

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.*

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 26th July, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 17th Week of the Year

Services This Week

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
Ordinary Time	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – Carter family Foundation Mass

Monday 27 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family

Tuesday 28 th July	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family

Wednesday 29 th July	St Martha	
	No Mass today	

Thursday 30 th July	Feria	
	No Mass today	

Friday 31 st July	St Ignatius of Loyola	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Westbrook Foundation Mass

Saturday 1 st August	St Alphonsus	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Glendenning Foundation Mass

Sunday 2 nd August	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Fr Alfred Bull Foundation Mass
18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass – The 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 concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgement, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

Mass on 29th and 30th July

There will be no Masses on Wednesday and Thursday, 29th or 30th July, as Fr Mathew will be in Norwich for the Diaconal ordinations. He will be back early afternoon but due to his absence, we are looking for volunteers to open the church at 10.00 am and Close it at 12 noon to allow private prayer visits on those days. If you can help, please speak to Fr Mathew today.

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 Stephen Moss, James Barrett, Frederick Scoging, Karl Barc, Mary Sheridan, John Pery, Josef Czczepanko, Mark Cooper, Cyril Robinson, Anne Mongan, Ann Garnet, Leonard Gracey and William Brennan 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.

Canon Patrick Cleary

We offer our congratulations and prayerful wishes to Fr. Patrick Cleary who has been appointed a Canon of our Cathedral Chapter. His installation will be announced later. It is particularly glad news for us and for many parishioners it will bring the memories of his first Holy Mass at our church.

St Marys Parish

Fr Alan Hodgson is leaving St Marys, Woodbridge Road to become assistant priest at the church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs in Cambridge. He has endeared himself to many in Ipswich during his time at St Marys, and we wish him every blessing in his new position. He is to be replaced by Fr Paul Spellman.

Diocesan Ordination

Seminarian Piotr (Peter) Wygnanski was ordained yesterday as a priest in the Diocese of East Anglia at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, the first of four ordinations of priests and deacons over the coming summer. Peter, a fifth year seminarian at The Venerable English College in Rome who grew up in Cambridge, was ordained as a transitory deacon in Rome last year by Bishop Alan Hopes. We give thanks for this vocation and additional priest for our Diocese. Please remember Peter and his family in your prayers.

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 this morning, after 10:00 Mass. The prizes drawn 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. Prize winners will be published on the parish web site and in next week's newsletter.

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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 26th July, 2020

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Collect: O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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: Kings 3:5,7-12 *You have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 118:57,72,76-77,127-130

Response to the psalm is: Lord how I love your law!

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold.

That is why I love your commands
more than the finest gold,
that is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways.

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight.

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30 *God intended us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 13: 44-52 *He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Prayer over the Offerings: Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Prayer after Communion: We have consumed, O Lord, this divine sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.