

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 6JS

☎ 01473 741975

☎ 07951 066607

🌐 www.marymagdalens.org

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

📌 @marymagdalens



Locum Priest: Fr Mathias Odigbo

✉ 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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 23rd December 2018

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: Fourth Week of the Year, Year I

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and visitors.

Services This Week

Sunday 23 rd December 4 th Sunday of Advent	8:00 am	Open intention
	10:00 am*	Deceased members of the Andrews family
	Hymns:	Entrance 218 Offertory: 516 Communion 384 Recessional: 224
	6:00 pm	The people of the parish
Monday 24 th December Christmas Eve	Advent Feria	
	9:00 am	Open intention
	9:30 pm	Carols
	10:00 pm	Mass during the Night
Tuesday 25 th December Christmas Day	The Nativity of the Lord, Holy Day of Obligation	
	8:00 am	Dawn Mass - Open intention
	10:00 am	Mass during the day - Open intention
Wednesday 26 th December	St Stephen, the First Martyr	
	9:00 am	Open intention
Thursday 27 th December	St John, Apostle and Evangelist	
	9:00 am	Open intention
Friday 28 th December	The Holy Innocents	
	7:00 pm	Open intention followed by Eucharist Adoration and Benediction
Saturday 29 th December	St Thomas Becket	
	8:30 am	Sacrament of reconciliation
	9:00 am	Rosary
	9:30 am	Open intention
Sunday 30 th December The Holy Family	8:00 am	Open intention
	10:00 am*	Open intention
	6:00 pm	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

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation. (courtesy of 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 midnight 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 Offering

The collections taken at the three Masses of Christmas will be the traditional personal gift from the parish community to the parish priest. This year, due to the exceptional circumstances of Fr Mathew's illness and enforced absence, the collection will be shared between Fr Mathias and Fr Mathew.

Fr Mathew writes:

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I am sure that you will have a wonderful celebration at St. Mary Magdalen with Fr. Mathias. May the infant God give us all peace and Joy. Have a wonderful Christmas!

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 today at the 10:00 Mass.

Epiphany Candlelight Mass

On Sunday 6th 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 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich and is organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

Friday Abstinence

Good news! During the Christmas Octave, which commences with the feast of the Nativity of the Lord on Tuesday, Friday abstinence is dispensed with.

Offertory Collection

The details of the offertory collection taken at all Masses on Sunday 16th December and the second collection for the Dependent Priests Fund are not yet available, but will be published as soon as they are.

Parish Christmas Party

On Sunday 30th 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.

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, Ilkely, LS29 7BX.0

Food for Thought

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

There are a number of lists in the narthex asking for names of volunteers for various things – to help with church and hall cleaning, to help with food for the proposed parish Christmas party next week, readers and Eucharistic ministers for the Christmas services, vacancy for the position of parish treasurer etc. At the last check these were all woefully blank! Don't be a Nobody.

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.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Gordon Potter, Edward Marchant, Joseph Dodds, Claudio Fella, Winifred Fisher, George Sharp, Bridget Sheerin, John Woodward, Margaret Potter, Rachael Abbott, Andrew Kerwin and Patrick Cooper 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.

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 follow the link on the parish web site.

150 Club

The December prize draw of the parish 150 Club will be made in the church hall on Sunday 30th December after the 10:00 Mass. This draw will include the 3rd quarter bonus prizes. If you are not a member of the 150 Club, there are vacancies and it is never too late. Membership forms can be found in the narthex or can be downloaded from the parish web site.

Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C: 23rd December 2018

Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

The Gloria is not said during Advent

Collect:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

First Reading: Mica.5: 1-4 *Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel: his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Heb. 10: 5-10 *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded to do in the scroll of the book, "God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will." Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is, the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them: and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmade of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke : 39-45 *Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Prayer over the Offerings:

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion:

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.