

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 6JS

☎ 01473 741975

☎ 07939 920844

🌐 [www.marymagdalens.org](http://www.marymagdalens.org)

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

📧 @marymagdalens



**Parish Priest:** Fr Mathew George

✉ [parishpriest@marymagdalens.org](mailto: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.

## ***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph: 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019***

### ***Sunday Readings: Year A***

### ***Weekday Readings: The Octave of the Nativity***

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

## ***Services This Week***

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> The Holy Family	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – George Sansome RIP
	<b>Hymns for 10:00 Mass</b>	
	Entrance: - While Shepherds Watched (618)	
	Offertory: - O Little Town of Bethlehem (401)	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Communion:- Come, Come, Come to the Manger (94)	
	Recession: - O Come All Ye Faithful (382)	
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
	6 <sup>th</sup> Day Within the Octave of the Nativity	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Within the Octave of the Nativity	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	
	9:30 am	Private intention
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Richard Fox RIP
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Christmas Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Rout Foundation Mass
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Richard Fox RIP
The Epiphany	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!

## 10:00 Mass Sung Gloria

Joyful news to you I bring  
Jesus Christ, a living sign,  
For our human ransoming  
Comes to us through love divine.  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Joyful news we sing today:  
Incarnation, living bread,  
Passion, taking sin away,  
Resurrection from the dead.  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Joyful news to you I bring  
Christ the Lord is here on earth,  
Our Redeemer and our King:  
Sing his gladness at his birth.  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Joyful news to you I bring  
Jesus Christ is born today,  
Now let all heavens ring:  
Praise to the lord of light.  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

---

## Today's Gospel

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah, indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre from which Jesus is saved remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

---

## Feast of the Holy Family

Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. Pope Leo XIII, instituted this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. Today the Holy Family is presented as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

---

## Theotokos - Mother of God

On January 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Theotokos (Greek: Θεοτόκος, transliterated Theotókos). Its literal English translations include God-bearer and the one who gives birth to God. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin The mother of God. At the end of this particular session of the council, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: "Praised be the Theotokos!" The Council decreed in that Mary is the Mother of God as Jesus is ONE person who is both God and man, divine and human.

Mary consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-3) Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan. Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realise that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus. In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

---

## 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.

---

### **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. It signifies a number of things. In the East, where it originated, it celebrates Jesus' birth and his baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. In the west it is associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. What is emphasised is the "Revelation to the Gentiles" mentioned in Luke, where the term Gentile means all non-Jewish peoples. The Biblical Magi, (traditionally named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) representing the non-Jewish peoples of the world, paid homage to the infant Jesus in stark contrast to Herod who sought to kill him. However, in this event there is also a revelation of God to the Children of Israel. Usually called the Feast of Theophany - meaning "God shining forth" or "divine manifestation" – the Orthodox Christians celebrate it on January 6<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> depending on the liturgical Calendar they use. In England and Wales we move it to the nearest Sunday of January 6<sup>th</sup>. The focus of the feast is the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Second Person of the Holy Trinity at the time of his baptism, one of only two occasions when all three persons of the Trinity manifested themselves simultaneously to humanity: God the Father by speaking through the clouds, God the Son being baptised in the river, and God the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending from heaven (the other occasion was the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor). Thus Epiphany is Trinitarian feast.

---

### **Offertory Collection**

Fr Mathew writes: *"I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for the Christmas offering and also for the greetings, cards and gifts I have received this Christmas, but most importantly for the love, affection and care that the parish gives me. God bless you all."*

The Christmas offering to Fr Mathew amounted to £1,145. Thank you.

---

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Andrew Kerwin, Patrick Cooper, Casida Janssen, Edith Brame, Dorothy Harris, Michael Carroll, William McCormack, Stephen Spooner, Leslie Payne, Nora Heffernan, Richard Miller, Catherine Barrett, William King, John Galloway and Joseph Thompson whose anniversaries occur about this time.

### **Richard Fox RIP**

Richard, a long standing member and supporter of the parish, sadly passed away on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December after illness bravely borne. No details of the funeral arrangements are yet available. Please pray for the repose of Richard's soul and remember his widow Jo and the rest of his family in your prayers.

*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.*

---

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> January at the White House, 21 Ugate, 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).

---

### **Come and set your Faith alight at GLOW**

A retreat day run by the Diocesan Youth Team – Ignite - for those aged 13+ will be held at St. Mary's Church Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 from 10.00am until 5.00pm. The day will include talks, activities and workshops – a dynamic day of faith for those of secondary school age. More information can be found on the Diocesan web site where places can be booked, or follow the link on the parish web site. Note: those under 18 who wish to attend will be required to bring a completed parental consent form, also available on the Diocesan web site.

---

## ***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph: 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019***

### **Entrance Antiphon:**

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

### **Collect:**

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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:**

Ecl. 3:3-7,14-17 *He who fears the Lord respects his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps. 127:1-5 O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

### **Second Reading:**

Col. 3:12-21 *Family life in the Lord.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

### **Gospel:**

Matt. 2:13-15,19-23

*Take the child and his mother and escape into Egypt.*

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him." So Joseph got up, and taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I called my son out of Egypt.* After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead." So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were fulfilled: *He will be called a Nazarene.*

### **Prayer over the Offerings:**

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

### **Communion Antiphon:**

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

### **Prayer after Communion:**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.