

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.*

The Epiphany of the Lord: 5th January, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Second week of Christmas

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

Services This Week

Sunday 5 th January The Epiphany	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Richard Fox RIP
		Hymns for 10:00 Mass
		Entrance: - What Child is This Who Laid To Rest (605)
		Offertory: - Almighty Father Lord Most High (34)
		Communion:- Bethlehem of Noblest Cities (60)
		Recession: - We Three Kings (601)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Monday 6 th January	Christmas Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 7 th January	Christmas Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Fr Mathew's intention
Wednesday 8 th January	Christmas Feria – Mass at St Pancras School	
	9:15 am	Canon Peacock Foundation Mass
Thursday 9 th January	Christmas Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Friday 10 th January	Christmas Feria	
	9:30 am	No Mass Today
Saturday 11 th January	Christmas Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Margaret Cleary RIP
Sunday 12 th January	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Richard Fox RIP
The Baptism of the Lord	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 visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod" The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour and because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship, frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple and myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Today 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) who represent 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 focus of the feast is the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

The Baptism of the Lord : Sunday 12th January

Closely connected with the salvific events of the Epiphany are the mysteries of the Baptism of the Lord. The season of Christmas comes to an end with this feast. Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan and marks the inauguration of His mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.' We are reminded of our rebirth as children of God in Baptism in which we rise from the waters of the sacramental font as children of God. For each of the baptised, the immersion in, or pouring of, water and the invocation of the Trinity is a real sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and 'walk in newness of life'. Just as Jesus' public life begins with his baptism, we are invited to live our baptismal promises. As you dip your fingers into the font and make the sign of the cross each time you enter the church be reminded of your Baptism and the responsibility to be God's Witnesses.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

The 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a unique opportunity for mission and evangelisation. This year's Week is 18th -25th January. Please visit www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer for more information.

The Sick of the Parish

Please pray for those who are sick or housebound: John Anderson-Hurst, Margaret Arbon, William Barnes, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, Deacon Peter Coates, Monica Ford, Josephine Kalagira, Fabiana Di Mascio, Ron Green, Jo Kelly, Molly Mc Garry, Yvonne Metcalfe, Robert Mullan, Anna Nelli, Mary O'Reilly, Annick Smith and Pippa Williamson.

Offertory Collection

The offertory amounts for Sunday 22nd and Sunday 29th December are not yet available but will be published as soon as they are.

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 Joseph Thompson, Rachel Abbott, Albert Richardson, Eleanor Chandler, Hugh McColl Rodger, Vera Johnston, Timothy Downey, Regina Monica Scott, Godfrey Schofield, Albert Thaine, Rita Aldis, William Taylor and Peter Eaton whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Richard Fox RIP

Richard, a long standing member and supporter of the parish, sadly passed away on Friday 20th December after illness bravely borne. His requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 21st January at 11:00 am followed by interment at the Ipswich Millennium Cemetery. 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.

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 18th January 2020 from 10.00am until 5.00 pm. 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.

150 Club

The December prize draw of the parish 150 Club was made last Sunday in the Guild Room after 10:00 Mass. Congratulations to the following winners:

Monthly prizes:	£15	No 76	Mrs B Knox	£10	No 140	Mr R Mayhew
	£5	No 126	Mr & Mrs M Pakes	£5	No 66	Mrs J Fox
Bonus prizes:	£50	No 160	Dr E C Conway	£40	No 94	Mr P Clancy
	£20	No 39	Mr & Mrs R Cork			

If you are not a member of the 150 Club, there are vacancies and it is never too late. Membership forms can be found in the narthex or can be down loaded from the parish web site.

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/>

The Angelus and the Dowry of Mary

England has been known as the 'Dowry of Mary' for up to 1,000 years, going back to the time of St Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), in whose reign the replica of the Holy House of Nazareth was built. On the Feast of Corpus Christi, 1381, King Richard II dedicated England to Mary as 'her dowry.' He went on pilgrimage to Walsingham two years later, and so, for 1,000 years, Walsingham has been the great shrine of prayer and pilgrimage for the people of this country in honour of Our Lady. On 29th March, 2020, England will be rededicated as the 'Dowry of Mary.' This will happen in Westminster Cathedral, in Walsingham, in every Catholic Cathedral, in every parish and in as many homes as possible. Mgr John Armitage, the Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, has asked people to prepare spiritually for the rededication by praying the Angelus every day after our parish Masses. The Angelus is a most suitable prayer to prepare us spiritually for the rededication, recalling, as it does, 'some essential moments in the History of Salvation, reminding us of Mary's 'yes' to the Angel Gabriel, which undid Eve's 'no' in the Garden of Eden.' We profess our faith in 'The Word, who was made flesh, and dwelt amongst us,' and in his Death and Resurrection, the eternal destiny to which each of us is called in Christ.

The Epiphany of the Lord: 5th January, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Collect:

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. 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. 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look around: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away, and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 71:1-2,7-8,10-13

All nations shall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Second Reading:

Eph. 3:2-3,5-6

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matt. 2:1-12

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. "Where is the infant king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. "At Bethlehem in Judaea" they told him "for this is what the prophet wrote: *And you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. "Go and find out all about the child," he said "and when you have found him, let me know so that I too may go and do him homage." Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Prayer over the Offerings:

Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Communion Antiphon:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Prayer after Communion:

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord.