

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.*

2nd Sunday of Advent: 8th December 2019

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings Year II: 2nd Week of the Year

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

Services This Week

Sunday 8th
2nd Sunday of
Advent

8:00 am Holy Mass – Fryatt family (in church hall)
10:00 am* Holy Mass – Elaine Carter RIP (in church hall)

Hymns for 10:00 Mass

Entrance: -On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry
Offertory: - Take My Hands
Communion:- Be Still for the Presence Of the Lord
Recession: - Before the Earth Had Yet Begun
(For words see separate hymn sheet)

6:00 pm Holy Mass – People of the Parish(in church hall)

Monday 9th
December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
No Mass today

Tuesday 10th
December

Blessed Martyrs of East Anglia
No Mass today

Wednesday 11th
December

Advent Feria
No Mass Today

Thursday 12th
December

Advent Feria
No Mass Today

Friday 13th
December

St Lucy
No Mass Today

Saturday 14th
December

St John of the Cross **Mass in the Guild Room**
9:30 am Holy Mass – Janes family

Sunday 15th
December

8:00 am Holy Mass – Vieira family
10:00 am* Holy Mass – Monica Ogden, foundation Mass

3rd Sunday of
Advent

6:00 pm Holy Mass – People of the parish

* There will be no children's liturgy group today, 8th December due to masses being held in the church hall whilst work continues in church.

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

Today's Gospel

In this week's Gospel Reading Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: "...the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

Advent Wreath

Today, the second Sunday of Advent, we light the second purple candle on our Advent wreath. This candle typically represents love - some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolising Christ's manger:

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Dependent Priest Fund

The Dependent Priest Fund is a charity run by priests of the diocese, but independent of the diocese, to support priests in mainly medical, but also in general need. There will be a retiring collection for this cause after all masses today, 8th December. Please Gift Aid your donations if you can, but note that, as this is a charity independent of the diocese, it has a separate charity registration number and as such the special Gift Aid envelopes provided must be used and not the printed Diocesan ones.

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. If you have not already done so, 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. But please be quick as the target date for the return of gifts is tomorrow, Monday 9th December to allow sufficient time for these to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Offertory Collection

The offertory collection for Sunday 1st December was £389.13. 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.

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.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Ernest Allum, Casimeir Carlton, Dermot O'Lonnell, Margaret Wright, James Finn, Gwendoline Lockwood, Peggy Stallbank, Fr. Gerald Conlon, Marie Quinn, Betty Smythe, Ellie McDonagh, Joan Peggy Brown, Edward Richardson, William Schemensky, Thomas Baldwin and Peter Tierney 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 is ongoing now. We had the new font and lectern installed last week. There are a few more final touches to be done. The work to repair the and clean the floor is almost complete. Last Sunday we removed the pews from the church after the Mass at 10.00 am and the evening mass was in the parish hall. The weekday masses were in the Guild Room. Today all three masses are in the parish hall. On Saturday 14th December at 10.0am we need to bring back the pews that are stored in the parish hall and in the Presbytery garage to the church. They were heavier than we thought. We will need more volunteers to bring them back. Please be generous, if you can spare some 90 minutes from 10.00am on Saturday 14th December. We are also looking at cleaning altar marble floor. It might not happen before Christmas. However, we are committed to enhance our church in every way possible to help prayer and worship.

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.

Epiphany Candlelight Mass

Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service, the annual Epiphany Mass for all young people and their families from across the diocese will be held at 5 pm on Sunday 5th January at the White House, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich. Mass will be followed by hot dogs, a bonfire and fireworks. There will be a collection of presents for children who are refugees (please bring wrapped presents and indicate whether suitable for a boy or girl or either, and approximate age).

Christmas Flowers

Next Sunday, 15th December, there will be a retiring collection taken after each mass for flowers to suitably decorate the church ready for Christmas.

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.

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Advent – 8th December, 2019.

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Collect: Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First Reading: Isa. 11:1-10 *He judges the wretched with integrity.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waste, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like an ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the vipers lair the young child puts his hand. They do not hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

Second Reading: Rom. 15:4-9 *Christ is the saviour of all men.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the example scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 3:1-12 *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared: he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: *A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.* This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, "Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out."

Prayer over the Offerings: Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Prayer after Communion: Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ Our Lord.