

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: 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.*

Third Sunday in Lent: 15th March, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 3rd Week of Lent

We offer a warm welcome to all new parishioners and visitors

Services This Week

Sunday 15 th March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Fryatt family
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass - Guiesppina & Giovanni Iannelli
		Hymns for 10:00 Mass
		Entrance: - Forty Days and Forty Nights (150)
		Offertory: - In Bread We Bring You Lord (243)
		Communion:- All Ye Who Seek a Comfort Sure (32)
		Recession: - Lord Jesus Think On Me (327)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass - People of the Parish
Monday 16 th March	Lent Feria	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 17 th March	St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 18 th March	Lent Feria - Mass in church today	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Robert, Mary & Molly RIP
Thursday 19 th March	St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
		No Mass Today
	Lent Feria	
Friday 20 th March	9:30 am	Holy Mass – Stephen & George RIP
	10:00 am	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 21 st March	Lent Feria – Seamus RIP	
	9:30 am	Holy Mass –
Sunday 22 nd March 4 th Sunday of Lent	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Paulina & Maria's intention
	10:00 am*	Holy Mass – Lesley Robinson foundation 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

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all as Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should also have prevented the conversation, to which the woman herself alludes asking Jesus "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense - with no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day, a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community as we learn in her conversation with Jesus because of her "many husbands."

Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come - the high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshipping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship. After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple and even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of this encounter has many levels. The first is personal: the woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people. The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Survive-Miva

Founded in 1974, Survive-Miva is a Catholic lay association and registered charity, whose patron is the archbishop of Liverpool. It exists to provide one vital element to ensure success of the Church's healthcare and pastoral work in remote communities in impoverished parts of the world – mobility. The association has about 60 members, the vast majority Catholic lay men and women from all walks of life who give generously of their time to make appeals for funds at parishes throughout Scotland, Wales and England. Today we host a volunteer speaker from Survive-Miva who will tell us about the association's work and make an appeal for financial support.

Prayer For Vocations

Each Sunday of the year the whole diocese prays for vocations from a particular parish. Today is the Sunday everyone prays for vocations from our parish. Let us be thankful for the vocations that we already have from our parish and pray that more men and women from among us will take courage to discern whether God calls them to the priesthood or religious life.

Catholic Women's League

The next meeting of the CWL will take place on Tuesday 17th March in St Pancras church hall, starting with a business meeting at 2:30 and followed at 3:00 pm with a talk given by Canon Mathew George on his time as chaplain to Mother, now Saint, Teresa of Calcutta. Anyone who is interested will be very welcome.

Quiz Evening

Linis Dolby would like to thank all those who attended the quiz evening in the church hall last Saturday evening and helped to tidy up afterwards. It was an enjoyable evening and the sum of £255 was raised for the 2 selected charities. Hopefully we can organise similar social events in the future.

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 8th March was £326.41. The retiring collection for the CAFOD Lenten Fast Day realised £639.13. Thank you.

Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Margaret Quinn, Jean Keenan, Margaret Stobo, Patricia Porteous, Winifred Grant, Liliana Zagri, Ruby Stendera, Patrick O'Donovan, Joseph Baron, Alan Hobbs, Ranford Barret, Wilfred Murray, Patrick Kearney, Pamela Spencer and Edward Razzell 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.

National Novena to St Joseph

The St Joseph's Missionary Society, more commonly known as the Mill Hill Missionaries, is Britain's own missionary society. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their society and the missionary outreach of the church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th – 18th March at St Joseph's church in Maidenhead and at St Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to the Novena Director, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email novenamhm@gmail.com.

Parish Assembly

There will be an open meeting of the parish on Sunday 29th March at 11.00 am (after the Mass at 10.00 am). Bigger parishes have an elected Pastoral Council, smaller parishes have a Parish Assembly or Forum to discuss mainly the Pastoral, Catechetical, Liturgical and Spiritual aspects of parish life and to decide upon a pastoral action plan to manage expectations in a positive way. The members of the Finance Committee will be able to answer any questions on financial matters. Declan Moore our rep at the Diocesan Council of Laity is happy to help us with organising the details. Please contact him or Fr. Mathew if you have any particular items for deliberation at the Parish Assembly.

3rd Sunday of Lent: 15th March, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Collect:

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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: Exo. 17:3-7 *Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained to Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" they said. "Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?" Moses appealed to the Lord. "How am I to deal with this people?" he said. "A little more and they will stone me!" The Lord said to Moses, "Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink." This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test saying, "Is the Lord with us or not?"

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.94:1-2,6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice: "Harden not your hearts."

Second Reading: Rom. 5:1-2,5-8 *The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though

of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel: Matt. 4:5-42 *A spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob' well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan for a drink?" – Jews in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." "You have no bucket, sir", she answered, "and the well is deep; how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?" Jesus replied: "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks that water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life." "Sir", said the woman, "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water." "Go and call your husband" said Jesus to her "and come back here." The woman answered, "I have no husband." He said to her, "You are right to say 'I have no husband'; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there." "I see you are a prophet, sir" said the woman. "Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said: "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything." "I who am speaking to you", said Jesus, "I am he." At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, "What do you want from her?" or, "Why are you talking to her?" The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to town to tell the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?" This brought people out of the town and they started to walk towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, do have something to eat"; but he said, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples asked one another, "Has someone been bringing him food?" But Jesus said: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus the sower and the reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble." Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, "He told me all I had ever done," so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, "Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world." Shorter form – read italicised text only.

Prayer over the Offerings:

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Prayer after Communion:

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord.