

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.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17th February 2019

Racial Justice Sunday

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: 6th Week of Year 1

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

Services This Week

| | | |
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| | 8:00 am | Open intention |
| | 10:00 am* | Open intention |
| Sunday 17 th February 6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Hymns for 10:00 Mass | |
| | Entrance: | 190 Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer |
| | Offertory: | 449 Praise My Soul The King of Heaven |
| | Communion: | 326 Lord Jesus Christ |
| | Recessional: | 403 O Lord All the World Belongs To You |
| | 6:00 pm | The people of the parish |
| Monday 18 th February | Feria | |
| | 9:30 am | Open intention |
| Tuesday 19 th February | Feria – Deceased members of the Kavanagh family (FM) | |
| | 9:30 am | Open intention |
| Wednesday 20 th February | Feria – Mass in St Pancras School | |
| | 9:30 am | Open intention |
| Thursday 21 st February | Feria | |
| | 9:30 am | Open intention |
| Friday 22 nd February | The Chair of St Peter | |
| | 7:00 pm | Open intention followed by Eucharist Adoration and Benediction |
| Saturday 23 rd February | St Polycarp | |
| | 8:30 am | Sacrament of reconciliation |
| | 9:00 am | Rosary |
| | 9:30 am | Open intention |
| Sunday 24 th 7 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | 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 Guild Room after 10:00 Mass – please do come and join us!

Today's Gospel

Last Sunday we heard Jesus call Peter to be his disciple and Jesus then travels with Peter and the other disciples. Luke reports acts of healing (a person with leprosy and a paralytic man) and the call of Levi, the tax collector. Jesus also replies to questions from the Pharisees regarding fasting and the observance of the Sabbath. In the verses immediately before today's gospel reading, Jesus is reported to have chosen 12 men from among his disciples to be apostles. Apostle is a Greek word that means "one who is sent."

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in Matthew 5:1-7,11 that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel - Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God. The word blessed in this context might be translated as "happy," "fortunate," or "favoured."

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of "woes", those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation - these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God. (courtesy of Loyola Press)

Racial Justice Day

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. Promoted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, this day is established to recognise the problems faced by people due to racism and ethnic discrimination in the workplace. In a world steeped in violence, conflict and discrimination, the Gospel demands that we acknowledge the dignity of the human person, the necessity of building peace, prosperity and justice for all. We are called to ensure people are not exploited while they work and to open our hearts to those who face this hatred. "As you did this for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me..." Please take one of the special prayer cards that can be found on the table in the narthex. Further information can be found on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales web site www.catholicnews.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-2019.

There will be a retiring collection after all Masses today for the Catholic Association of Racial Justice.

Offertory Collections

The offertory collection for last Sunday, 10th February, will be published in the newsletter on Sunday 10th March.

RCIA Class

The RCIA classes (the Right of Christian Initiation of Adults) for adults wishing to be received into the church continue tomorrow, 18th February, in the Guild Room at 7:30 pm.

Day of Renewal

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in East Anglia, is organising a Day of Renewal to be held in the Bowthorpe Church Centre, Bowthorpe Hall Road, Bowthorpe, Norwich, NR5 9AA on Saturday 9th March between 10:00 am and 4:30 pm. The theme is *Inspirational Lives* and the guest speaker will be Fr Stefan Park, Prior of Clare Priory. The day will include praise and worship, Holy Mass, adoration, reconciliation and prayer ministry. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own packed lunch. Further information can be found on the organisation's web site www.renewaleastanglia.org/future-events.

Eucharistic Ministers

Will Eucharistic Ministers please note a change in practice for the 10:00 Mass on Sundays. We will be reverting to the previous practice of using three ministers, one to assist with the distribution of the Body of Christ and two to administer the Precious Blood. The rota for Eucharistic Ministers has been rearranged accordingly, with the first named minister at 10:00 Mass each Sunday distributing the Body of Christ. Please review the revised rota in the narthex, or download a copy from the parish web site.

An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, often referred to as a Eucharistic Minister, may be required at Mass to assist the celebrating priest with the distribution of Holy Communion. Outside of Mass, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion may be required to assist the priest to minister Holy Communion to the sick or housebound, to expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament or to assist at a Celebration of Word and Holy Communion in the absence of a priest to celebrate Mass. We are in need of additional persons to join this ministry. If you feel you would like to become a minister, please speak in the first instance to Fr Mathias.

We have had one new volunteer come forward to be commissioned as a Eucharistic Minister, and it is intended to hold a training session in March. If there are any existing Eucharistic Ministers that feel they would benefit from attending this training, please speak to Fr Mathias or send an email to contact@marymagalens.org.

150 Club

The February prize draw of the parish 150 Club will be made after 10:00 Mass on Sunday 10th March. This is delayed slightly due to the absence on holiday of the organiser.

Holiday Absence

Due to holiday arrangements, this week's newsletter has been prepared in advance, and is therefore lighter than usual on content. Any important news items that arise during this period will be announced as notices at the end of today's Masses. Normal service will resume on 10th March.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy continues today, aimed primarily at pre First Holy communion children. Younger children are welcome, but very young children should be accompanied by a parent as our catechists are not able to manage, for example, toilet requirements.

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 Maureen Mulligan, Mary Sparrow, Margaret Doolin, Patrick Kavanagh, Cynthia Woollard, Peter Grimwood, Kathleen Smy, Kate Brown, Margaret Hutchinson, Frederick Adams, Anne Gambo, Felix Hennon, Gladys Cooper, Helen Hinton and Angela Hurren 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.

CWL Valentide Tea Party

You are invited to a Valentide Tea Party on Tuesday 19th February in St Pancras Hall 2.30 pm - 4 pm. Tea and delicious refreshments will be served and there will a Raffle and Bring & Buy stall. Come along for a chat with friends. Proceeds support Local and CWL Charities.

Readings for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C: 17th February, 2019

Entrance Antiphon:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Collect:

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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, 17:5-8

A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, a blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this: "A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on the things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord there is hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 1:1-4,6

Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Second Reading:

1Cor. 15:12, 16-20

If Christ has not been raised, your believing is useless.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, father, Lord of heaven and earth; for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Gospel:

Luke 6:17,20-26

How happy are you who are poor. Alas for you who are rich.

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: "How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This is the way their ancestors treated the false prophets."

Prayer over the Offerings:

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Prayer after Communion:

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ Our Lord.