

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

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*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.*

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 5th July, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 14th Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 5 th July	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Priest's intention
14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass - People of the Parish
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – Pratt family foundation Mass
Monday 6 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – People of the Parish
Tuesday 7 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Wednesday 8 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Thursday 9 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 10 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 11 th July	St Benedict	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 12 th July	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Priest's intention
15 th Sunday	10:00 am	Holy Mass - People of the Parish
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass

We are back to the New Normal from this Sunday!

Under the current restrictions there will be no Children's Liturgy group, no coffee after church and no hymns sung at 10:00 Mass. The bidding prayers will not be said, the homily will be kept short, the collection and offertory procession will be omitted and special arrangements for Holy Communion will apply.

We are committed to following the Government guidelines on social distancing.

Alternate pews in the church and gallery have been taped off to prevent their use. Please ensure you maintain a 2 metre distance separation from each other whilst in church. Family groups from the same household may sit together. This inevitably means that the capacity of the church is reduced and should it be the case that the church is full, you might need to return at another time.

Thanks to the neighbourhood team, we have some washable face masks in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one home with you for your general use.

Today's Gospel

Today's reading from Matthew's Gospel comes after a discourse in which Jesus reproaches people who have witnessed his mighty deeds yet still lack belief. In this context, today's Gospel explains the reason for this unbelief and reveals what is necessary for faith. Today's Gospel also continues to enhance our understanding of discipleship as last week's Gospel did.

Jesus first prays in thanksgiving to God who has made himself known to Jesus' disciples. He praises God who has made himself known to the "little ones" and not to the wise and learned. As in other recent readings from Matthew's Gospel, a contrast is made here between the unbelieving Pharisees, who are wise and learned, and the faithful disciples, tax collectors, and sinners with whom Jesus keeps company.

The second part of this reading calls to our attention the unity between the Father and the Son. God has made himself known through Jesus, and in knowing Jesus, we come to know the Father. In Jesus' life and in his person, God reveals himself to us.

In the concluding sentences of today's Gospel, Jesus' teaching is again contrasted to the teaching of the Pharisees. This common theme of Matthew's Gospel probably reflects tension that existed between Jesus and the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the community of Christians for whom Matthew wrote. Pharisaic Judaism became the predominant form of Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem about 70 A.D. Here that tension is expressed as alternative paths of holiness. The careful observance of the Mosaic law taught by the Pharisees could be experienced by some as difficult and burdensome. In contrast, Jesus' way of holiness is presented as uncomplicated and even restful.

Coronavirus Restrictions

The government is easing lockdown rules and from today we are allowed to resume public services in our church. The guidelines from the Bishop's Conference allow us to celebrate public Masses but impose strict conditions and we ask you to respect these and observe social distancing. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been fitted either side of the inner entrance door of the church and the Holy Water stoups are empty. Fr Mathew will be personally setting up for all masses with no other person touching the sacred vessels or the bread and wine. Fr Mathew will use a lidded ciborium to contain the hosts for consecration to ensure these are not exposed to the air during Mass. Readers are asked to read from your own missals or from the newsletter to reduce the number of surfaces with which you come in contact. Everybody should take their newsletter home with them after Mass as these will be for single use only.

The arrangements for communion will be different. The construction of our church precludes the use of a one-way system so we will follow the second option given by the Bishops' Conference of ending the Mass and allowing people to go and then distributing communion in silence to those communicants who would stay back. This will ease traffic and help social distancing. After the prayer "*Behold the Lamb of God...*" and its response "*Lord, I am not worthy...*" Fr Mathew will elevate the host to the congregation and say "*The Body of Christ*" to which the people respond "*Amen*". In a similar way Fr Mathew will then elevate the chalice and say "*The Blood of Christ*" to which the people again respond "*Amen*". Fr Mathew will then receive Holy Communion himself using his own host and chalice. After cleaning the sacred vessels, there will be a short period of reverent silence before the Prayer after Communion, blessing and dismissal. Those not receiving Holy Communion themselves should then leave the church, observing the 2 metre social distancing rule as they do so. Those who are to receive Holy Communion will then be invited to come forward to the altar by the central aisle, again maintaining 2 metre social distancing, and approach the altar stopping at the tape mark on the floor. You will receive the consecrated host silently from Fr Mathew in your hands with palms upwards one on top of the other and with arms at "full stretch" to maintain a good distance. Once you have received Holy Communion, you should immediately leave the church by either side aisle observing 2 metre social distancing as you depart. There will be no blessing for children or adults who are not receiving Holy Communion.

To minimise movement in church, there will be no collection taken during Mass, but more than ever the parish needs your financial support, so you are invited to place your offering in the closed box on the table at the back of church, either on entry or exit.

The Sunday obligation is currently dispensed and that will be case for the foreseeable future. This will help those parishioners who feel vulnerable coming to Mass on Sundays – they can instead come on weekdays when we have very few people for Mass and the church far less busy. The church is open each day from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon but you are also welcome to telephone to make an appointment for any other time and Fr Mathew will be happy to open the church for you.

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.

Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Terence Baveday, Frank McManus, Christine Bloomfield, Francis Reddington, Daniel Crown, Bishop Michael Evans, Arthur Root and Christine Bowers 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.

Parish 150 Club

Thank you to all subscribers who have paid their subscriptions direct to the Club bank account during the lockdown period, and a special thank you to those who have increased their number of shares in response to the appeals made for increased membership. We are still down on last year's total membership number, which was itself down on the previous year, and further new members would be welcome. Due to the lockdown restrictions, the prize draws for April, May and June have not yet been made. Now that things are beginning to be relaxed, these will now be organised as soon as possible.

Parish Communications

During the lockdown period, an email distribution list was created and regular news updates were sent out to people who had registered their email address with the parish. However, the total number of registered emails was only 89 and as this lockdown showed, when we are not meeting at church, then this is one of a very few ways in which we can keep in touch. If you have the capability to receive emails, you are encouraged to register your address with the parish so that you can be kept updated in these sorts of situations.

We also established a parish WhatsApp group for information sharing and updates, but only 16 people registered for that, perhaps because they did not know about it as we had no way of getting in touch to advertise it!

Finally, the parish web site (www.marymagdalens.org) was kept up to date and the Facebook page (@marymagdalens) was used to provide information and updates.

If you would like to register your email address, or would like further information on the parish social media platforms, please speak to Fr Mathew or use the contact form on the parish web site.

A Prayer For Those Affected by Covid-19

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies. Look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many regions of Europe and the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief. Deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers and eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial but deliver us from all evil. We ask this of Thee, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Mary, mother of health and hope, pray for us!

The Ipswich Blessing

Dozens of people from churches across Ipswich came together during lockdown to sing a song about unity and hope. Members of 43 Christian church denominations from the town recorded themselves singing along to the song *The Blessing* by Elevation Worship.

Performers who were involved in the project included members of Hope Church Ipswich, Rushmere Baptist Church, Trinity Praise Centre, Waterfront Churches and Holly Lodge Baptist Church, and our own Lucy Pakes among many more.

The project was organised by Rev. Amy Key and her husband Matt, of St Augustine's Church in Ipswich, and aimed to bring hope and comfort to the community during the Coronavirus lockdown. Matt, who previously worked in music production, said: "We were hugely inspired by The UK Blessing which quickly went viral. It has had more than three million views. There was lots of talk about churches working together and being there for their community, so we thought it would be wonderful to replicate it in Ipswich as a message of hope to our town's residents".

If you have not already heard this, you can listen to the Ipswich Blessing on YouTube using the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLtP3r69j0I>

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 5th July, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Collect:

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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: Zech. 9:9-10 *See now, your king comes humbly to you.*

The Lord says this: Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.144: 1-2, 8-11, 13-14

Response to the psalm is: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King

I will give you glory, O God my king,

I will bless your name for ever.

I will bless you day after day

And praise your name for ever.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
And your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
And declare your might, O God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,

Slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,

Compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is faithful in all his words

And loving in all his deeds.

The Lord supports all who fall

And raises all who are bowed low.

Second Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13 *If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.*

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 11: 25-30 *I am gentle and humble in heart.*

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

May this oblation dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord.