

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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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 (07951 066607)

*Please contact Fr Mathias, Deacon Clive Brooks (01206 396319) or let Fr Mathew know if you, or any member of your family, are going into hospital. Please be aware that for reasons of patient confidentiality, the current practice in the NHS is **NOT** to inform the chaplains of any Catholics that are admitted to hospital. So unless you or your relatives inform the chaplains of your hospital stay, you will not be visited by a priest or any other member of the chaplaincy team.*

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 11th August 2019

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings Year I: 19th Week of the Year

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and visitors, and especially to Fr Simon Davies who is celebrating the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses today in Fr Mathew's absence.

Services This Week

Sunday 11 th August 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – T M Joseph RIP
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Maureen Easton RIP
		Hymns for 10:00 Mass
		Entrance: - Love Divine All Love Excelling (337)
		Offertory: - City of God (words overleaf)
		Communion: - Jesus My Lord (283)
		Recession: - Lord of All Hopefulness (329)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Monday 12 th August	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass - Janes family
Tuesday 13 th August	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass - Vieira family
Wednesday 14 th August	St Maximillian Kolbe	No Mass Today
Thursday 15 th August	Feast of the Assumption – Holy Day of Obligation	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass - Sheridan and Morris families
	7:30 pm	Holy Mass - The people of the parish
Friday 16 th August	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 17 th August	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 11 th August 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Fryatt family
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – T M Joseph RIP
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the parish

* Children's Liturgy will be celebrated during the 10:00 Mass on Sundays.

Tea and coffee will be available in the Guild Room after 10:00 Mass – please do come and join us!

Offertory hymn – City of God

1. City of God, how broad and far
outspread thy walls sublime!
The true thy chartered freemen are
of every age and clime.
2. One holy Church, one army strong;
one steadfast, high intent;
one working band, one harvest song,
one King omnipotent.
3. How purely hath thy speech come down
from man's primeval youth!
How grandly hath thine empire grown
of freedom, love and truth!
4. How gleam thy watch fires through the night
with never fainting ray!
How rise thy towers, serene and bright,
to meet the dawning day!
5. In vain the surge's angry shock,
in vain the drifting sands;
unharm'd upon the eternal Rock
the eternal City stands.

Today's Gospel

Jesus' instructions on how to be ready for the coming judgment continue in the stories and sayings found in today's Gospel. We are not to be like the greedy rich man in last Sunday's Gospel who planned to store his great harvest in barns rather than share it. We are, rather, to share our wealth with those in need. The antidote for the anxiety brought on by the coming judgment is to relinquish our possessions and provide for the needs of others. Our treasure will be in heaven where it will not wear out or be destroyed.

The other major way to be ready for the coming judgment is to be watchful. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about watchfulness to begin making this point. We must be like servants waiting for the master's return from a wedding banquet, which, even now, can last for a few days in the Middle East. We must be watchful so that even if the master comes after midnight, we will be ready for him. This is what the coming of the Son of Man will be like.

Peter asks if this parable is meant for the apostles or for the large crowd that has gathered to listen to Jesus. Without answering Peter's question, Jesus responds with another parable about servants awaiting the return of their master. It begins with a question: "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?" This parable adds to the theme of watchfulness; it explains how to wait and reminds us of the reward for the faithful follower at the heavenly banquet after the judgment. If it is addressed to the apostles, then it could also be addressed to leadership in the early Church. Either way, the parables remind us that we should be found doing our jobs when the master arrives. If we are doing our jobs, our reward will be great, but if we relax, neglect our duties, and begin to act like the greedy rich man - eating, drinking, and making merry - we will not have a place in the kingdom. Watchfulness means living in such a consistently moral and obedient way that we are always ready to give an account to God of how we have lived.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared in an Apostolic constitution it to be a dogma of the Church "*that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.*" As a dogma, the Assumption is a required belief of all Catholics. Celebrated every year on August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay - a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts as well as being a Holy Day of Obligation on which all Catholics are required to attend Mass.

Alive In Faith

The summer Alive in Faith newsletter is now available online on the Diocesan web site, or follow the link on the parish web site. It contains news of funds received and details of how they are being spent on parish projects, seminarians, retired clergy and social outreach. The total amount pledged by 3,500 individuals across the Diocese of East Anglia stands at £6.3 million. Total income received so far is just under £4 million. Total expenditure to the end of June 2019 is some £1.1 million, which is divided across the four priority areas. Some 30 parish projects have now been started or completed, five new priests were ordained in Norwich earlier this month, a Caritas Development

Worker has been appointed, social outreach grants have been made and properties for retired clergy have been progressed. The newsletter can be read on the Diocesan web site

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, Mary O'Reilly and Pippa Williamson.

Offertory Collections

The offertory collection on Sunday 4th August was £357.82. Thank you.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, especially for Patricia Jennings and Barrie Johnson whose anniversaries occur about this time and for Mr T M Joseph and Maureen Easton for whose intentions the Sunday Masses today are offered.

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.

Confirmation Programme 2020

Registration has now begun for those wishing to join the confirmation programme and receive the sacrament of Confirmation next year. There's a set of registration forms on the table in the narthex – please take one and return the completed form to Fr Mathew or Martin Pakes. The course will start in October.

There are also registration forms in the narthex for the RCIA (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme. This programme is for adults who wish to be received into the Catholic church, and will prepare adult converts for reception into the church at Easter 2020. This course will be run on demand, so please ensure if that if you feel God might be calling you in this way, you complete and return a registration form as soon as possible so that the necessary practical arrangements can be made. You will then have the opportunity to learn more about becoming a Catholic and potentially be received into the church next year.

First Holy Communion Programme 2020

Application forms for enrolment in the First Holy Communion programme for those who will make their First Holy Communion in May next year, are available in the narthex. To enrol your child, please take a form, and return it completed by Sunday 6th October. The form can also be downloaded from the parish web site. The programme kick-off meeting for parents will take place on Sunday 13th October at 4:00 pm in the Guild Room.

Readings for 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C: 11th August, 2019

Shorter forms – read between **

Entrance Antiphon:

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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:

Wis. 18:6-9

By the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you.

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes, you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 32:1,12,18-20,22

Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

Second Reading:

Heb 11:1-2,8-19

Abraham looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

****Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended. It was by faith that**

Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked to a city founded, designed and built by God. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. ** All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promise had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on.* He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given Isaac back from the dead.

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 12:32-48 *You too must stand ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ** See that you are dressed ready for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table, and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." ** Peter said, "Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?" The Lord replied, "What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, 'My master is taking his time coming', and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful. The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him, when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him."

Prayer over the Offerings:

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Prayer after Communion:

May the communion in your sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord.