

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Mathew George

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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:

*Please contact 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.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe:

24th November 2019

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings Year I: 34th Week of the Year

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

Services This Week

Sunday 24 th November Christ the King <i>World Youth Day</i>	8:00 am	Holy Mass - K.J Mathew & Mariakutty Mathew
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Deceased of the Long family
		Hymns for 10:00 Mass
		Entrance: - O Worship the King (438)
		Offertory: - Hail Redeemer King Divine (195)
		Communion:- Sweet Sacrament Divine (507)
		Recession: - Alleluia Sing to Jesus (15)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Monday 25 th November	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 26 th November	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Thorne & Curry families (foundation)
Wednesday 27 th November	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Thursday 28 th November	Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Friday 29 th November	Feria	
	9:15 am	Holy Mass in St Pancras School – Margaret and Frank Janes
Saturday 30 th November	St Andrew	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Barbara and Maria
Sunday 1 st December	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Paulina
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Mary Stanley & Michael Poll
1 st Sunday of Advent	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the parish

* Children's Liturgy is held during the 10:00 Mass each Sunday.

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

Today's Gospel

Today as a Church, we conclude our liturgical year and celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. The Gospel we proclaim shows the great mystery of our faith: in the moment of his crucifixion, Jesus is shown to be King and Saviour of all.

Luke's Gospel has been loaded with surprises: the poor are rich, sinners find salvation, the Kingdom of God is found in our midst. Here we see the greatest surprise of all. We are confronted with the crucified Jesus, whom faith tells us is King and Saviour of all. The irony is that the inscription placed on the cross, perhaps in mockery, contains the profoundest of truth. As the leaders jeer, the thief crucified by his side recognises Jesus as Messiah and King, and finds salvation.

Jesus is King, but not the kind of king we might have imagined or expected. His kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries, but those who had the eyes of faith were able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we, too, struggle at times to recognise Jesus as King. Today's Gospel invites us to make our own judgment. With eyes of faith, we, too, recognise that Jesus, the crucified One, is indeed King and Saviour of all.

The Feast of Christ the King

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, also called the feast of Christ the King, which concludes the Church's liturgical year. The year ends on a real high point and celebrates the Kingdom of God in all its richness before beginning the new liturgical year with the reflective and penitential season of Advent. The feast of Christ the King is also celebrated, in England and Wales, as National Youth Sunday, and represents an opportunity to explicitly recognise young people as a gift in the Church and affirm their contribution in the life of the local and universal Church. It also provides parishes with an opportunity to focus on the role of young people in the Sunday liturgy and in parish life. Most importantly, it is a chance to pray for and alongside young people. In support of the diocesan activities for our young people, there will be a retiring collection taken for the Diocesan Youth Service to help support their valuable ministry with young people. Please do take a copy of its newsletter which tells you more about what it does.

Offertory Collection

The offertory collection for Sunday 17th November was £389.12. 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, Monica Ford, Fabiana Di Mascio, Richard Fox, Ron Green, Jo Kelly, Molly Mc Garry, Yvonne Metcalfe, Robert Mullan, Anna Nelli, Mary O'Reilly, Annick Smith and Pippa Williamson.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Catherine Harwood, Peter Paddy Pratt, Freda Precious, William Cowan, Joseph Marczell, Charles Dwyer, Sheila Capon, Bernard McDonough, Joseph Clougherty, John Malong, Harry Head, Czeslaw Kacsprzak, Doris Williams, Margaret Janes, Laura Beavis, Mario Parsini, and Leilis Di Frances 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.

Church Refurbishment Works

Tomorrow, our stone masons will be starting work to reinstate the refurbished font and lectern in the church. This work is likely to take 2-3 days, and whilst this work is in progress, weekday Mass will be held in the Guild Room. Following completion of this work, our flooring contractor will be starting work on Monday 2nd December to refurbish the church floor. To allow this work to proceed, the pews will need to be removed from church into temporary storage in the church hall and in the garage. **Here we need your help.** We need a working party on Sunday morning, 1st December, to start removing the pews at 11:00 am after the 10:00 Mass finishes. We will then need a further working party to reinstate the pews on Saturday 14th December, starting at 10:00 am. There is a list in the narthex – some people signed up last week but we need more volunteers to ease the burden. Please sign up for one or even both of these dates so we know we will have sufficient labour available to allow this work to proceed on schedule.

From Monday 2nd to Friday 13th December, weekday Mass will be held in the Guild Room. The evening Mass on 1st December and all the Sunday Masses on 8th December will be in the parish

Hall. The good news is that we will have the work completed and the church ready well before Christmas.

RCIA

There are still 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. One of the problems people who are coming into the church via the RCIA process often experience is not knowing people. They are unsure who to choose as a sponsor. It would be really great to have a group of people prepared to be something of a "Christian mentor" to one of our candidates, helping by answering questions, praying for and with them and providing an example for them. Showing that we are not perfect and sometimes things are tough is important too. Someone like this acting as a confirmation sponsor as well makes a really powerful statement. If you think you can help in this way or have questions, please talk to the RCIA catechist Martin Pakes.

The God Who Speaks

2020 is the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. During the year, we will be celebrating, living and sharing God's word with an exciting new Scripture initiative. It's an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to 'The God who Speaks'. Throughout 2020 there will be a range of events, activities and resources to participate in all around the country. To help achieve transformation in our hearts and in our communities there will be three themes of celebrating, living and sharing God's word. Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other. For more information on this project visit <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/>.

To launch *The God Who Speaks* - a Year of the Word, evening prayer will be said in St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich at 5.15pm on Sunday 1st December, the first day of the church's liturgical year. This will be a deanery celebration and all are welcome.

Aid to the Church In Need

RedWednesday is a day of prayer, action and fund raising organised by *Aid to the Church in Need*, and this year takes place on 27th November. The world is largely silent when it comes to religious persecution, so it is up to us to defend religious freedom and shine a light on the sufferings of persecuted Christians and help highlight the plight of Christians suffering because of their faith – especially in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and China. In this, our prayers and action are vital. Further information about this year's campaign can be found on the *Aid to the Church in Need* website: <https://acnuk.org/ourcampaigns/red-wednesday>.

CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts are CAFOD's alternative charity gifts that transform lives. Perfect for Baptisms, birthdays and anniversaries, you can choose a unique, virtual gift that will make a real difference to a family living in poverty. And that warm and fuzzy feeling comes with free delivery! With Christmas coming, CAFOD's fun and ethical World Gifts are back ready for the festive season! Buy a virtual gift for as little as £4 and change the lives of those living in poverty across the world.

Visit the CAFOD World Gifts web site now to buy on-line – visit worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or follow the link on the parish web site. They have some inspiring new gifts to choose from this year, we're sure you'll find something for even the hardest to buy for!

FIND

Have you wondered about the round tub in the corner of the church entrance porch? Families In Need (FIND) is our local foodbank. It is a registered charity providing a lifeline in our area (www.findipswich.org.uk). Parishioners of St Mary Magdalen have been supporting FIND for many years by donating food items into that bin which is emptied every week and taken to the foodbank. The need for non-perishable, basic food is constant and FIND depends on your donations: rice, pasta, long life milk, toiletries, tins (vegetables, fruit/desserts, fish, meat), cook-in sauces, tea bags, instant coffee, sugar, Jam, soup, biscuits, cereals... Please think of FIND when you do your shop and help fill the tub.

Readings for Christ the King – Year C: 24th November, 2019

Entrance Antiphon:

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. 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: Sam. 5:1-3 *They anointed David king of Israel..*

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. "Look" they said "we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, 'You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people, Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and king David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 121:1-5

I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."

Second Reading: Col. 1:12-20 *He has created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves.*

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43 *Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. "He saved others," they said "let them save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. "Are you not the Christ?" he said. "Save yourself and us as well." But the other spoke up and rebuked him. "Have you no fear of God at all?" he said. "You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus" he said, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." "Indeed, I promise you," he replied "today you will be with me in paradise."

Prayer over the Offerings:

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord sits as King forever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Prayer after Communion:

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.