

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Parish priest: Canon Mathew George 📧 parishpriest@marymagdalens.org
Parish school: St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Stratford Road, Ipswich, IP1 6EF
Head teacher: Mr Ian Kearns ☎ 01473 742074
Catholic chaplain to the Ipswich hospitals: Awaiting new appointment
Please contact Deacon Clive Brooks if you are going into hospital (☎ 01206 396319) or let Fr Mathew know.
Mass is celebrated in the Ipswich Hospital chapel each Monday at 4 pm – all are welcome.

First Sunday of Advent – 2nd December 2018

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: First Week of the Year, Year I

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and especially to Fr Mathias who will be saying Masses today.

Services This Week

Sunday 2 nd December 1 st Sunday of Advent	8:00 am 10:00 am* 6:00 pm	Coates family Katherine Barrett RIP The people of the parish
Monday 3 rd December	St Francis Xavier No Mass	
Tuesday 4 th December	Advent Feria No Mass	
Wednesday 5 th December	Advent Feria No Mass	
Thursday 6 th December	Advent Feria No Mass	
Friday 7 th December	St Ambrose No Mass	
Saturday 8 th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary No Mass	
Sunday 9 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8:00 am 10:00 am* 6:00 pm	Open intention Open intention The people of the parish

* Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 10:00 Mass on Sundays for pre-first Holy Communion children.

Tea and coffee will be available in the church hall after 10:00 Mass – please do come and join us

Today's Gospel

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, and in this season we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

Today's Gospel from St Luke is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, He indicates that others will be frightened but Jesus' disciples are not to fear - they are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations - He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances. In the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

Advent Wreath

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, we place upon the sanctuary our Advent wreath. This is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity on which five candles are arranged: three purple candles and one pink around the wreath and one white one at its centre. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ and as a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

Each Sunday in Advent, a particular Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stands for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Saviour.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "*Prophecy Candle*" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.

This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Annual FIND Christmas Appeal

The Christmas tree is in the lobby for the annual gift appeal for FIND, our local charity for families in need. Please select a tag, provide a new matching gift and place in the FIND tub. The tags suggest an age group, gender and some ideas. Write the age and gender on the wrapping. Leave the gift unwrapped if you are not sure of the best recipient. Gift bags are best. The target date for the return of gifts is Monday 10th December to allow sufficient time for these to be distributed in time for Christmas.

The British Association of the Order of Malta

The British Association of the Order of Malta takes a group of sick, disabled and older pilgrims on pilgrimage to Lourdes, flying from Stansted. The next pilgrimage will take place between Friday 3rd May and Thursday 9th May 2019 and will include a full programme of religious events. In addition, lively and fun activities and opportunities for sightseeing are available. Nursing and medical care is provided as necessary. Applications are invited from interested sick, disabled and older people to join the pilgrimage, with accommodation in the Accueil Notre Dame. The cost contribution is £300, but this can be reduced in cases of need. For further information and an application form, please contact Mrs Kim O'Connor by email before 14 January 2019: k6oconnor@aol.com. Alternatively write to her at 32 Scalebor Gardens, Burley in Wharfedale, Ilkely, LS29 7BX.

Fr Mathew

Following Fr Mathew's recent ill health, the Bishop has agreed that he should return home to India for a period of rest and recuperation in the care and support of his family, hopefully allowing him to make a full recovery and return to us in good health. He will be leaving Ipswich on Thursday 6th December, and will be away for three months. During his absence, we will have a locum priest staying with us in the presbytery – Fr Mathias. We will keep Fr Mathew in our prayers, send him every good wish for a full and complete recovery, and extend a warm welcome to Fr Mathias as he joins us at St Mary Magdalens.

If anyone is available on 6th December to volunteer to drive Fr Mathew to Heathrow to catch his flight, please do get in touch.

Parish Vacancies

Unfortunately, due to ill health, our parish treasurer, John Anderson-Hurst, has been forced to retire, stepping down at the end of the financial year, and we are seeking to appoint a new parish treasurer. If you have some finance / accounting experience and are happy to give generously some of your time for the parish, please contact Chris Croker, Chairman of the finance committee, or Declan Moore. Alternately, you can email finance@marymagdalens.org or use the contact form on the parish web site to send a message to Finance.

Offertory Collection

The collection taken at all Masses on Sunday 25th November was £388.63 and the retiring collection in aid of the Diocesan Youth Service was £108.91. Thank you.

150 Club

The prize draw for November was made last Sunday, 25th November. The winners were:

£15	No 199	Mr & Mrs R Cork	£10	No 103	Mr & Mrs M Pakes
£5	No 231	Mr & Mrs T Smith	£5	No 32	Mr J Cleary

There remain a number of spare subscriptions to this important money raising venture. If you are not already a member please do consider joining. The cost is small - £1 per number per month, there are cash prizes to be won and all proceeds go towards the running costs of the parish. Membership forms are available in the narthex or can be downloaded from the parish web site.

LIFE Supporter's Group

You are invited to join the annual *Coffee, Mince Pie and Carols* morning, held by the Ipswich LIFE supporters group. This will be held in St Pancras church hall from 10:00 to 12:00 on Friday 7th December. Admission is £2, and there will be a raffle and a bring and buy sale, as well as a sing-along to traditional Christmas carols. Everybody welcome!

The Sick of the Parish

Please pray for those who are sick or housebound: Margaret Arbon, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, Deacon Peter Coates, Fabiana Di Mascio, Ron Green, Fr. David Hennessy, Jo Kelly, Molly Mc Garry, Roger Mayhew, Yvonne Metcalf, Robert Mullan, Anna Nelli and Mary O'Reilly.

Recently Dead

It is with sadness we have heard of the recent death after a long illness of Catherine Boar (née Cleary), sister of Fr Pat Cleary, Peter Cleary and Joe and Theresa Cleary of our own parish and a member of one of the founding families of St Mary Magdalen church who will be remembered by many parishioners. Catherine passed away on Friday 16th November.

Also, some parishioners will remember Helen Lehkyj of our parish who recently passed away. Her funeral will be held at The Old Cemetery Church in Ipswich Cemetery at 10:00 am on December 14th.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Walter Richardson, Mary McGinley, Pamela Dee, George Grimwood, Alice Keohane, Caterina Coleki, Johann Janssen, Gertrude Quinn, Ernest Allum, Casimin Carlton, Dermot O'Connell and Margaret Wright whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Readings for First Sunday of Advent: 2nd December

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be out to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

The Gloria is not said during Advent

Collect:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

First Reading: Jer. 33:14-16 *I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David.*

See the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: “In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the lands. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.”

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 4:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Second Reading: 1Thes. 3:12-4:2 *May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 *Your liberation is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun and the moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is at hand. Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.”

Prayer over the Offerings:

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below, gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Prayer after Communion:

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.