

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 6JS

☎ 01473 741975

☎ 07939 920844

🌐 www.marymagdalens.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 www.rcdea.org.uk

📧 @marymagdalens



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: 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.*

The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 23rd February, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, Seventh Week of the Year

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and visitors

Services This Week

Sunday 23 rd February 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Stephen & Seamus
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
		Hymns for 10:00 Mass
		Entrance: - Praise The Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him (452)
		Offertory: - Lord Accept the Gifts We Offer (320)
		Communion:- Blest Are the Pure in Heart (66)
		Recession: - Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise (242)
Monday 24 th February	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
		Feria
	9:30 am	Holy Mass Janes family
Tuesday 25 th February		Feria
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 26 th February		Ash Wednesday – a day of fasting and abstinence
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Eric List Foundation Mass
	10:45 am	Holy Mass in school for staff and students only
	7:30 pm	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Thursday 27 th February		Lent Feria
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Friday 28 th February		Lent Feria
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
	10:00 am	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 29 th February		Lent Feria
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Sunday 1 st March	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Paulina & Wladysaw
1 st Sunday of Lent	10:00 am*	Holy Mass
	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 last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasises that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

The Season of Lent

Wednesday of this week is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a penitential season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting and the practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head, the ashes symbolising the dust from which God made us. On Ash Wednesday, there will be two Masses – both in church – at which ashes will be distributed. The evening Mass is to encourage people who are working not to miss this great celebration of the beginning of the penitential season of Lent.

During Mass on Ash Wednesday, the priest administers ashes, made from blessed palm branches taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass, and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance.

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. 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.

CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day

On Friday 6th March, CAFOD holds its Lenten Family Fast Day. This is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. Your donations go to highly trained, highly skilled local experts around the world who save and support the health of the world's poorest families. Sister Consilia is one of these people. She is a nun in an out-of-town health centre in Zimbabwe. She is a trained pharmacist who saves lives each and every day. Without support like yours, her brilliant work just wouldn't be able to continue as there would be insufficient funds to support it. CAFOD urgently needs your help to help fund more local experts like Sister Consilia to reach out to even more people who need treatment, care and love.

On Friday 6th March, will you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help people like Sister Consilia to continue her life-saving work helping the health of the world's poorest people? Through CAFOD's global church family, your support can reach to the ends of the earth. Please collect a Family Fast Day envelope from the narthex today and give whatever you can.

Sunday of the Word

Next Saturday, 7th 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 or call 07780613754. More details on the poster in the narthex.

Charity Quiz Evening

On Saturday 7th 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.

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.

Offertory Collection

The offertory collection for Sunday 16th February was £411.16. Thank you.

Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Walter Reynolds, Audrey Hartery, Sidney Mason, Dorothy Bolt, James Adams, Pamela Andrews, Vincenza Webber, Winifred Grant, Kitty Finn, Helen Whelan, Richard Collis, Georgina Beeby, Ernest Doolan, Daphne Westbrook and William Fleming 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.

First Holy Communion Programme

The First Holy Communion classes, which have been cancelled for the past three week's due to illness, will resume today in the Guild Room at 4:45 pm.

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 28th 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.

Proposed New Porch and Meeting Area

While planning for the work for the church floor the finance committee looked at several different ways to make our church and hall more friendly, inviting, and worship worthy. Last year, the building of a new hall and car park area around the church was examined in detail, the aim being to see whether this could be financed from the sale of the current hall and car park. It was not viable. That is the reason you never heard about it. Now we have a new proposal for the parish.

This proposal is more limited in that all the parish's major assets (church, hall, presbytery and land) remain substantially unchanged, but some very important pastoral and social needs are improved by building a covered link and meeting area between the church porch and the presbytery. We are also very fortunate to have had offer of donations from a parish family which, with full use of gift aid, will raise £100,000. This is sufficient to fund all or most of the building and other costs of this project.

The main thrust of this proposal is to provide a more welcoming and socially encouraging approach to our church, particularly for the more vulnerable. It will, for example, provide:

- A large undercover area outside the church doors
- Space for the children's liturgy, with weather protected/no step access.
- Somewhere for visitors (baptisms, weddings, funerals etc) to wait undercover or in the warm.
- Level access for wheelchair or less able parishioners to access the meeting area
- A properly designed disabled toilet for parishioners and visitors.
- A second space, similar in useable space to the Guild Room, able to be used separately or together.
- Some storage space for the variable number of chairs and tabled needed in the Guild Room.
- An undercover route from presbytery to church.

We would like to seek Diocesan permission to build a new porch and meeting area on the front of the church. The diocesan building committee meets every 3 months and the next meeting is on 12th March. It is mandatory that the parish and the Dean are consulted before any proposal is taken to the meeting. Our next parish assembly will be 29th March. Fr Mathew would like to use this Sunday and next Sunday for informal consultations with the parish. There are drawings and plans of the project displayed in the narthex and the members of the Finance Committee will be there after every Mass to answer your questions and to explain it further. Then with the comments from the diocese Fr Mathew will put the project to the Parish Assembly on 29th March for formal approval. Your comments and support are highly valued.

Entrance Antiphon:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful to me.

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is 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: Lev. 19:1-2,17-18 *You must love your neighbour as yourself.*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: "Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: *Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.*"

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 102:1-4,8,10,12-13

The Lord is compassion and love.

Second Reading: 1Cor. 3:16-23 *All are your servants, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: *The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise.* So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 5:38-48 *Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Prayer over the Offerings:

As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord, with the observance that is due, we humbly ask you, that what we offer to the honour of your majesty may profit us for salvation. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.