

# 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)

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**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:** Fr Bineesh OCD ☎ 01473 684963  
*Please contact Fr Bineesh 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.*

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**The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

**Sunday Readings: Year A**

**Weekday Readings: Year II, Sixth Week of the Year**

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and visitors

## Services This Week

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Robert, Mary & George RIP
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
		<b>Hymns for 10:00 Mass</b>
		Entrance: - Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven (449)
		Offertory: - Be Thou My Vision (61)
		Communion:- Lord Jesus Christ (326)
		Recession: - Amazing Grace (36)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria 9:30 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria 9:30 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria – Mass in church not school 9:30 am	Holy Mass – Elsie Robinson foundation Mass
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria 9:30 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Feria 9:30 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	The Chair of St Peter 9:30 am	Holy Mass – Margaret Cleary RIP
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Stephen & Seamus
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass
7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the parish

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\* 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

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbour.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law, Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings, have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

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## Welcome Back

Today we welcome back Fr Mathew after his retreat, and look forward to hearing of his experiences in the Sahara. We gratefully thank Fr Carmine for celebrating Masses with us last week.

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## Verona Fathers Mission Appeal

The retiring collection taken after Masses last Sunday for the Verona Fathers Mission Appeal amounted to £225.80. Thank you.

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## The Season of Lent

We begin the season of lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday on 26<sup>th</sup> February. On that day , we will have Masses, with the imposition of ashes, at 9.30 am and 7.30 pm. The evening Mass is to encourage people who are working not to miss this great celebration of the beginning of lent and penance. It is a traditional Catholic practice to bless the houses in Lent and Easter Season. Please book a date with Fr. Mathew if you would like to have your house blessed.

Ash Wednesday is one of only two days in the year of fasting and abstinence, the other being Good Friday. On these two days, Catholics over 18 years of age, are required to fast, that is to eat less than we normally would, and Catholics over the age of 14 abstain from eating meat, as an act of penitence.

There will be a lenten alms box at the back of the church which this year is for CARE HOME in India that supports people who live HIV/AIDS.

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## Sunday of the Word

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Churches Together in Ipswich are organising an event Named "Enjoy the Bible: Sensing the Sacred through Art and Music" at The St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich, IP1 1QU. It will run from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm. The event is free, but registration is necessary. To register please go to [www.enjoy-the-bible.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.enjoy-the-bible.eventbrite.co.uk) or call 07780613754. More details on the poster in the narthex. Copies of the Apostolic letter *motu proprio Aperuit Illis*, which institutes the Sunday of the Word, can be bought from CTS for £3.95. There are simple printed copies of the whole text in the narthex free for you to take home and read, or you can download a copy from the parish web site.

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## Charity Quiz Evening

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Linis Dolby is organising a quiz evening in the church hall in aid of two charities. Tickets are £5 per person, with teams of 6 competing. If you cannot make up a team, turn up by yourself and you will be allocated to a team. Soft drinks will be available but please bring your own alcohol and nibbles. All proceeds will be shared between FASD local support group and Parkinsons local support group. To reserve a ticket please text 07722871188

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## 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 and Pippa Williamson.

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## Offertory Collection

The offertory collection for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February was £291.52. This is a worryingly low amount – the

previous week was £460 - which if continued, will not be sufficient to meet the normal parish outgoings. Serious food for thought for all of us!

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### **Our Own Dear Departed**

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Maureen Mulligan, Mary Sparrow, Margaret Dooley, Patrick Kavanagh, Cynthia Woollard, Peter Grimwood, Kathleen Smy, Kate Brown, Margaret Hutchinson, Frederick Adams, Anne Gambo, Felix Hennon, Gladys Cooper, Helen Hinton and Angela Harper 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.*

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### **Catholic Women's League**

The Ipswich Section of the CWL would like to invite you to its Valentide Tea Party to make new and chat to old friends. To be held in St Pancras church hall, the party will take place at 2:30 on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. The event will include a bring and buy sale and a raffle. Tickets, costing £3.50 each, will be available after Mass or on the door on the day. Monies raised will be used to support local and national charities, CWL charities and help run the Ipswich Section.

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### **Children's Liturgy Group**

Those who attend 10:00 Mass on Sunday will know of the success of our Children's Liturgy Group. The children go out of Mass at the beginning of the service for their own liturgy held in the Guild Room. Sessions usually consist of simple prayers, the day's readings, suitably abridged and simplified for the younger audience, along with some form of activity related to the readings. At the moment, we have three catechists who lead these sessions on a rota basis, but for this group to continue and grow, we need more adult helpers to spread the load. If you think you might be able to help with this group, please speak to Fr Mathew or Collett Long. If you would like to find out more before deciding if you would like to get involved, why not come out with the children one day to see and listen for yourself.

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### **First Holy Communion Programme**

Unfortunately, Ernest Thomas, our catechist who leads the First Holy Communion programme, has been unwell and is for the moment unable to continue. Consequently, the class scheduled 16<sup>th</sup> February has been cancelled. The situation will be reviewed now that Fr Mathew has returned and further announcements will be made.

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### **Friends of St Albans Quiz Evening**

The Friends of St Albans are holding a quiz evening at St Albans Catholic High School, Digby Road, Ipswich on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets costing £8 are available from the school and include a fish/sausage/veggie burger and chips supper. There will also be a raffle. Please call the school on Ipswich (01473) 726178 to order tickets and book food.

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### **Lenten Retreat**

The Association of Family of Jesus and Mary will be holding a day of retreat at The Convent, 63 Orwell Road, Felixstowe, between 10:00 am and 3:45 pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The theme for the retreat, to be led by Fr Bineesh OCD from St Mark's, will be "Letting go and letting God: the secret of Spiritual growth". The day will include Mass at 12:00 noon. The day costs £6 with tea and coffee provided, attendees should bring their own packed lunch. Registration forms for this event can be found in the narthex, or can be downloaded from the parish web site.

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### **150 Club**

Will monthly subscribers please note that the February prize draw of the parish 150 Club will be made in the Guild Room after 10:00 Mass next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February. This is early this month, February being a short month, and also due to the organiser absence the following weekend.

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## **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

### **Entrance Antiphon:**

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

### **Collect:**

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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:** Eccl. 15:16-20 *He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps. 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

They are happy who follow God's law!

**Second Reading:** 1Cor. 2:6-10

*God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to an end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel:**

Matt. 5:17-37

*You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors, but I say this to you.*

*Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother 'Fool' he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him 'Renegade' he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have whole body go to hell. It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is 'Yes' if you mean yes, 'No' if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one."* Shorter form – read only italicised text.

**Prayer over the Offerings:**

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ Our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon:**

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

**Prayer after Communion:**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.