



PARISH NEWSLETTER



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
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ST. MARK WITH HOLY FAMILY BRANTHAM

St Mark's Parish House,
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Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 0QQ

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The Parish of St Mark includes St Mark's Church in Ipswich
& The Church of the Holy Family in Brantham (CO11 1TB)

Parish Priest:
Fr Luke Goymour

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

Parish Secretary:
Mrs Pat West available on
Tuesdays from 11 – 1pm
office@stmarksparish.org.uk

Local Safeguarding Rep:
lsr@stmarksparish.org.uk

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
St Mark
Fridays 11:40-12:10

Holy Family
Tuesday – 09:20 - 09:50

PRAYER GROUPS:
St Mark
1st and 3rd & 5th Monday
6:00pm: Adoration
7:00pm – Praise, worship,
scripture, reflection in Hall

CONFESSIONS:
St Mark Saturdays: 17:00
and by appointment

Children's Liturgy:
at 11 am on 1st, 3rd and
5th Sundays of the month.



ST. MARY MAGDALEN

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Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 6JS

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Parochial Administrator:
Fr Luke Goymour
E parishpriest@marymagdalens.org

Assistant Priest:
Fr Paul Chanh
E paulchanh@gmail.com

Parish school:
St Pancras Catholic Primary
School, Stratford Road,
Ipswich, IP1 6EF
Headteacher:
Mrs Lucille Martin
T 01473 742074

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: Barclays
Account Name:
St Mary Magdalen
Roman Catholic Parish
Account number: 70777323
Sort code: 20-44-51

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.

Fr Luke and Fr Paul Wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas!

News for St Mark's Catholic Parish

Responsorial Psalm – I will sing forever of your love, O Lord		4 th week of Advent – Year B
MASS & PRAYER TIMES:		
SATURDAY 23/12/23	17:30 St Mark's Vigil Mass Offered For: Julian & Gloria	4th Sunday of Advent
SUNDAY 24/12/23	09:00 Holy Family Offered For: The People of the Parish	4th Sunday of Advent
	11:00 St Mark's Offered For: The deceased relatives of John & Betty Stubbs	4th Sunday of Advent
TUESDAY 26/12/23	10:00 am Holy Family Offered for: NO MASS	St. Stephen
WEDNESDAY 27/12/23	9:30 am St. Mark's Offered for: NO MASS	St. John
THURSDAY 28/12/23	NO MASS at St. Mark's 10:00 at St. Mary Magdalens	Holy Innocents
FRIDAY 29/12/23	12:15 pm St. Mark's Offered for: NO MASS	St. Thomas Becket
SATURDAY 30/12/23	17:30 St Mark's Vigil Mass Offered For: Iris Peacock	Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity
SUNDAY 31/12/23	09:00 Holy Family Offered For: The People of the Parish	
	11:00 St Mark's Offered For: Fr. George Croft SJ	
NEW YEARS DAY MASS	11:00 am St Mark's Offered for Dr Roger Simmons Int.	Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God

Sunday Homilies
can be listened to again at:
<https://anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour> And on all major Podcast platforms just search:
Fr Luke's Homilies

Alpha Breaks now for Christmas and resumes on 10th January 2024

No Weekday Masses in St Mark's parish between Christmas and New Year. (There are, however, Masses at St Mary Magdalen as usual)

EXTRA MASS

At 11am on New Years Day

Begin your New Year the right way!

Christmas Mass Times: Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve **5:30 pm** Children and Family Mass, (Carols from 5pm) at St Marks.

8pm Mass of Christmas Night at Holy Family Brantham,

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day 9 am Holy Family, Brantham,

11 am at St Marks.

At the Repository - Christmas cards, calendars and diaries are now available from the repository at the back of the church. Please put the money in the red box on the wall beside the repository.

East Anglia Children's Hospices There will be a Christmas Card for Charity wall again this year. Give a card to your friends in the Parish and support EACH at the same time. Your cards will be put on the wall beside the leaflet table at the back of the church. Just put your donation for EACH in the box and hang up your card. Thank you.

FIND, thanks us for our continuing generosity -

Their current needs are crisp , squash, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, steak, mince, peas , carrots, and rice pudding. Also Pasta sauce

Medjugorje 2024 – The pilgrimage to Medjugorje next year is from 19th September to 26th September. The details are as the successful pilgrimage earlier this year and the price is the same, £779 per person for a shared room. For information contact Chris McEwen on chrismceweneb@gmail.com or 07967 568852

Christmas Collection: As is the custom of the diocese the collection taken for Christmas at St Mark's and Holy Family (not 4th Sunday of Advent) goes to Fr Luke and along with the Easter collection constitutes the main part of his annual income.

Support a Young Person on a Volunteer trip to South Africa: Iona MacQueen (formerly of our diocese) writes: "I am going on a charity volunteer trip to South Africa. I will be working with children in townships from broken homes and living in poverty. I am so passionate about giving these young people opportunities and spreading God's love, hope and Joy. If you would like to help me, go, you can donate to the following website to help my trip – I would be so grateful! www.fundmytravel.com/campaign/Kc2XDM1a4d

St. Albans – are seeking to recruit a School Chaplain. For further details visit the school website <https://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk/vacancies>

Christmas gifts and giving – visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts to buy gifts to help people improve their lives..... and marysmeals.org.uk to help feed the hungry – any donations made to them will be doubled by a generous benefactor.

Well done to St Mark's school, staff and students for the excellent CSI (Catholic School Inspection) result: The full report can be read on the school website. <https://stmarkscatholicprimary.co.uk/inspection-reports/> (CSI 2023)

"**St. Mark's Catholic Primary School** currently has space in their Reception class. If you would like to apply for a place please complete an ADM1 form and a Supplementary Information Form and you can find both of these here: <https://stmarkscatholicprimary.co.uk/admission/> Please return the forms to the school, and do contact the school if you have any queries on 01473 601748 or via email to admin@st-marks.suffolk.sch.uk"

Divine Mercy - Copies of the painting, which was installed and blessed earlier this month are available as prayer cards at the back of church. To see more work by the artist, Ben Goymour, Go to <https://www.bengoymour.com/>

100 Club -The December draw took place at Holy Family after Mass on Sunday 17 December 2023. 1st Prize £95.15 – No. 111; 2nd Prize £51.90 – No. 146; 3rd Prize £25.95 – No. 68.

Application forms to join or take a further number are available on the parish website, at the back of the church, or email mgforsyth@outlook.com or ring Graeme Forsyth on 01206 399049.

Please collect used postage stamps for our local hospice ALL YEAR, not just at Christmas and place them in the box at the rear of the church to help support the outstanding work of our local Hospice. Please cut around the stamp leaving just a small border.

News for St Mary Magdalen Catholic Parish

The Fourth Sunday of Advent – 24th December 2023: Sunday Readings: Liturgical Year B Services during the coming week – Fourth Week of Advent, Year II

Saturday 23 rd December	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Confessions Vigil Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, offered for the People of the Parish. Reader: I Suttle, Offertory: Hennon Family
Sunday 24 th December	8:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 pm	Holy Mass. Reader F Vieira, Offertory: Cleary Family, Eucharistic Minister: E Cleary. Holy Mass. Reader: J Iannelli, Offertory: Long Family, Eucharistic Minister: M Long <i>Please join us for tea and coffee in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass prepared and served by Julie & Michael</i> The first Mass of Christmas, Mass of Christmas Night, offered for the people of the parish. Eucharistic Minister: R Shorten
Monday 25 th December	10:00 am	Christmas Day Mass of Christmas Day, offered for the people of the parish. Eucharistic Minister: W Lobo
Tuesday 26 th December		St Stephen, the First Martyr No Mass Today
Wednesday 27 th December	12 noon	St John, Apostle and Evangelist Holy Mass offered for a special intention (L. inte)
Thursday 28 th December	10:00 am	The Holy Innocents Holy Mass offered for the repose of the soul of Martha Ndow-Grace
Friday 29 th December	10:00 am	St Thomas Becket Holy Mass offered for Noreen Cooney, followed by Exposition and a Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday 30 th December	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Confessions Vigil Mass of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, offered for the people of the parish.

Today's Gospel: This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Saviour was among us, although not yet recognised. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us. We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel is an example of complete faith and obedience to God. The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full

of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognise God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience. *Courtesy Loyola Press*

Advent Wreath: Today, the fourth and last Sunday in Advent, we light the last purple candle. This candle, often called the *Angel's Candle*, 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."* On Christmas Eve at the Christmas Vigil Mass, the white centre candle is lit. This candle is called the *Christ Candle* and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. Those who receive Christ as Saviour are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow: *"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."*

Christmas and Sunday Obligation: In order to keep Sunday worship at the heart of our Christian lives Mass should be attended for both the 4th Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. Christmas Mass times are 10:00 pm Sunday 24th December, and 10:00 am Monday 25th December. There is no 8:00 am Mass on Christmas morning.

Christmas Message from Bishop Peter: In his Christmas message, Bishop Peter Collins proclaims the peace and joy that not only endures but can, and will, ultimately triumph over all adversity. You can read or listen to the Bishop's message on the parish web site – scan the QR code to take you straight to it.



Parish 150 Club: The delayed November prize draw of the parish 150 Club was made last Sunday. The prize winners were Mrs S Curry, Mr & Mrs H Shovlin and Mr K Joy. Full details of prize winners can be found on the notice board in the church porch and on the parish web site. The December prize draw, which will, include the Third Quarter Bonus Prizes, will be made in the Garden Room after 10:00 Mass on Sunday 31st December. There is plenty of room for new subscribers – why not sign up today and your numbers can then be entered in the next prize draw? Application forms are available in the church porch or, even quicker, you can sign up on-line on the parish web site – just scan the QR code.



Christmas Post: 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.

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 online, simply scan the QR code.



Parish AGM: The minutes of the parish AGM which was held on 18th July, 2023, have now been published and can be read on the notice board in the church porch. They can also be found on the parish web site. Scan the QR code to take you straight to them.



Catholic East Anglia: The December edition of Catholic East Anglia, the Diocesan newspaper, is available in the church porch. This is free – please do take a copy home and read it. The edition includes a report on the first Caritas East Anglia Festival and the visit of an East Timor Cardinal to two diocesan parishes. Also included is a report on the new Director of Music for the diocese, a tribute to a renowned Norfolk nun and Bishop Peter meeting all East Anglian school heads for the first time. The newspaper is also available to read on-line on the parish web site – just scan the QR code to take you straight to it.



Friday Within the Octave of Christmas: Next Friday, 29th December, falls within the Octave of Christmas and as such the Friday Abstinence is dispensed.

The Alpha Course: The Alpha course now takes a break until after Christmas. The sessions will restart in January with the next session, the sixth of the eleven part course, on Wednesday 10th January.

Christmas Offering: The collection taken at this weekend's two Christmas Masses will form the traditional personal gift from the parish community to our priest, Fr Paul.

Ladies Tea & Chat: Friday 29th, being the last Friday of the month, the ladies will meet in the Garden Room at 2:30 pm for their monthly tea and chat session. This Friday, being in the Christmas season and also the last Friday of the year, will be a slightly more festive gathering than normal. Open to all – please come along and join in a relaxed social gathering.

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, please pray for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed and especially for Gordon Potter (1968), Edward Marchant (2008), Joseph Dodds (1981), Claudio Fella (1988), Winifred Fisher (1998), George Sharp (1985), Bridget Sheerin (1993), Maureen Sparkes (2022), Margaret Limpenny (1992), John Woodward

(2015), Martha Ndow-Grace (2021), Margaret Potter (1989), Rachael Abbott (2002) and Patrick Cooper (2014) 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.*