

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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

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Locum Priest: Fr Mathias Odigbo

✉ parishpriest@marymagdalens.org

Parish school: St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Stratford Road, Ipswich, IP1 6EF

Head of School: Miss Lucille Southgate ☎ 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.

2nd Sunday of Easter – Low Sunday: 28th April 2019

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: 2nd Week of Easter

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

Services This Week

	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Geraldine Lofthouse RIP (Catherine Jones)
Sunday 28 th April	Hymns for 10:00 Mass	
2 nd Sunday of Easter	Entrance: 62	Bind Us Together
	Offertory: 72	Bring All Ye Dear Bought Nations Bring
	Communion: 183	God's Spirit Is In My Heart
	Recessional: 50	At The Name of Jesus
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Monday 29 th April	St Catherine of Sienna	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Tuesday 30 th April	St George – Patron of England	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 1 st May	Easter Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Thursday 2 nd May	St Athanasius	
	10:00am	Requiem Mass for Elaine Carter
Friday 3 rd May	Saints Philip and James	
	7:00pm	Eucharistic adoration followed by Holy Mass
Saturday 4 th May	The English Martyrs	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 5 th May	8:00 am	Holy Mass
3 rd Sunday of Easter	10:00 am*	Holy Mass
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – 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 – please do come and join us!

Today's Gospel

Today's Gospel reading from John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the risen Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognise the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognise Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door, and yet the disciples were still able to observe the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, who binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church - the Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed. (Courtesy of Loyola Press)

Low Sunday

The first Sunday after Easter has traditionally been called "Low Sunday". The origin of this name is not certain but it is believed to have come about simply to distinguish it from the great Easter festival of the preceding Sunday, which has been called "High Sunday". There is no truth in the explanation facetiously put about by some clerics that Mass attendance is typically low on this Sunday in comparison to Easter Sunday!

Fr Mathias Writes:

I use this forum to thank everybody for the preparations towards the Easter ceremonies. As I come to the end of my temporary stay in this parish, I wish to thank all the members and key officers of the parish for the last five months during which we have been together. God bless you abundantly.

Fr. Mathias.

Vacancy

The directors and governors of St Mary and St Peter Catholic primary school, Gorleston, are seeking to appoint a well-qualified, ethos driven and capable leader, who is a practicing Catholic, to a full time, permanent role as head of school, starting in September. Full details and documentation can be found on the diocesan web site rcdea.org.uk/school-vacancies/. Closing date for applications is this Thursday, 2nd May.

Elaine Carter RIP

The funeral arrangements have now been confirmed for Elaine Carter, who passed away Friday 5th April. There will be a requiem Mass for Elaine, celebrated by Fr James Walsh at St Mary Magdalen Church this coming Thursday, 2nd May, at 10:00 followed by committal at the Ipswich crematorium. All will be welcome to attend the Mass, and it will be lovely to have Fr James back again, albeit in very sad circumstances. Please remember Elaine and her family in your prayers.

Fr Mathew

Further to the message last week from Bishop Alan, Fr Mathew will be returning to the UK this week, arriving at Heathrow on Thursday afternoon and back in the parish later that same evening.

After a handover from Fr Mathias, he will resume his pastoral duties with Masses on Sunday 5th May. We welcome him back and pray that he has made a full recovery.

We are grateful to Fr Mathias for ministering to us in Fr Mathew's absence and wish him well for the future.

Please remember both Fr Mathew and Fr Mathias in your prayers.

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, Jo Kelly, Molly Mc Garry, Yvonne Metcalfe, Robert Mullan, Anna Nelli and Mary O'Reilly.

Planned Giving Envelopes

If you use the planned giving envelopes to Gift Aid your donations to the church, please pick up your new box of envelopes for the tax year 2019/2020 which are now available in the narthex. If your box is not present, please note this on the sheet adjacent to the boxes and the organisers will correct the matter.

Apparition Hill

Coming up on Saturday 18th May, your chance to see the award-winning documentary film about Medjugorje. Seven strangers investigate reports of miracles and supernatural phenomena in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where locals say the Virgin Mary has been appearing since 1981. Daniel Klimek of the Huffington Post wrote "*One of the most powerful films I have ever watched in my life*". The film will be shown at St Felix Church, Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7HT, at 7:30 pm. Teas/coffee will be served. All welcome, no booking necessary – just turn up on the night.

Indian Meal

There will be an Indian meal held at St James parish on Saturday 11th May. The event will be hosted by *Support for the World in Need*. Come along and enjoy an authentic, three course Indian Meal in St James' Parish Hall, 482 Landseer Road, Ipswich, IP3 9LU at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £15 per person and must be booked in advance; no alcohol licence so bring your own drinks. There will be a raffle. To book your place, please call 01473 271671.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Joan Haznos, Cezarina Meyer, Doris Carvey, Mary Dodson, Charles (Freddie) Ashard and Salvatore Falcucci 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.

Parish Newsletter

If you have any notices or announcements that you would like included in this newsletter, please submit them to *Newsletter* via the contact form on the parish web site www.marymagdalens.org. Deadline for receipt of items is Thursday 17:00 for inclusion in the following Sunday newsletter.

St Mary Magdalens 150 Club

The 150 Club is a parish based monthly lottery that has been running since 1984, and since then has raised over £47,000 for the parish and given away £35,000 in prizes. The accounts for the year just ended are with the auditors and will be published as soon as they are signed off, but the income and contribution fell last year, and the new year just starting looks like being even worse as we have lost a number of supporters in the last 12 months – some sadly have passed away and others have moved away from the parish. We desperately need new subscribers to fill the vacancies left if this venture is to remain viable. We have a number of new faces in the parish who have not joined and now really is the time to take out membership and help support your parish. This message is aimed at all those who, for whatever reason, have not joined the Club – please, please do so now – we need your support! Application forms can be found in the narthex or can be downloaded from the parish web site.

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Easter – Year C: 28th April, 2019

Entrance Antiphon Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Collect: God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose spirit they have been reborn, by whose blood they have been redeemed. 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: Acts 5:12-16 *The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.*
The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else even dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles and the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Second Reading: Apoc. 1:9-13, 17-19 *I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, "Write down all that you see in a book." I turned around to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come."

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31 *Eight days later, Jesus came.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me so am I sending you." After saying that, he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord," he answered, "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe." Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you" he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand: put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Prayer over the Offerings: Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people and of those you have brought to new birth, that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this Paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ Our Lord.