

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.

Feast of the Holy Family – 30th December 2018

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: Weekdays of Christmas Time Year I

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

Services This Week

Sunday 30 th December The Holy Family	8:00 am 10:00 am*	Martha Grace & Family Catherine and James Barrett RIP
	Hymns:	Entrance: 618 Offertory: 605 Communion: 249 Recessional: 382
Monday 31 st December	6:00 pm 9:00 am	The people of the parish Seventh day within the octave of Christmas Open intention
Tuesday 1 st January 2019	9:00 am	Mary the Holy Mother of God Open intention
Wednesday 2 nd January	9:00 am	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen Open intention
Thursday 3 rd January	9:00 am	Christmas Feria Open intention
Friday 4 th January	7:00 pm	Christmas Feria Open intention followed by Eucharist Adoration and Benediction
Saturday 5 th January	8:30 am 9:00 am 9:30 am	Christmas Feria Sacrament of reconciliation Rosary Open intention
Sunday 6 th January The Epiphany	8:00 am 10:00 am* 6:00 pm	Martha Grace & Family James & Margaret Wright (foundation Mass) 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, coffee and other goodies will be available in the church hall after 10:00 Mass – please do come and join us!

Today's Gospel

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends, but on returning home Jesus gets separated from his parents and it is a day's journey before they realise he is not with their caravan. They return to Jerusalem to search for him and when he is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, in his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry. In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother - Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost. (courtesy of Loyola Press)

Christmas Message from the Bishop

Lack of space in last week's newsletter prevented publication of the Christmas message from the Bishop, Alan Hopes. His Christmas message can be read on the Diocesan web site or by following the link on the parish web site.

A Big Thank You

Christmas is always a very busy time of the year for all of us, so a very special thank you is due to all those who gave so generously of their time and talents to help prepare the church so beautifully for the birth of Our Lord. A lot of very hard work is done by a group of dedicated people to prepare the church and the services for these special occasions and our grateful thanks is due to them all. Our prayer should be that more individuals will come forward and volunteer their time to help in these practical ways.

Epiphany Candlelight Mass

Next 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 Uppate, Poringland, Norwich and is organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

Offertory Collections

The collection on Sunday 16th December was £418.33. The retiring collection on 16th December for the Dependent Priest's Fund amounted to £165.87.

The collection on Sunday 23rd December was £568.72. Thank you.

The Christmas offering, by tradition a personal gift to the parish priest, amounted to £1067.16. As previously advised, due to the exceptional circumstances this year, this collection will be shared between Fr Mathew and Fr Mathias.

Parish Christmas Party

This morning, after 10:00 Mass, there will be a shared plate party in the church hall. Please do come along with a plate of food to share and meet with your fellow parishioners in a more informal social gathering.

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

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 Casilda Janssen, Edith Brame, Dorothy Harris, Michael Carrall, William McCormack, Stephen Spooner, Leslie Payne, Nora Heffernan, Richard Miller, Catherine Barrett, William King, John Galloway, Joseph Thompson and Rachel Abbott 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.

150 Club

The December prize draw of the parish 150 Club will be made in the church hall today 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.

New Communion Ware

Last Sunday, the children and grand-children of the late Noel Andrews, presented a pair of chalices, a matching ciborium and a paten, to the parish in memory of their father, his wife Doreen, his daughter Pamela and his father Ambrose, all of whom worshipped at St Mary Magdalen. These gifts were received by Fr Mathias on behalf of the parish, and immediately put to use at the 10:00 Mass. We are grateful for this kind donation.

Newsletter Content

In the "lull" after Christmas, there is often little to report in the way of news. If you have any content that you would like to see published in the newsletter, have any suggestions for the format or have any questions of faith or liturgical matters that you would like answered, please submit them via email to newsletter@marymagdalens.org or use the contact form on the parish web site. If appropriate, questions and answers may be published in future issues.

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.

Readings for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Year C: 30th December 2018

Entrance Antiphon:

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Collect:

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in the eternal rewards. 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: 1 Sam. 1:20-22, 24-28 *Samuel is made over to the Lord for the whole of his life..*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel "Since", she said, "I asked the Lord for him." When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, "Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever." When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, "If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked of him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 3: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10 They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 *We are called God's children, and that is what we are.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we are to believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 *Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you". "Why were you looking for me?" he replied. "Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Prayer over the Offerings:

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Our God has appeared on the earth and lived among us.

Prayer after Communion:

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after all the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ Our Lord.