

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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🌐 [www.marymagdalens.org](http://www.marymagdalens.org)

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

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**Locum Priest:** Fr Mathias Odigbo

✉ [parishpriest@marymagdalens.org](mailto: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:** Fr Mathias Odigbo

*Please contact Fr Mathias if you are going into hospital.*

Mass is celebrated in the Ipswich Hospital chapel each Monday at 4 pm – all are welcome.

## **Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday** **16<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

### **Sunday Readings: Year C**

### **Weekday Readings: Third Week of the Year, Year I**

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners.

### **Services This Week**

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| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup><br>December 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Sunday of Advent    | 8:00 am<br>10:00 am*<br>6:00 pm               | Ernie Lacey RIP – (foundation Mass)<br>Fr Pat Cleary and Fr Mathew George<br>The people of the parish |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup><br>December  | Advent Feria<br>9:00 am                       | Open intention  |
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup><br>December                                       | Advent Feria<br>9:00 am                       | Open intention  |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup><br>December                                     | Advent Feria<br>9:00 am                       | Open intention  |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup><br>December                                      | Advent Feria<br>9:00 am                       | Open intention  |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup><br>December  | Advent Feria<br>7:00 pm                       | Open intention followed by Eucharist Adoration and Benediction  |
| Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>December                                      | Advent Feria<br>8:30 am<br>9:00 am<br>9:30 am | Sacrament of reconciliation<br>Rosary<br>Open intention   |
| Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>December<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of<br>Advent | 8:00 am<br>10:00 am*<br>6:00 pm               | Open intention<br>Deceased members of the Andrews family<br>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 Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites but repentance must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles alike.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans. (courtesy of Loyola Press)

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## Advent Wreath – Gaudete Sunday

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these. The name comes from Philippians 4:4-5 *Gaudete in Domino semper* – Rejoice in the Lord always.

Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus' return. Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments, but on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. Similarly today, the pink or rose-colored candle of our Advent Wreath is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the Shepherds Candle and it represents joy:

*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."*

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## 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 is this year celebrated today. If you have brought your infant Jesus figures from your home crib to Mass with you, these will be blessed by Fr Mathias. More information about this charming custom can be found on the parish web site.

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## 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 at all Masses today. 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.

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## Fr Pat Cleary

Today, 16<sup>th</sup> December, Fr Pat Cleary, of this parish, will be celebrating his Ruby Jubilee of Ordination - 40 years as a priest. He will also be inducted as parish priest of Wymondham today so a double celebration. We rejoice that this vocation came from our own parish and congratulate Fr Pat for achieving this significant anniversary. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

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### **Epiphany Candlelight Mass**

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January, a candlelit Mass will be held at 5 pm for all young people and their families from across the diocese. Mass will be followed by hot dogs, a bonfire and fireworks. There will be a collection of presents for children who are refugees (please bring wrapped presents and indicate whether suitable for a boy or girl or either, and approximate age). The event will be held at The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich and is organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

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### **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.

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### **Parish Christmas Party**

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December, after 10:00 Mass, there will be a *shared plate* party in the church hall. Please come along with a plate of food to share. There is a list on the notice board in the narthex – please “sign-up” to indicate what you will bring to avoid duplication and aid planning.

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### **Church Altar Ware**

The family of the late Noel Andrews, a parishioner here from the time the church was built until his death in March this year, are presenting some new altar ware to the parish in memory of Noel and other deceased members of the Andrews family. The new items, comprising a pair of chalices, a matching ciborium and a new paten, will be presented to the church at the 10:00 Mass next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, by family members.

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### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> May and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> January 2019: k6oconnor@aol.com. Alternatively write to her at 32 Scalebor Gardens, Burley in Wharfedale, Ilkely, LS29 7BX.0

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### **Offertory Collection**

The collection taken at all Masses on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December was £411.93. The retiring collection for Christmas flowers for the church amounted to £100.00. Thank you.

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### **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.

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### **Our Own Dear Departed**

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Douglas Eno, Agnes Humble, Frederick Lowry-Corry, Kathleen McCullar, John Woodstock, Valerie Jenkins, Elvira Cuccurullo, Fr Alfred Bull, Bernice Chaisty, Richard Miller, Eric Mountford and Michael Dooley 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.*

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### **Catholic East Anglia**

The January edition of Catholic East Anglia, the diocesan newspaper, is available now. Please take a copy from the narthex – its free! The newspaper can also be read on-line. Please see the link on the parish web site.

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## Readings for Third Sunday of Advent, Year C: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always: again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

### *The Gloria is not said during Advent*

#### Collect:

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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:** Zeph. 3:14-180 *The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Isa. 12:2-6

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading:** Phil. :4-7 *The Lord is very near*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18 *What must we do?*

When all the people asked John, "What must we do?" he answered, "If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same." There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, "Master what must we do?" He said to them, "Exact no more than your rate." Some soldiers asked him in their turn, "What about us? What must we do?" He said to them, "No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!" A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out." As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

#### Prayer over the Offerings:

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

#### Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come and he will save us.

#### Prayer after Communion:

We implore your mercy, O Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.