE: *The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

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

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the

Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!*

GOSPEL John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

(a longer version may be read: John 9:1-41)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam" (a name that means "sent"). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "Yes, it is the same one." Others said, "No, he only looks like him." The man himself said, "I am the man."

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, "He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see." Then some of the Pharisees said, "This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath." Others said, "How could a sinner produce signs like this?" And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, "What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?" "He is a prophet" replied the man.

"Are you trying to teach us," they replied "and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!" And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Sir," the man replied "tell me who he is so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You are looking at him; he is speaking to you." The man said, "Lord, I believe," and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty
and love you in all sincerity.
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

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Lætare Sunday – 19th March 2023: Sunday Readings: Liturgical Year A.

Sunday Hymns: Entrance: No. 175 God Forgave My Sins In Jesus Name Offertory: No 511 Take Our Bread We Ask You

Communion: No. 32 All Ye Who Seek A Comfort Sure Recession: No. 242 Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Services During the Coming Week

Saturday 18 th March	10:00 am	Lenten Mass of Reconciliation at St Marks.
	5:30 pm	Confessions
	6:00 pm	Fourth Sunday of Lent Vigil Mass. Reader I Suttle, offertory Hennon family.
Sunday 19 th March	8:00 am	Holy Mass, open intention. Reader C Moore, Eucharistic Minister E Cleary.
	10:00 am	Holy Mass for the people of the parish. Reader J Iannelli, offertory M Mayhew, Eucharistic Minister M Long <i>Please join us for tea and coffee in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass today prepared and served by Nigel & Dorothy</i>
Monday 20 th March		Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary No Mass Today
Tuesday 21 st March	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass, open intention
Wednesday 22 nd March	Lent Feria	
	12 noon	Holy Mass, open intention
Thursday 23 rd March	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass, open intention
Friday 24 th March	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass, open intention, followed by Stations of the Cross.
Saturday 25 th March	9:30 am	First Holy Communion Preparation Class in the Garden Room, Session 4, chapters 6&7 of the course book
	5:30 pm	Confessions
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel: today we hear of the healing of the man born blind. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness - his own or his parents'. Instead of answering directly, Jesus gives the question a different dimension - through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man, which is controversial as Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel him for questioning their judgment. The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks him out and reveals himself as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind. Today's reading has many allusions to Baptism - the washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through his encounter with Jesus, the blind man is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. He gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees are the ones who remain blind. *Courtesy of Loyola Press.*

Lætare Sunday: Today is the fourth, or middle, Sunday of Lent, called *Lætare* Sunday from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "*Lætare Jerusalem*" - "Rejoice, O Jerusalem". Strictly speaking, the Thursday before *Lætare* Sunday is the middle day of Lent, and it was at one time observed as such, but afterwards the special signs of joy permitted on this day, intended to encourage the faithful in their course through the season of penance, were transferred to the following Sunday.

Mothering Sunday: Mothering Sunday is a holiday celebrated by Catholic and Protestant Christians in some parts of Europe. It falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter. During the 16th century, people returned to their mother church for a service to be held on *Lætare* Sunday; in this context, one's 'mother church' was either the church where you were baptised, the local parish church, or the nearest cathedral. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone "a-mothering". Today, the secular celebration of Mother's Day has come to represent a day when children honour the mother of the family, by presenting gifts and cards in recognition of the service and sacrifice made by their mothers in raising their children. Today we pray especially for all mothers.

Readers and Offertory: Please note there is a new rota available in the church porch along with some additional sheets for volunteer readers across Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we plan to have Fr Paul and two readers read the Gospel at the Vigil and Sunday 8 am Masses and at the 10:00 Mass we are doing a dramatic reading of the full Passion with as many people as possible reading 17 roles. There will be a rehearsal in church at 10:00 am on Saturday 1st April. Please sign up for this and whatever else you can do over Holy Week. There will be at least four readings at the Easter Vigil on Sat 8th April – it would be great if we had enough readers for the full eight!

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, David Nash, Pauline Newton, Mary O'Reilly, Carol Sims and Pippa Williamson.

Please remember especially Jo Fox, that she may make a full and speedy recovery from a fractured pelvis following a recent fall.

Our Own Dear Departed: Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Ruby Stendera (1991), Patrick O'Donovan (1993), Joseph Baran (2012), Ranford Barrett (2019), Wilfred Murray (1959), Patrick Kearney (1970), Pamela Spencer (1985), Antonio Casarelli (1979), Maureen Westrup née Long (2006), Roger Mayhew (2020), Michael Cleary (1954), Frances D'Arcy (1966), Aubrey Delaney (1985), James Faul (1996) and William McCarthy (2003) 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