

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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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.

3rd Sunday of Lent – 24th March 2019

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: 3rd Week of Lent 1

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

Services This Week

	8:00 am	
	10:00 am*	
Sunday 24 th March	Hymns for 10:00 Mass	
3 rd Sunday in Lent	Entrance: 150	Forty Days & Forty Nights
	Offertory: 712	I the Lord of Sea and Sky
	Communion: 116	O Lord and Father of Mankind
	Recessional: 145	Follow Me
	6:00 pm	The people of the parish
Monday 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord	
	9:30 am	
Tuesday 26 th March	Lent Feria – Bolt family (foundation Mass)	
	9:30 am	
Wednesday 27 th March	Lent Feria – Mass in school	
	9:30 am	
Thursday 28 th March	Lent Feria	
	9:30 am	
Friday 29 th March	Lent Feria	
	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Mass
Saturday 30 th March	Lent Feria	
	8:30 am	Sacrament of reconciliation
	9:00 am	Rosary
	9:30 am	Mass
Sunday 31 st March	8:00 am	Martin Curry RIP (foundation Mass)
	10:00 am*	
4 th Sunday of Lent	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 – 3rd Sunday in Lent Year C

Today's gospel reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us. This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. (courtesy of Loyola Press)

Stations of the Cross

The *Stations of the Cross* is a Lenten devotion, most commonly prayed on Wednesdays and Fridays during this penitential season. The 14 stations are found around the walls of most churches as a series of icons or images, each depicting a specific event from Christ's last day. At each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, and to simply experience the visual images to reflect on Christ's love which he showed for us in his most sorrowful passion. During Lent, when we are encouraged to prepare for Easter through prayer, almsgiving and fasting, praying the *Stations of the Cross* is a good way to make that extra effort – to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. Stations of the Cross will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday evening, followed by Mass.

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

Last Sunday, there was a second collection taken after each Mass to receive your donations from the Lenten Family Fast Day, Friday 15th March. This collection amounted to £370.57 which will be forwarded to CAFOD. Thank you.

Cyclone Idai Appeal

CAFOD, as one of the member organisations of the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), has launched an appeal to help those devastated by the recent cyclone which has killed an unknown number of people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and left an estimated 2.6 million people in desperate need of food, shelter, clean water and medicine. CAFOD says:

We don't yet know how many people have been killed by the powerful cyclone that has hit southern Africa, but the number is likely to be in the hundreds - maybe higher. We do know that those who survived are in desperate need of your help. We are in a race against time to provide emergency shelter, clean water and food to people who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. Thank you to everyone who has recently given to our Lent Appeal. We are appealing again so soon because of the urgency and scale of this disaster - an estimated 2.6 million people are in need of vital humanitarian aid to survive the coming days and weeks ahead.

If you are able to give again, every donation will help bring hope and dignity to ordinary people facing a terrible situation.

To aid in this, there will be a special retiring collection taken at all of today's masses, or donations can be made direct to the CAFOD web site www.cafod.org.uk. Please be generous.

Lenten Station Mass

Lenten Station Masses are held in the seven deaneries across the Diocese of East Anglia, celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes. Each Mass begins with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6 pm, followed by the Station Mass at 7 pm celebrated by Bishop Alan and priests of the deanery. The Mass is followed by soup, bread and cheese afterwards. The Ipswich Station Mass will take on Tuesday 26th March at St Mary's church, Woodbridge Road, and is open to all.

Town Pastors

Town Pastors have been working on the streets of Ipswich on Friday and Saturday nights between 10 pm and 4 am since June 2006. At the moment there are over 50 town pastors and over 50 on its prayer team. The organisation has 3 main streams of volunteer roles:

- Town Pastors who go out on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights between 10 pm and 4 am;
- Base prayers who are situated at the cym centre from where it operates between 10 pm and 4 am - these pray for the pastors while they are out and provide refreshments for when they have breaks and for any police officers who may visit us.
- Home prayers who pray from home for an hour during the night whilst the pastors are out.

Training for potential new town pastors will commence on Saturday April 27th 2019 and they are looking for new recruits from all the local churches. Town Pastors have to be Christian and an active member within their home churches. There is an expected commitment of one shift per month. Anyone interested in getting involved in this work or finding out more information about the roles, can find further information and application forms on the organisation's web site www.townpastors.org.uk.

Chrism Mass

On Tuesday 16th April in St John's cathedral, Norwich, one of the main Diocesan events of the year takes place – the Chrism Mass. The Cathedral is usually packed for this special Mass celebrated by the Bishop, at which the Holy Oils used during the year for the administration of the sacraments throughout all the parishes of the Diocese, are blessed and sent out. At this service also, the priests, deacons and all the people renew their commitment to serve. Afterwards, refreshments are served in the narthex.

Ignite Festival

The Diocesan Youth Service is holding its annual Ignite Festival on the weekend May 4th/5th at the Sacred Heart School, Swaffham, Norfolk. All young people in year 8 upwards are invited to attend. Come and experience your faith in a new and dynamic way at the Ignite Festival. The weekend will include inspiring talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff including sumo suit wrestling! For further information, visit the festival web site www.ignitefestival.co.uk.

Let It Be

Session 4 of the five-session CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) course being run during Lent continues on will be held 28th March, at 7:30 in the Guild Room.

150 Club

The final prize draw of the 150 Club year, will take place on Sunday 31st March after the 10:00 Mass. This is the main draw of the year at which the major annual bonus prizes will be drawn. The subscription envelopes for the new year, which begins 1st April 2019, are now available. The membership of the 150 Club has declined in the last 12 months – a number of our supporters have sadly passed away and we need new members just to maintain the status quo. We have a number of new parishioners, and it would be nice if everyone were to join. If you are not a member of the 150 Club, now, at the start of the new year, would be the perfect time to take that initial step, fill out an application form, and support your parish in this important fund raising venture. Membership forms can be found in the narthex or can be down loaded from the parish web site: simply complete one and simply deposit it in the collection plate at Mass or pop it through the presbytery letter box.

Today's Mass Readings

Will readers, and anybody who uses a Sunday Missal, please note that today's readings are again taken from Year A and not from the lectionary Year C. This is not a mistake but is because today we will begin the Scrutiny of Candidates for Baptism during the Easter Night Vigil Mass, and these are the readings recommended for us for this ceremony.

The Right of Scrutiny

Today, our adult Elect Catechumens who are preparing to be received into full communion with the church at the Easter Vigil service, undergo the first of their scrutinies. This is a right of soul searching and repentance that is meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the Elect in order to bring out then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The ritual Masses in which these scrutinies take place, make use of the readings' for Cycle A of the lectionary, hence the change of readings this week. Please remember our Catechumens in your prayers as they continue to receive instruction and prepare for full reception into the church.

Diocesan Certificate in Catholic Studies

The Diocesan Certificate in Catholic Studies is an academic accreditation course run by the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology. This course is open to anyone who seeks to enrich their understanding of Catholic faith and thinking, as well as to those wishing to enhance professional practice. It is suitable for teachers, teaching assistants, parish catechists, parish assistants, parish volunteers and parishioners. The Topics include Old and New Testament, the Person of Christ, the Sacraments, The Church and Catholic Moral Teaching. The next course will run on 6th, 13th and 20th June, 3 – 6pm at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, 12 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU. The cost is £120 (+£60 for assignment essay option.), with discounts available if more than one person attends from the same parish. For an application form or further information please contact Sue Price by email mbitadm@hermes.ac.uk or ring 01223 741039.

Diocesan Youth Service – The Ignite Team

If you are leaving school or university soon, in between jobs or would like to do something 'different', then the Diocesan Youth Service is looking for people age 18-30 to join the Ignite Team, sharing the Gospel Message with young people in a way they can relate to. These are full-time positions, ideal as a gap year activity, with food, accommodation and a monthly allowance provided. For more information visit the Diocesan web site www.rcdea.org.uk/youth.

Offertory Collection

The offertory collection taken up on Sunday 17th March was £430.65. Thank you.

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, Elaine Carter, Yvonne Metcalfe, 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 Frances D'Arcy, Michael Cleary, Aubrey Delaney, James Faul, William McCarthy, Daniel Mendonca, Joseph Lappetito, Karen Murphy, Alice Bolt, Clare Moss, David Bloomfield, Wendy Hall, Anita Thompson, Ruby Shuttleworth, Rose Adams and Maria Soronento 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.

Deputy Head-Teacher Vacancy

Notre Dame High School is an 11-18 highly successful and oversubscribed Roman Catholic Academy, which is part of the St John the Baptist Multi Academy Trust. It was graded 'Outstanding' in its last Ofsted and last S48 Ofsted inspection. It is the Research School for the Norwich Opportunity Area, a National Teaching School and a School of Sanctuary.

The Governors are seeking to appoint a well-qualified, ethos driven and capable senior leader to join the leadership team of this joyous and high achieving school. The successful candidate will have a proven track record of success as a middle or senior leader and will commit themselves to further improving the standards of education at Notre Dame. Applications are sought from practising Catholics who are supportive of its Catholic ethos. For an application form and further details, including a job description and person specification, please visit the school website at www.ndhs.org.uk. Closing date for applications is midday Monday 25th March 2019.

Readings for the Third Sunday in Lent – Year A: 24th March, 2019

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Collect: O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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: Ex. 17:3-7 *Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained to Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" they said. "Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?" Moses appealed to the Lord. "How am I to deal with this people?" he said. "A little more and they will stone me!" The Lord said to Moses, "Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink." This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, "Is the Lord with us, or not?"

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9 O that today you would listen to his voice: "harden not your hearts".

Second Reading: Rom. 5: 1-2, 5-8 *The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel: John 4:5-42 *A spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan for a drink?" – Jews in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: *Give me a drink*, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." "You have no bucket sir", she answered, "and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?" Jesus replied: "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: that water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life." "Sir", said the woman, "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water." "Go and call your husband" said Jesus to her "and come back here." The woman answered, "I have no husband." He said to her, "You are right to say, 'I have no husband'; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there." "I see you are a prophet sir" said the woman. "Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said: "Believe me woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything." "I who am speaking to you", said Jesus "I am he." At this point the disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a

woman, though none of them asked “What do you want from her?” or, “Why are you talking to her?” The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to town to tell the people, “Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?” This brought the people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, do have something to eat”; but he said, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples asked one another, “Has someone been bringing him food?” But Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: *Four months and then the harvest?* Well, I tell you,; Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus the sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.” Many Samaritans of that town believed in him on the strength of the woman’s testimony when she said, “He told me everything I have ever done,” so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, “Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the Saviour of the world.”

Prayer over the Offerings: Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Prayer after Communion: As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ Our Lord.