

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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

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Parish Priest: Fr Mathew George

✉ 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 (07951 066607) or let Fr Mathew know.

Mass is celebrated in the Ipswich Hospital chapel each Monday at 4 pm – all are welcome.

4th Sunday of Easter: 12th May 2019

Good Shepherd Sunday

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: 4th Week of Easter

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

Services This Week

Sunday 12 th May 4 th Sunday of Easter	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – for the First Holy communion children
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Hymns for 10:00 Mass		
Please see separate order of service		
Monday 13 th May	Easter Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Canon Peacock (foundation Mass)
Tuesday 14 th May	St Mathias - Apostle	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Wednesday 15 th May	Easter Feria – Mass in church	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Thursday 16 th May	Easter Feria – Rout family – foundation Mass	
	9:30am	Holy Mass
Friday 17 th May	Easter Feria	
	11:00 am	Requiem Mass – Margaret (Susie) McInerney
Saturday 18 th May	Easter Feria	
	9:00 am	Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 19 th May 5 th Sunday of Easter	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – for the First Holy communion children
	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

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called *Good Shepherd Sunday*. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders who are already so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31 and 10:39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one - not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

First Communion Masses 2019

Fr Mathew writes: *"Today is a very special day for Kyle, Lucas, Oliver, Xavier, Marcel, Maja, Emily, Patryk, Deimis, Domas, Dominykas, Zygimantas, Nikola, Natalia, Amelia, Dylan and Lucas as they receive Holy Communion for the first time. It is a day in which we celebrate the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ that we receive in Holy Communion. I would like to thank the parents of our children for their commitment undertaken at Baptism to bring their children up in the knowledge and practice of their Catholic faith. They have done a marvellous job in preparing, encouraging and accompanying them towards this day. I would like them to continue to do that every Sunday from now on. The parents have received invaluable help from our catechists: Ernest Thomas, Lucille Southgate and other members of staff of St. Pancras School. To them I would like to say a big 'Thank you'. Please continue to pray for our young people."*

Next Sunday, 19th May, the children of the school group will be making their First Holy Communion, also at the 10:00 Mass.

Diocesan Priest's Training Fund

Next Sunday, there will be a retiring collection after all Masses for the Diocesan Priest's Training Fund.

Margaret (Susie) McInerney RIP

On Friday of this week, Mass will be at 11:00 am instead of 7:00 pm and will be a Requiem Mass for Margaret McInerney, followed by cremation at the Ipswich crematorium.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Offertory Collections

The offertory collection for last Sunday, 5th May, came to £515.91. Thank you.

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.

Apparition Hill

Next Saturday, 18th May, you have a 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.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Reginald Park, Frank Gay, John Smith, Stanley Poll, Clare Jermy, Florence Dooley, Philip Ford, Patrick Kiely and John Morley 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.

St Mary Magdalens 150 Club

The first prize draw of the new Club year will be delayed for a week or so. This is because a) the books, accounts, cheque book etc are with the accountant for the annual audit and their return is awaited before the draw can be made and b) there are a number of subscriptions that have not yet been received. We currently have 108 paid up subscriptions compared to 208 we had last year, which was in itself down on the year before. We desperately need new subscribers to fill the vacancies left if this venture is to remain viable. If you are not a member, please, please join now – we need your support! Application forms can be found in the narthex or can be downloaded from the parish web site.

Catholic East Anglia

The May edition of Catholic East Anglia, the Diocesan newspaper, is now available in the narthex. Please pick up a free copy when you leave Mass. Alternatively you can read it on-line by following the link on the parish web site.

Celebrate East Anglia

The annual Celebrate conference for the East Anglia region will this year be held over the weekend 1st / 2nd June at St Benedict's Catholic High School, Beetons Way, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6RH. Organised by Celebrate, the Catholic Charismatic movement, the Conference runs from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on Saturday and from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on the Sunday. The weekend, to be attended by Bishop Alan Hopes, will include lively praise, daily Mass, a time of adoration and an opportunity for Reconciliation and Prayer Ministry as well as group sessions on selected topics for both adults and children. There will also be an opportunity for quiet private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Celebrate chapel. More information can be obtained from Martin Pakes or Nigel Fox, or by following the link on the parish web site to visit the celebrate web site where you can also book your place.

Catholic Women's League

The next meeting of the Ipswich branch of the Catholic Women's League will be held on Tuesday 21st May at 2:30 pm in St Pancras Church hall. A presentation will be given by Jean Johnson regarding progress of the education of children in a Ugandan village which she supports. This is an open meeting – all are welcome.

Marriage & Family Mass Celebration

This year, the Marriage & Family Mass celebration will take place in St John's Cathedral, Norwich on Saturday 8th June at 11:30 am, followed by tea/coffee and a special celebratory cake in the Narthex. All couples are invited to attend and especially those celebrating a special anniversary this year – 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th etc – who will also receive an anniversary certificate. Please inform Bonnie Lander-Johnson by email at bc124@cam.ac.uk, of names and anniversary of those who will be attending.

Celebration of St Paul VI – Pope

The Congregation for Divine Worship has informed us that St Paul VI – Pope has been added to the General Roman Calendar on 29th May as an optional memorial.

Details of the readings proper to the day can be found on the URL <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Sanctoral/May.shtml#May29>

Extraordinary Month of Mission – October 2019

The Holy Father has announced an Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM) this October, with "the aim of fostering an increased awareness of the *Missio Ad Gentes* and taking up again with renewed fervour the missionary transformation of the Church's life and pastoral activity, and to help their communities grow in missionary and evangelising zeal". More information can be found on the Missio website: <https://missio.org.uk/emm/>.

Readings for 4th Sunday of Easter – Year C: 12th May, 2019

Note: for 10:00 Mass readings, see separate order of service booklet.

Entrance Antiphon:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52 *We must turn to the pagans*

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga until they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the Sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them. The next Sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything that Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. "We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: *I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.*" It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading: Apoc. 7:9, 14-17 *The Lamb will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.*

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, "These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:27-30 *I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.*

Jesus said: "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one."

Prayer over the Offerings:

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion:

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.