

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: 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.*

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 12th July, 2020 – Sea Sunday

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 15th Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 12 th July	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Priest's intention
15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass - People of the Parish
Ordinary Time	6:00 pm	Holy Mass
Monday 13 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 14 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 15 th July	St Bonaventure	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Priest's intention
Thursday 16 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Friday 17 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Joseph George RIP (Fr Mathew's father)
Saturday 18 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 19 th July	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass - People of the Parish
Ordinary Time	6:00 pm	Holy Mass

We are back – the New Normal

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 Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward - of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium - the parable - models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

Sea Sunday

Today is Sea Sunday, the day when we remember especially all seafarers. Stella Maris, previously known as the Apostleship of the Sea, is the Catholic organisation which serves seafarers from across the world, regardless of belief, nationality or race. In all the main ports in Great Britain its team of chaplains and volunteer ship visitors visit thousands of seafarers each year, meeting their needs through the provision of help, support and advice. Recognising and responding to the needs of seafarers is part of the Apostleship of the Sea's pastoral care. Many seafarers suffer loneliness, far from home and cut off from their own culture, family and friends. Usually on this day, there is a special collection taken to provide financial help and support to the organisation but this year due to the Coronavirus restrictions, The Bishops Conference of Scotland, England and Wales has decided to defer this until December. However, we are still asked to remember all seafarers in our prayers.

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.

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 Evelyn Porter-Jones, Catherine Head, Ronald Bailey, Bishop Alan Clark, Rose Lee, Bridget Atkins and

Peggy Oxley 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 Development

Before Christmas we put up plans in the Guild room and on the church notice board describing a number of changes which were being considered to improve the front area of the church. The purpose of our original plan was to provide an accessible toilet and step free area for less able parishioners, and an easier route from the church to a children's liturgy area. We also wanted to provide a larger area than the current guild room for coffee and other social meetings, and a more welcoming weatherproof area for visitors waiting for baptism, funeral and other services.

The diocese and its architectural advisers did not approve development that substantially changed the frontage of the church and we were asked to consider development at the side of the church rather than at the front.

This we have done and the revised plan now shown on the church notice board has been developed, and received an encouraging early response from the Diocese.

The plans include construction of a new social space opening onto the rear garden and with accessible toilet facilities, reduction in depth of the stepped area at the front of the church to provide better vehicular access and widening/reconfiguring of the current ramp. Further details and a copy of the plans can be found on the parish web site.

Owing to the current restrictions on gatherings we are unable to hold a Parish meeting to discuss the proposals but your feedback and comments would welcome. Please either use the contact form on the web site and select "Finance" to send feedback to the Finance committee or contact Father Mathew, Chris Croker, Andrew Ford, Linis Dolby and Declan Moore directly.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 12th July, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Collect:

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. 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. 55:10-11 *The rain makes the earth give growth.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.64: 10-14

Response to the psalm is: Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You care for the earth, give it water
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat,
they shout for joy, yes, they sing..

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

Second Reading: Romans 8:9, 18-23 *If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: Matt. 13: 1-23 *A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: *You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.* But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Prayer after Communion:

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. Through Christ our Lord.