

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 www.rcea.org.uk

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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.*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: 6th September, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 23rd Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 6 th – 23 rd	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Paulina & Zofia
Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Richard Fox RIP
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass - The People of the Parish

Monday 7th Feria
10:00 am Holy Mass – Janes family

Tuesday 8th The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00 am Holy Mass – Vieira family

Wednesday 9th Feria
10:00 am Holy Mass – Bolt family foundation Mass

Thursday 10th Feria
10:00 am Holy Mass – William Cowan foundation Mass

Friday 11th Feria
10:00 am Holy Mass – Frank Janes foundation Mass

Saturday 12th Feria
10:00 am Holy Mass – Mariakutty Mathew

Sunday 13th – 8:00 am Holy Mass – Robert & Mary RIP
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 am Holy Mass – Chacko Vikas' intention
6:00 pm Holy Mass - The People of the Parish

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, the sign of peace will not be exchanged 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 and remember that government regulations require that you wear a face covering 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 reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word *church* in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church", Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

Sunday Obligation

The Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed with the obligation to attend Sunday Mass during the Coronavirus pandemic, even though churches are now re-open and services are being held. Those who are nervous about attending church on a Sunday might like to consider attending a weekday Mass instead when the church is less crowded. Alternatively, there are a number of churches - local, national and international - which are streaming Masses live on the internet. A directory of Live Catholic Masses on line can be found on the web site of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) web site at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/> or you can follow the link on the Mass Times page of the parish web site.

Parish 150 Club

The August prize draw of the 150 Club was made last Sunday 30th August in the Guild Room after 10:00 Mass. Congratulations to the following winners shown below:

First	£15	No 243	Mr & Mrs M Pakes
Second	£10	No 16	Master F Anderson-Hurst
Third	£5	No 108	Mrs A Bardwell
Fourth	£5	No 178	Mr & Mrs A Ford

Pilgrimage Walk to the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace

The Shrine of Our Lady of Grace in Ipswich was second only in this country to Walsingham. The Guild of Our Lady of Ipswich organises an annual pilgrimage walk to the shrine and this year the walk will take place next Sunday, 13th September. The walk starts at 3:00 pm at the church of St Peter on the Quay and ends at the new shrine in St Mary Elms church, via the Lady Lane site of the original shrine. The route was originally planned as a processions route by Cardinal Wolsey, and was re-instated by the Guild of Our Lady of Ipswich, more recently known as Merymana, in 1978. The route is about 1 mile in length over easy terrain and outside so should not contravene any Covid regulations. All are welcome to this ecumenical walk.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

The annual *Ride & Stride* sponsored event organised by the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust takes place next Saturday, 12th September. St Mary Magdalens will be open to receive walkers and riders

but we need volunteers to staff the church to sign the attendance sheets of visitors. If you can help please speak to Fr Mathew today. If you have a love of walking or are a keen cyclist and would like to get involved in this event, full details can be found on the SHCT web site at <https://shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

Fr Mathias

We have received an email from Fr Mathias who is at home in Nigeria having taken up an appointment as a teacher at the Bigard Seminary in the city of Enugu, arguably the largest seminary in the world with a population of over 800 seminarians. Due to COVID, they are on a forced break, until October when a new session begins so teaching has been on-line using Google classroom and Zoom. Fr Mathias has asked for his best wishes to be passed on to everybody in the parish.

New Diocesan Ministry

Are you a good listener? Do you have compassion for others in need? The Diocese of East Anglia is initiating a Catholic Listening and Prayer Ministry to provide confidential support to those wishing to share their concerns with a trustworthy helper. Full training and supervision will be given to those who wish to be part of this new ministry after a simple interview process. If you feel you may have the empathy, availability and agreement with Church teaching, please email mflc.eastanglia@yahoo.co.uk. See the poster in the narthex for further details.

Eucharistic Home Visits

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) has lifted the restrictions on home visits in line with Government relaxation of some of the Covid regulations. Home visits by priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may now restart, subject to the guidelines laid down by the CBCEW. If you or a family member is unable to attend Mass due to sickness and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please let Fr Mathew know and arrangements will be made for a home visit to be made. Any Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion involved in home visits should please download a copy of the *Guidance for Acts of Worship – Pastoral Care of the Sick* from the parish web site which must be followed.

Congratulations and Prayerful wishes

Congratulations and prayerful wishes to Jisha Jaison and Tony Tom who celebrated their marriage at our church on Saturday 29th August.

We wish all blessings for Creaton Douglas and Steven Laing who will celebrate their adult baptism and confirmation today during the Mass at 6.00pm. They were supposed to be baptised at the Easter Vigil in April but this had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

Please also pray for Marlee Kingham who will be baptised next Sunday, 13th September. Her baptism was originally arranged for May but again had to be delayed due to the pandemic.

First Holy Communion

Fr Mathew will soon be contacting the parents of the children who were supposed to make their First Holy Communion in May this year. The traditional style of all children making their First Holy Communion together in one celebration may not be possible in the current circumstances. Fr Mathew will be happy discuss arrangements with parents and spread out First Holy Communions according to the convenience of the families. We will not be starting a new First Holy Communion group until we receive guidance from the diocese, and such guidance is likely to depend on the way 'children going back to school' works out.

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 Javoslaw Bodhar, Patrick Clifford, Katherine Brett, Jennifer Bishop, Canon William Burrows, Thomas Finnegan and Hilda Moss 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:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Collect:

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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: Eze. 33:7-9

If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 94:1-2, 6-9

Response to the psalm is: *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we

the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work."

Second Reading: Rom. 13:8-10

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. . Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 18:15-20

If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.