

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.*

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 19th July, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 16th Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 19 th July	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass
Monday 20 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 21 st July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 22 nd July	St Mary Magdalen	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Thursday 23 rd July	St Bridget	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 24 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Laura Croker RIP
Saturday 25 th July	St James	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 26 th July	8:00 am	Holy Mass
17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
	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

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realised until the final judgement. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgement, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed - the smallest of all seeds - will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgement rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Patronal Feast

Wednesday of this week, 22nd July, is the feast day of our patron saint, St Mary Magdalen, a fitting day to make the extra effort to attend Mass weekday Mass.

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.

Parish 150 Club

The prize draws for this year, delayed due to the Coronavirus restrictions and lock down measures, will be made next Sunday, 25th July, after 10:00 Mass. The prizes drawn then will be for April, May, June and July together with the June bonus prizes. Anybody wishing to witness the draws will be welcome in the Guild Room after Mass, subject of course to social distancing.

Building Development Work

Our neighbour at No 2 Highfield Approach, the house opposite the church, will shortly be embarking on some building work that is likely to last for 6 or 7 months. As part of this work, it has been agreed that the building contractor will have access to the hall car park to erect scaffolding when the new walls are built along the boundary line. It has also been agreed that the leylandii trees in the front right hand side of the car park will be removed, including roots, and be replaced by a 1.8 metre high close boarded wooden fence to separate the properties, with the car park surface being made good. After the building works are complete, some new permanent concrete bollards will be installed in the car park to protect the external wall of the building from accidental car damage. Chris Croker is our contact with the building developer, so any queries, questions or concerns in regard to this work should be directed to Chris direct, using the finance@marymagdalens.org email address or using the contact form on the parish web site.

Security Camera

A new security camera with audio capability has been installed in the narthex of the church. Please be aware that behaviours and conversations held in the narthex may be visible to or overheard by others via this camera.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 19th July, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Collect:

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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: Wis. 12:13,16-19 *After sin you will grant repentance.*

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.85: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Response to the psalm is: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
Turn and take pity on me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27 *The Spirit expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words.*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matt. 13: 24-23 *Let them both grow until the harvest.*

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'" He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.' In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world. Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Prayer over the Offerings:

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lords, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Prayer after Communion:

Graciously be present to your people, we pray O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.. Through Christ our Lord.