

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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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.*

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9th August, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 19th Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 9 th	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Cleary family foundation Mass
19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass

Monday 10 th	St Lawrence
	10:00 am Holy Mass

Tuesday 11 th	St Clare
	10:00 am Holy Mass

Wednesday 12 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass

Thursday 13 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass

Friday 14 th	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe
	10:00 am Holy Mass

Saturday 15 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass

Sunday 16 th	8:00 am	Holy Mass
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	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.

Today's Gospel

Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.

The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.

Funerals this Week

Sadly this week we have held two funerals for parishioners. On Wednesday 5th, the funeral of Fu-Lien Simpson took place at the Ipswich Crematorium. Fu-Lien was Vietnamese but married to an English man and lived in Ipswich. She is survived by her three children. The service included the hymn Amazing Grace sung in Vietnamese and was streamed live so relatives in Vietnam could take part in the service.

On Friday the funeral service was held at St Mary Magdalens of Adam Pawlowski who was married to Siobhan here at St Mary Magdalens, and his daughter Maddy was the first baptism in the newly installed font.

Please pray for the repose of their souls and remember both families and all their friends in their grieving.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Call for Assistance

Help needed! With the closure of the church due to the Covid-19 restrictions, there has been a drop in the amount of maintenance and upkeep of the property that has been taking place, so much so that we have received a complaint from a neighbour about the state of the beech hedge bordering Highfield Approach. We are organising a working party for Saturday morning, 15th August, between 10:30 and 13:00 to clip the hedge and tidy the cuttings. If you have a hedge trimmer and or shears you can bring along that would help enormously. If you can help, please speak to either Andrew Ford or Chris Croker, or use the contact form on the parish web site and send a message to "Property Maintenance". We further need help in taking the cuttings to the Council refuse facility in Portman Road. Trips to this facility now have to be booked in advance, including the registration number of the vehicle to be used, so we need a few people who can each take some of the cuttings and book a trip to dispose of these in the green recycling bin. Again please let us know as above if you can assist.

Next the church hall – as you know this generates significant income for the parish which has been dramatically reduced due to the Covid closures of the organisations that hired it. One of these is looking to restart soon and in readiness for this, we need to carry out some cleaning and preparation works to make it Covid friendly. We need 3 or 4 volunteers who can give some time on Tuesday 18th August to help clean the hall in readiness for this to reopen in September. If you can

help, please contact Linis Dolby or use the contact details above to advise of your availability and willingness to assist.

Calling All Artists

Work has been progressing in anticipation and readiness for the building works associated with the new parish rooms. The garage, which will need to be demolished as part of this work, has been tidied and emptied and in so doing, the crib figures that are placed on the canopy above the church entrance each year have been found to be looking a little sad with the ravages of time and weather. Is there a budding artist/restorer in the parish who would be prepared to carry out minor repairs and painting of these figures ready for Christmas? They are only viewed from a distance, so we are not looking for Michaelangelo! .Please speak to Fr Mathew or use the contact form on the web site.

On the same topic, there are a few items that may be of interest to somebody. These include a small metal office/homework desk, a clothes hanging rail stand with cover, small wooden chest 30x12x12, fitness bike, 3 folding music stands, 5 small metpost bases and garden posts, an aluminium cooking tray and lots of useful bits of wood and Melamine shelving. These are free to a good home on a first come first served basis (any donations gratefully received!)

Coronavirus Restrictions

The government is easing lockdown rules means 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. ***New rules come into force again next week so please note that from Sunday 9th August, you will be required to wear a face covering in church when attending Mass.*** 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, 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 William Kerr, Michael Whitehead, Iris Harvey, Veronica Hudson and Bridget Keenan whose anniversaries occur at 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.

Entrance Antiphon:

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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 19:9,11-13 *Stand on the mountain ain before the Lord.*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 84:9-14

Response to the psalm is: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say
a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
And justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5 *I would willingly be condemned if it could help my brothers.*

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 14:22-33 *Tell me to come to you across the water.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Prayer after Communion: May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord.