

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

✉ 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.*

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 13th September, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 24th Week of the Year

Services This Week

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

Monday 14 th	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Janes family

Tuesday 15 th	Our Lady of Sorrows
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Vieira family

Wednesday 16 th	Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Holy Souls

Thursday 17 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – James & Margaret Cleary RIP

Friday 18 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass Laura, Milo & Jackson

Saturday 19 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass- Theresa's intention

Sunday 20 th –	8:00 am	Holy Mass – FR Michael Hood
25 th Sunday in	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Bonifacio Pador RIP
Ordinary Time	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 directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt - a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity - the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: if we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

Shrines of the Holy Land

With Holy Week celebrations closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis postponed the traditional Good Friday collection for the Holy Land to September. "The Christian communities in the Holy Land, while exposed to the risk of contagion and often living in very trying circumstances, benefit every year from the generous solidarity of the faithful throughout the world, to be able to continue their evangelical presence, as well as to maintain schools and welfare structures open to all citizens for education, peaceful coexistence and care, especially for the smallest and poorest ones," the Vatican said. The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, an administratively autonomous province of the Franciscan order, uses the collection to carry out its mission of preserving most of the shrines connected with the life of Jesus as well as for providing pastoral care to the region's Catholics, running schools, operating charitable institutions and training future priests and religious. The delayed collection will be taken at all Masses today. For those not attending Mass in person, donations may be made using faster payments through internet banking platforms, or via the *Dona On-Line Offertory Collection* on the Diocesan web site.

St Pancras Primary School

St Pancras primary school has places available for the current academic year. 2020/2021. If you are aware of somebody who currently looking for a school place for their child in a Catholic primary school setting, there are places available in Reception Class, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6.

If you require further information or would like to talk with a member of staff please contact Mrs Lucille Martin - Head of School or Mrs Karen Cork on 01473 742074.

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 today, 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 reinstated by the Guild of Our Lady of Ipswich, more recently known as Meryemana, 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.

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

Please remember in your prayers, Creaton Douglas and Steven Laing who were received into the church last Sunday at 6:00 Mass and celebrated their adult baptism and confirmation

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

Clergy Changes

As the autumn begins, Bishop Alan Hopes has announced a series of moves and new appointments of priests across the diocese. None immediately affect St Mary Magdalen parish, but those that may be of interest include:

Fr Dick Healey: retires from parish ministry and becomes chaplain to the Montana Nuns in Great Barton.

Fr Pat Cleary: as previously announced in the newsletter, has accepted the Bishop's invitation to be appointed as a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter.

Fr Paul Spellman: appointed as Assistant Priest of St Mary's in Ipswich with the Holy Family, Kesgrave.

Fr John Warrington: is taking up the position of Parish Priest at St Felix in Haverhill, vacant since the death of Fr Michael Teader in February.

To see the full list of changes, you can follow the link on the parish web site.

Pro-Life Virtual Walsingham Pilgrimage

The annual Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, this year being the 37th, takes place on Sunday 27th September and will be led by Bishop Marcus Stock of Leeds. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, this year the pilgrimage will be virtual, allowing us all to take part from the comfort of our own homes. Details of the programme of the day can be found on the poster in the narthex, or from the parish web site, where you can also find the live stream links to follow for on-line participation.

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 Communion 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 Mary Bulbeck, Minnie Morris, James Cleary, Maria Wojciechowski, Mike Hennessy, Sarah Quinn and James Wright 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.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 13th September, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Collect:

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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: Ecc. 27:33-28:9 *Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 102:1-4,9-12

Response to the psalm is: *The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy..*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings

He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins..

Second Reading: Rom. 14:7-9 *Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 18:21-35

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

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Prayer over the Offerings: Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Prayer after Communion:

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ Our Lord.