

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.*

3rd Sunday of Advent: 15th December 2019

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings Year II: 3rd Week of the Year

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

Services This Week

Sunday 15 th 3 rd Sunday of Advent	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Monica Ogden, foundation Mass
		Hymns for 10:00 Mass
		Entrance: - O Come O Come Emmanuel (384)
		Offertory: - All that I am (28)
		Communion:- In the Bleak Mid-Winter (249)
		Recession: - Tell Out My Soul (541)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Monday 16 th December		Advent Feria No Mass today
Tuesday 17 th December		Advent Feria
	9:30 am	Janes family
Wednesday 18 th December		Advent Feria – Mass in church
	9:30 am	Vieira family
Thursday 19 th December		Advent Feria
	9:30 am	Janes family
Friday 20 th December		Advent Feria
	9:30 am	Vieira family
Saturday 21 st December		Advent Feria
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Ralph & Adrian Turner (foundation Mass)
Sunday 22 nd December	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass - Eileen & Anthony Bretherton
4 th 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

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Advent Wreath – Gaudete Sunday

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these. The name comes from Philippians 4:4-5 *Gaudete in Domino semper* – Rejoice in the Lord always.

Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus' return. Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments, but on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. Similarly today, the pink or rose-colored candle of our Advent Wreath is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the Shepherds Candle and it represents joy:

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

Advent Reconciliation Service

Next Wednesday, 18th December, there will be a Deanery Reconciliation Service held in St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge Road at 7.30pm. As part of Advent preparations for Christmas, a number of priests from across the deanery will be available to hear confessions.

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.

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 return your gifts as a matter of urgency as these need to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Offertory Collection

The offertory collection for Sunday 8th December was £367.31. The retiring collection for the Dependent Priest Fund amounted to £146.10. 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 Edward Richardson, William Schemensky, Thomas Baldwin, Peter Tierney, William Hoey, Johannah Parlone, Izbella Stiff, Douglas Eno, Agnes Humble, Frederik Lowery-Corry, Kathleen McCullar, John Woodstock, Valerie Jenkins, Guiseppe Nelli, Elvira Cuccurullo, Fr. Alfred Bull, Bernice Chaisty, Richard Miller and Eric Mountford 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

Thank you to all those who gave their time on Sunday 1st December to remove the pews from church to allow the church floor to be refurbished, and those who helped yesterday to return the pews and those who helped clean the church of the dust following the works. The church floor has been refurbished, sealed and polished and is now in a much better state than it was. There is a small amount of further work to be done tomorrow to clean the altar and make good some minor damage to the green sanctuary stone floor and finally the sanctuary area will be cleaned too. Hopefully you can see the improvements!

Advent Confessions

During Advent 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. 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

Having made efforts to clean and improve the fabric of the church in time for Christmas, we want to make the internal decoration beautiful in readiness for the celebration of this great feast. Today, there will be a retiring collection taken after each mass for flowers so we can suitably decorate the church ready for Christmas.

Commissioning Of Readers

2020 is the 1,600th anniversary of Saint Jerome's death and the 10th of Verbum Domini - Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord'. The Bishops of England and Wales are marking these events by designating 2020 a year of focus on the Bible. Sunday 26th January is the Sunday of the Word of God. The Bishop is going to commission all the readers from across the diocese at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on that day. Ipswich parishes are arranging a coach to attend this service. Will all readers please book the date in their diaries. More details to follow in due course. Further information can be found on the Bishops Conference of England and Wales web site: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/>

Parish 150 Club

The November prize draw of the parish 150 Club was made on Sunday 1st December after 10:00 Mass. Congratulations to the following winners:

£15	No 129	Mr A Ford Bloomfield	£10	No 215	Mrs J Meldrum
£5	No 183	Mrs A M F Smith	£5	No 248	Mrs M Ford

Readings for 3rd Sunday of Advent – 15th December, 2019.

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect:

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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. 35:1-6,10 *God himself is coming to save you.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed upon it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to the faint hearts, "Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come from Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 145:6-10

Come, Lord, and save us..

Second Reading: Jas. 5:7-10 *Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruits of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 11:2-11 *Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?" Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me." As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: *Look, I am going to send a messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.* I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is."

Prayer over the Offerings:

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come and he will save us..

Prayer after Communion:

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ Our Lord.