

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, "Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great."

"My Lord," Abram replied "what do you intend to give me? I go childless..." Then Abram said, "See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir". And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, "He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood". Then taking him outside he said, "Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants" he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 104

**RESPONSE: He, the Lord, is our God.**

**He remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works! **R.**
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face. **R.**
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord < – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

"Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel."

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare."

There was a prophetess also, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

> When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.<

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

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**Parochial Administrator:** Fr Luke Goymour ✉ [parishpriest@marymagdalens.org](mailto:parishpriest@marymagdalens.org)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Paul Chanh ✉ [paulchanh@gmail.com](mailto: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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph -31<sup>st</sup> December 2023: Sunday Readings: Liturgical Year B Services during the coming week – Weekdays of Christmas, Year II**

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	Confessions
December	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, offered for the people of the parish. Reader: R Cork, Offertory: Cork Family
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 am	Holy Mass, offered for the Vieira Family. Reader: J Cleary, Offertory: Moore Family Eucharistic
December		Minister: E Cleary
	10:00 am	Holy Mass offered for the repose of the soul of V J Joseph RIP. Reader: A James, Offertory: M Geisel/M Mayhew, Eucharistic Minister: M Geisel
<i>Please join us for tea and coffee in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass, prepared &amp; served by Molly &amp; Rosemary</i>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>		Mary The Holy Mother of God
January	10:00 am	Holy Mass offered for the repose of the soul of Fr Martin Orme RIP
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
January		<b>No Mass Today</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Christmas Feria
January	12 noon	Holy Mass offered for the repose of the soul of Lucy Mathew RIP
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Feria
January	10:00 am	Holy Mass offered for the repose of the soul of Albertina Vieira
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Feria
January	10:00 am	Holy Mass, offered for the repose of the soul of Mathew Joseph RIP followed by Exposition and a Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	Confessions
January	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord, offered for the people of the parish.

**Today's Gospel:** Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth. According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period following the birth of a child – for 40 days after the birth of a son and for 80 days after the birth of a daughter. To be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering. Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor. Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem where, Luke reports, Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognise the infant Jesus as the fulfilment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross.

**Parish 150 Club:** The December prize draw of the parish 150 Club will be made this Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> December, in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass. There is plenty of room for new subscribers – why not sign up today? Membership forms are available at the back of the church, or on-line – scan the QR code. Come in after Mass and join us for tea and coffee, and your numbers can go straight into the draw!



**Christmas Post:** Please check the letter rack in the porch 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.

**Diocesan Year Book:** The Diocesan Year Book 2024 has now been published, and copies are available in the church porch priced at £3 per copy. A digital copy of the Year Book is also available on the parish web site, from where it can be downloaded or referred to as required. To find the Yearbook on line, simply scan the QR code.



**The Sick of the Parish:** We ask your prayers for Patrick Doran, Sheila 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.*

**Our Own Dear Departed:** Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Casilda Janssen (1973), Edith Brame (1999), Dorothy Harris (1970), Andrew Kervin (1975), Michael Carroll (1993), William McCormack (2000), Stephen Spooner (1962), Leslie Payne (2001), Nora Heffernan (2012), Richard Miller (1962), Catherine Barrett (1973), William King (2001), Joseph Galloway, Joseph Thompson (1959) and Jaqueline Farland (2023) whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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