

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Mathew George

✉ [parishpriest@marymagdalens.org](mailto:parishpriest@marymagdalens.org)

**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.*

## **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

### **Sunday Readings: Year A**

### **Weekday Readings: Year II, 20<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year**

## **Services This Week**

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Holy Mass - Malwina Holy Mass - Agnes Gorman & family Holy Mass - The People of the Parish
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass - Janes family
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass - Vieira family
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass - Andrew Newton
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	St Bernard 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	St Pius 10 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass – The People of the Parish 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 we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions - what comes out of us - make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

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## **CAFOD Emergency Coronavirus Appeal**

These are difficult times. Many of us here in the UK have suffered terribly because of coronavirus and the consequent grief, anxiety, and hardship. In the world's poorest countries, fragile health care systems are not coping with a pandemic and families are going hungry because people cannot go out to earn money. CAFOD is helping protect and improve the lives of our sisters and brothers during this global emergency. If you can support its Coronavirus Appeal please donate via the CAFOD web site by visiting <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Coronavirus-response> or follow the link from the parish web site.

Our brothers and sisters overseas do not have access to health systems as brilliant as ours. Please consider signing CAFOD's online petition asking the Prime Minister to ensure that the most vulnerable people are the priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. Find out more and sign on the CAFOD web site by visiting <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1> or follow the link from the parish web site.

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## **Call for Assistance**

Help needed! As you know the church hall 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **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!)

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### **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 and wear a face mask during Mass and other services in church. 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. Also there are still a large number of Masses being streamed live for the benefit of those who cannot or do not feel safe in attending church in person. There are about 20 churches streaming Mass within our own diocese and many more on a global basis. You can find a directory of live Catholic Masses on line by visiting [www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/)

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.

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### **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.

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### **Own Dear Departed**

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Bridget Keenan, Michael Whitbread, Francis Brent and Claude Turner 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.*

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## ***The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 16<sup>h</sup> August, 2020***

**Entrance Antiphon:** A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. 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:** Apoc. 11:19;12:1-6,10 *A woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon.*

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps. 44:10-12,16

*Response to the psalm is: On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold*

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.  
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:  
He is your lord, pay homage to him.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
They pass within the palace of the king.

**Second Reading:** 1Cor. 15:20-26 *Christ as the first-fruits and then those who belong to him.*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up to heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-56 *The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy – according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

**Prayer over the Offerings:** May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you. Through Christ Our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon:** All generations will call me blessed, for he has done great things for me.

**Prayer after Communion:** Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.