



# PARISH NEWSLETTER



Christmas Edition

*The Holy Year: Jubilee 2025 "Called to be pilgrims of hope"*



## ST MARK

WITH HOLY FAMILY BRANTHAM

St Mark's Parish House, T 01473 684963  
180 Hawthorn Drive, E luke.goymour@rcdea.org.uk  
Ipswich, Suffolk W stmarksparish.org.uk  
IP2 0QQ

The parish of St Mark includes St Mark's church in Ipswich and the church of the Holy Family in Brantham (CO11 1TB)

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Luke Goymour VF

**Parish School:**  
St Mark's School  
**Headteacher:**  
Dr Michael Keller

**Parish Secretary:**  
Mrs Sharon Cullum available  
Thursday 12 am – 2 pm  
office@stmarksparish.org.uk

**Parish Safeguarding Rep:**  
**Mrs Joanna McCall**  
psr@stmarksparish.org.uk

**Bank: 20-44-51 A/c No.**  
**60791342**  
St. Marks RC Parish A/C

**Eucharistic Adoration:**  
**St Mark's**

Wed & Thurs 6:30 - 7:30 am  
Friday 11:40 - 12:10\*

**Holy Family**  
Tuesday 9:20 – 9:50\*

**Prayer Group:**  
Mondays 6:30 – 8:00pm  
Praise, Worship  
scripture & reflection

**Confession**  
St Mark: 5pm Saturday  
and by appointment

**Children's Liturgy:**  
At 11:15 am Mass every  
Sunday

**Kids Church:** Last Sunday  
of the Month in Term Time  
after 11:15 Mass



## ST MARY MAGDALEN

The Presbytery, T 01473 741975  
468 Norwich Road,  
Ipswich, Suffolk W marymagdalens.org  
IP1 6JS @marymagdalens  
E parishpriest@marymagdalens.org

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Luke Goymour VF

**Confession:**  
by appointment

**Parish School:**  
St Pancras Catholic Primary  
Stratford Road  
Ipswich  
IP1 6EF  
T 01473 742074

**Headteacher:** Jo Berry and  
Ross McGill  
**Safeguarding**  
safeguarding@marymagdalens.org

**Eucharistic Adoration:**  
Tuesdays at 9:30 am with  
Rosary

**Offerings:**  
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:**  
A/c: St Mary Magdalen Roman  
Catholic Parish  
Sort Code: 20-44-51  
A/c Number: 70777323

**Catholic Lay Chaplain to the Ipswich Hospital:** Mrs Rachael Tearle, if you or a family member requires a visit, sacraments and support whilst in hospital please notify her by email: hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Responsorial Psalm – Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Year A - *Christmastime***

**Weekly Mass Schedule  
at St Mary Magdalen, St Mark's and Holy Family  
Churches**

<b>SATURDAY 20/12/2025</b>	<b>17:30 St Mark's Anticipatory Mass</b> Offered For: George Smith RIP	<b>4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent</b>
<b>SUNDAY 21/12/2025</b>	<b>08:00 Holy Family</b> Offered For: People of the Parish <b>09:45 St Mary Magdalen</b> Offered for: Marlene Hannaway RIP. <b>11:15 St Mark's      16:00 St Mark's Carol Service</b> Offered For: Lynn Sellers RIP	<b>4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent</b>
<b>TUESDAY 23/12/2025</b>	<b>09:30 St Mary Magdalen: Exposition, Adoration and Rosary</b> <b>10:00 Holy Family</b> Mass and Adoration from 9.20am Offered For: Thanksgiving mass	
<b>WEDNESDAY 24/12/2025 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>17:30 St Mark's Family Mass</b> <b>20:00 Holy Family</b> <b>22:00 St Mary Magdalen</b> <b>23:30 St Mark's Midnight Mass (carols at 23:30 with Mass at Midnight)</b> Offered For: Gloria and Julian Wong	<b>Nativity of the Lord – Solemnity</b>
<b>THURSDAY 25/12/2025 Christmas Day</b>	<b>09:45 St Mary Magdalen</b> Offered For: Priest's Intentions <b>11:15 St Mark's</b> Offered For: People of the Parish	<b>Nativity of the Lord - Solemnity</b>
<b>FRIDAY 26/12/2025</b>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>	<b>St Stephen. First Martyr</b>
<b>SATURDAY 27/12/2025</b>	<b>17:30 St Mark's Anticipatory Mass</b> Offered For: People of the Parish	<b>The Holy Family</b>
<b>SUNDAY 28/12/2025</b>	<b>08:00 Holy Family</b> Offered For: Anne Kelly RIP <b>09:45 St Mary Magdalen</b> Offered for: Martha Ndow-Grace RIP <b>11:15 St Mark's</b> Offered For: Anne-Marie Hui	<b>The Holy Family</b>
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>11: am St Marks</b> Offered for: Pamela Jones	<b>Mary Mother of God</b>
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>12:15 Mass at St Mark's</b> <i>Offered for: John Mensah RIP - No Adoration this Day -</i>	<b>Christmastide</b>
<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>17:30 Mass at St Marks</b> Offered for: Christobel Caroline Riley	<b>Christmastide</b>
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>08:00 Holy Family</b> Offered For: People of the parish <b>09:45 St Mary Magdalen</b> Offered for: Canon Mathew George Ann. Of Ordination (Foundation) <b>11:15 St Mark's</b> Offered For: Sheena & William Murphy RIP	<b>Second Sunday of Christmas</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>19:00 Mass Holy Family:</b> <b>Holy Day of Obligation Vigil</b> Offered for: Val Van Walwyk	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09:30 Mass at St Marks</b> <b>Holy Day of Obligation</b> Offered for People of the parish <b>19:00 Mass at St Mary Magdalen</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>

	Offered for private Intention	
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00: St Mary Magdalen:</b> Offered for: Kieth Murry RIP	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:15 St Marks</b> Offered for: Sylvia Mann RIP <i>Adoration from 11:40</i>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>

**Carol Service: 21<sup>st</sup>  
December at 4pm**

**Kids Craft n' Pray 23<sup>rd</sup>  
December 10am – 12 noon**

**Please note: No early morning  
adoration on Wed and Thurs  
until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**Christmas Eve: 5:30pm 8pm, 10pm Midnight,  
Christmas Day: 9:45 & 11:15 *See table above for  
details and please note changes in Mass times  
and locations over Christmas and New Year!***

**Epiphany is Holy Day of Obligation: Holy Day Schedule –  
Vigil Mass the night before a Holy Day at Holy Family at  
19:00, 09:30 on the Holy Day at St Mark's and 19:00 at St  
Mary Magdalen.**

**Advent Wreath:** Today, on the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the final purple candle—the Angel's Candle—symbolizing peace. The angels proclaimed: *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.”* On Christmas Eve, at Midnight Mass, the white centre candle is lit. This Christ Candle represents the pure, sinless Saviour who brings life into the world. White signifies purity: those who receive Christ are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow, as the Lord declares: *“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”*

**Christmas Offering:** A reminder that the collection taken at the Christmas will form the traditional personal gift from the parish community to our priest, Fr Luke and forms the substantial part of the annual income of a priest.

**Christmas Carol Service:** This afternoon, join us for our Christmas Carol Service, beginning at 4 pm A warm and joyful way to welcome the Christmas season. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall.

**Christmas Craft & Prayers:** On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December starting at 10:00 am, there will a relaxed session for primary school children to make Christmas crafts and share in short prayers. Parents are welcome to stay and join in. All materials will be provided. This will be held in St Mark's church hall, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP1 0QQ.

**Christmas Post at St Mary Magdalen:** The letter rack in the church porch is being used by many people to leave Christmas cards for fellow parishioners. Please check the rack before you leave church and take any cards addressed to you as, in previous years, we have sadly had to dispose of several cards that were never collected by the intended recipients. **At St Marks:** Please place and collect card from table outside hall. **DO NOT PLACE ON TABLE AT BACK OF THE CHURCH**

**Christmas Message from Bishop Peter:** In his 2025 Christmas message Bishop Peter Collins urges us, amid a troubled world, to embrace the true hope revealed in Christ's birth and to live as faithful pilgrims of hope as we celebrate both the Jubilee Year and the forthcoming diocesan anniversary. You can read the full message, or listen to it, on the parish web site.

**Friday Within the Octave of Christmas:** Next Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> December, falls within the Octave of Christmas and as such the Friday Abstinence is dispensed.

**Bible Study Group:** The Bible study group will now take a break over the Christmas period. The next session will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January in the Garden Room at 7:15 pm.

**Alpha Course:** The Alpha course also takes a Christmas break. The next session, the seventh, entitled *How Does God Guide Us?* will be held at 12:30 lunchtime in the Garden Room at St Mary Magdalen church on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, repeated in the evening at 7:30 pm at St Mark's.

**Rosary at St Mary Magdalen:** The Adoration and Rosary session continues on Tuesday morning. If you have not yet joined us, why not start now? Why don't you come along too and spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? If numbers permit, we adjourn to the Garden Room afterwards for a cup of coffee! Do join us at 9:30 am.

**\*The Parish Office is shut until 8<sup>th</sup> January; this Newsletter covers the whole of that period.\***

**Ladies Tea 'n' Chat at St Mary Magdalen :** The ladies group will not be meeting on the usual last Friday this month as it will be Boxing Day. Normal service will resume with the meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2026.

**Parish 150 Club:** The December prize draw of the 150 Club, including the third quarter bonus prizes, will be made after Mass on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ladies Tea 'n' Chat at St Mary Magdalen:** The ladies group will not be meeting on the usual last Friday this month as it will be Boxing Day. Normal service will resume with the meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2026.

**Parish 150 Club:** The December prize draw of the 150 Club, including the third quarter bonus prizes, will be made after Mass on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Catholic East Anglia:** The December edition of Catholic East Anglia, the Diocesan newspaper, is available in the church porch. This publication is free of charge. The edition includes news that St John's Cathedral has been put on the At Risk register by Historic England and the Diocese's financial deficit is starting to fall. Also included are reports on a £2.5m appeal for a Mission House in Walsingham and Norfolk church leaders signing a Declaration of Commitment to Christian Unity. Please do take a copy home and read it to catch up on all the news and events in parishes around our diocese. If all the printed copies have gone, this can also be read online on the parish web site – just scan the QR code to take you straight to it.



**The Sick of the Parish of St Mary Magdalen:** We ask your prayers this week for Mrs Di Mascio, known to many of you, who is gravely ill in Ipswich Hospital, and for your continuing prayers for Anna de Dona, Charles, Patrick Doran, Jim Spence, Margaret Ward (née Curry) and 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.*

**St Mary Magdalen - Our Own Dear Departed:** Of your charity, please pray for Richard Miller (1971), Eric Mountford (2004), Deacon Clive Brooks (2022), Michael Dooley (1989), Gordon Potter (1968), Edward Marchant (2008), Joseph Dodds (1981), Claudio Fella (1988), Winifred Fisher (1998), George Sharp (1985), Bridget Sheerin (1993) and Maureen Sparkes (2022) whose anniversaries occur about this time. A full list of parish anniversaries can be found on the parish web site.

*May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

**New Year's Eve Invitation: "Fr Luke at Home":** Looking for something meaningful this New Year's Eve? Join us at **St Mark's Hall** for an evening of friendship and celebration.

- **Bring along** a bottle or some food to share
- **Enjoy** games and social time from **8:00 – 11:20 pm**
- At **11:30 pm**, we will welcome the New Year together in prayer before the **Blessed Sacrament**

Come for some or all or some of the evening and be part of a joyful evening that blends fun, fellowship, and faith.

**Remember to pray for the Mission of our Parishes:**

God our Father,

we give you thanks and praise for calling us to share in the fullness of life and love that Jesus won for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our parish community.

Changed by your Spirit, may we become a community of disciples, attentive to the needs of all who come through our doors, and even those who don't.

We pray for your blessing upon every person in our parish community, and on all who live in and around our parish.

May they know your love, your presence, and your power in their lives.

For all who are struggling at this moment, we ask that you enter their lives and lift them.

May our parish become a place of adoration,

where the hungry are fed, the sick are healed, the bereaved are comforted, and all are made whole.

Soften our hearts to your will.

Make us open to what you desire to do in and through our parish, and give us the courage and strength to follow your call.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

*Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas from Fr Luke and the team!*