

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:

*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.*

1st Sunday of Advent: 1st December 2019

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings Year II: 1st Week of the Year

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

Services This Week

Sunday 1 st December 1 st Sunday of Advent	8:00 am Holy Mass – Paulina
	10:00 am* Holy Mass – Mary Stanley & Michael Poll
	Hymns for 10:00 Mass
	Entrance: - Hark a herald voice is calling (201)
	Offertory: - Lord Accept the Gifts We Offer (320)
	Communion:- Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (300)
	Recession: - Love Divine All Loves Excelling (337)
	6:00 pm Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Monday 2 nd December	Advent Feria Mass in the Guild Room
	9:30 am Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 3 rd December	St Francis Xavier Mass in the Guild Room
	9:30 am Molly McGarry
Wednesday 4 th December	Advent Feria
	9:30 am No Mass Today
Thursday 5 th December	Advent Feria – Mass in St Pancras School
	9:15 am Holy Mass – Deceased members of Lobo & Pinto Family
Friday 6 th December	Advent Feria Mass in the Guild Room
	9:0 am Holy Mass – Janes family
Saturday 7 th December	St Ambrose Mass in the Guild Room
	9:30 am Holy Mass – Vieira family
Sunday 8 th December	8:00 am Holy Mass – Fryatt family
	10:00 am* Holy Mass – Elaine Carter RIP
2 nd 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 is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A) and in today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 AD. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centred on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

Advent Wreath

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, we place upon the sanctuary our Advent wreath. This is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity on which five candles are arranged: three purple candles and one pink around the wreath and one white one at its centre. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ and as a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

Each Sunday in Advent, a particular Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that each of the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, stands for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Saviour.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "*Prophecy Candle*" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.

This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Annual FIND Christmas Appeal

The Christmas tree is in the narthex for the annual gift appeal for FIND, our local charity for families in need. Please select a tag from the box beneath the tree, provide a new matching gift and place in the FIND tub. The tags suggest an age group, gender and some ideas. Write the age and gender on the wrapping. Leave the gift unwrapped if you are not sure of the best recipient. Gift bags are best. The target date for the return of gifts is Monday 9th December to allow sufficient time for these to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Offertory Collection

The offertory collection for Sunday 24th November was £414.46. The retiring collection in aid of the Diocesan Youth Service raised £99.77. 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 Valerie Jenkins, Roderick Long, Miriam Wissman, Cynthia O'Mara, Agnes Eaton, Walter Richardson, Mary McGinlay, Pamela Dee, George Grimwood, Alice Keohane, Katarzina Kolecki, Jonann Janssen and Gertrude Quinn 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

The work in the church has started - the new font and lectern were installed last week, with a few final touches still to be done. The work to repair and clean the floor will commence tomorrow. In readiness for this, we will remove the pews this morning after 10:00 am Mass. The evening Mass today will be in the parish hall, the weekday masses will be in the Guild Room and next Sunday all the masses will be in the parish hall. On Sunday 15th December we will be back in the church. We are also looking at cleaning the altar marble floor, but this might not happen before Christmas. However, we are committed to enhance our church in every way possible to help prayer and worship.

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 this afternoon at 5.15 pm, the first day of the church's liturgical year. This will be a deanery celebration and all are welcome.

St. Pancras Catholic Primary School

St Pancras Catholic Primary School Applications for Reception 2020/21 places should be submitted online to Suffolk County Council by midnight on 15th January 2020. St Pancras Catholic Primary School requires a completed Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which can be found on the school website. It is imperative that the Supplementary Information Form is received by the school before the deadline date of 15th January 2020. Thank you.

Christmas 2019

On Tuesday 24th December we begin our celebrations with a carol service at 9.30 pm and the First Mass of Christmas at 10.00 pm. It will be a solemn Mass but not a long one, as parents might like to bring their children along. On 25th Mass will be at 8.00 and 10.00 am. There will be no evening Mass on Christmas day. On boxing day Mass will be at 9.30 as usual.

Advent Confessions

From 1st December there will be an opportunity for confession every day before and after Mass. On Sundays you may have to wait for a while after Mass to allow Fr Mathew to greet people. On Wednesday 18th there will be a Reconciliation Service in St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge Road at 7.30pm. A number of priests from across the deanery will be available to hear confessions, and confessions can always be heard by appointment - please ring, e-mail or text Fr Mathew.

Life Supporters Group at St. Pancras Church

The Ipswich LIFE Supporters Group will be holding a Coffee & Carols morning on Friday 6th December in St Pancras Church Hall from 10 am to 12 noon. Admission £2.50 which includes coffee and mince pie. There will also be a Bring & Buy Sale together with a Raffle.

A Day with Mary

This will be held on Saturday 7th Dec in St. Felix Parish Church, Felixstowe. Beginning 10.15am, with Mass at 11.45am, the day ends with The Divine Mercy at 3 pm followed by Benediction.

Readings for 1st Sunday of Advent – 1st December, 2019.

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be out to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Note: the Gloria is not said during Advent

Collect:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. 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: Isa. 2:1-5 *The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it, and they will say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem." He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9

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

Second Reading: Rom. 13:11-14 *Our salvation is near.*

You know "the time" has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 24:37-44 *Stay awake so that you may be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in Noah's day, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Prayer over the Offerings:

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below, gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Prayer after Communion:

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ Our Lord.