

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 6JS

☎ 01473 741975

☎ 07939 920844

🌐 www.marymagdalens.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 www.rcdea.org.uk

📧 @marymagdalens



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.

Second Sunday of Advent – 9th December 2018

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: Second Week of the Year, Year I

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners.

Services This Week

Sunday 9 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8:00 am 10:00 am*	Angela Walmsley-Cotham RIP (foundation Mass) Deceased members of the Long family (foundation Mass) The people of the parish
Monday 10 th December	6:00 pm 9:00 am	Blessed Martyrs of East Anglia Janes family
Tuesday 11 th December	9:00 am	Advent Feria
Wednesday 12 th December	9:30 am	Advent Feria – Mass in school
Thursday 13 th December	9:00 am	St Lucy Monica Ogden (foundation Mass)
Friday 14 th December	7:30 pm	St John of the Cross Ralph & Adriana Turner RIP (foundation Mass) followed by Benediction
Saturday 15 th December	8:30 am 9:00 am	Advent Feria Sacrament of reconciliation Janes family
Sunday 16 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	8:00 am 10:00 am* 6:00 pm	Ernie Lacey RIP – (foundation Mass) 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

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptises for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke - attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

Advent Wreath

Today, the second Sunday of Advent, we light the second purple candle on our Advent wreath. This candle typically represents love - some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolising Christ's manger:

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

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. Please return your gifts as soon as possible.

Christmas Flowers

There will be a retiring collection taken today, 9th December, for flowers to suitably decorate the church ready for Christmas.

Bambinelli Sunday

Over the past number of decades, on the third Sunday of Advent, (*Gaudete Sunday*) children and adults bring their infant Jesus figures from their home cribs to St Peter's Square where they are blessed by the Pope. This custom, introduced by St John Paul II, is being promoted by the Catholic Grandparents Association and this year will be celebrated on Sunday December 16th. Next week, please bring your infant Jesus figures from your home crib to Mass when you will be invited forward to have these blessed by Fr Mathias. More information about this charming custom can be found on the parish web site.

Weekday Mass Times

Please note the changes to weekday Masses this week.

Eucharistic Ministers

Would all Eucharistic Ministers please note there is a new rota covering the Christmas period on the notice board in the narthex, or it can be downloaded from the parish web site. Nobody has been allocated to Christmas midnight Mass but Eucharistic ministers who will be attending this service are asked to add their names to the list.

Ipswich Catholic Women's League

We are looking forward to seeing you all at Fynn Valley Golf Club 12.30 - 1pm on Tuesday 11th December for our Christmas lunch. Don't forget to bring a small present to share.

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 14th January 2019: k6oconnor@aol.com. Alternatively write to her at 32 Scalebor Gardens, Burley in Wharfedale, Ilkley, LS29 7BX.

Fr Mathew

Fr Mathew has returned to India for a period of rest and recuperation to allow him to recover from his recent ill-health. He has left his contact address with us. If you would like to send Fr Mathew a Christmas card, please hand it to Chris Croker, Michael Long or Jim Poll. We are planning to parcel up any cards and send them to him in a single parcel so he hopefully gets them in time for Christmas.

Dependent Priests Fund

The Dependent Priests Fund is a charity run by priests of the diocese, but independent of the diocese, to support priests in mainly medical, but also in general need. There will be a retiring collection for this cause next Sunday, 16th December. Please Gift Aid your donations if you can, but note that, as this is a charity independent of the diocese, it has a separate charity registration number and as such the special Gift Aid envelopes provided must be used and not the printed Diocesan ones.

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 2nd December was £547.17. Thank you.

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

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 James Finn, Gwendoline Lockwood, Peggy Sallabank, Fr Gerard Conlon, Marie Quinn, Betty Smythe, Ellie McDonagh, Joan Barron, Edward Richardson, William Schemensky, Thomas Baldwin, Peter Tierney, William Hoey, Johannah Parlone and Isabella Stiff 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.

CAFOD World Gifts

If you still have some gifts to buy this year for Christmas, or are stuck for ideas, then how about World Gifts from CAFOD? You could give cousin George *Trees for Life* for just £8, or let Uncle Fred *Help a Llama Farmer* for £27. Lots of ideas available and they can be purchased up to December 20th. Check out the range and order on-line at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Readings for Second Sunday of Advent, Year C: 9th December

Entrance Antiphon:

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

The Gloria is not said during Advent

Collect:

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

First Reading:

Bar. 5:1-9

God means to show your splendour to every nation.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, "Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness." Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east; see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 125

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading:

Phil. 1:4-6, 8-11

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for that Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel:

Luke 3:1-6

All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of sayings of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God."

Prayer over the Offerings:

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to your from God.

Prayer after Communion:

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.