

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: Mrs Lucille Martin

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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.*

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 20th September, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 25th Week of the Year

Services This Week

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

Monday 21st St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
No Mass Today

Tuesday 22 nd	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Vieira family

Wednesday 23 rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Holy Souls

Thursday 24 th	Our Lady of Walsingham
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Janes family

Friday 25 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Holy Souls

Saturday 26 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Holy Souls

Sunday 27 th –	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Jim & Molly
26 th Sunday in	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Creaton's intention
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 entering, leaving and inside 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. By not using some pews, the capacity of the church is inevitably reduced and whilst there is no fixed maximum number of persons allowed inside the building as long as social distancing is maintained, should it be the case that the church is full, you will need to return at another time.

Today's Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offence to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who laboured in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

CAFOD

Harvest is approaching, but many families are facing chronic food shortages and malnutrition as a result of Coronavirus. More than ever it is vital to come together, even from a distance, and bring hope and help to those who are most in need. To this end, CAFOD is organising a series of online events in support of its Harvest Appeal and while we can't meet face to face, you can listen to inspiring talks about the great work you support. The first online talks will be held on Thursday this week, 17th September. In the morning, from 11:00 to 12:00 am, there will be *Prayer and Chat* - come together in prayer and reflection, followed by a virtual coffee morning. In the evening from 6:00 to 7:00 pm *Stories from CAFOD Partners: Zambia and Debt*. As part of CAFOD's campaign on debt cancellation, you are invited to hear directly from local experts at Caritas Zambia on a growing debt crisis and how it affects their communities and the challenges they face in light of COVID-19. Visit CAFOD's website to register for these free sessions or follow the link on the parish web site.

World day of Prayer for Migrants

This year the World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on 27th September. As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen "Forced like Jesus Christ to flee". The message focuses on the pastoral care of internally displaced people, who currently number over 41 million worldwide. As the title makes clear, the message originates in the experience of the young Jesus and his family as displaced persons and refugees. This experience provides a specific Christological grounding for the Christian action of welcome or hospitality. Over the coming months, the theme will be developed in six sub-themes expressed in six pairs of verbs: to know in order to understand; to draw near so as to serve; to listen in order to reconcile; to share and thus to grow; to involve in order to promote; and finally, to collaborate and therefore to build. This for us is an opportunity pray for and support those who suffer more than us in these difficult times

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.

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.

Peter's Pence

On 29th April 2020, the Director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni, announced that: "Considering the current health emergency, the Holy Father has established that, for the current year 2020, the Peter's Pence collection, which traditionally takes place around the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on 29th June, will be transferred throughout the world to the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 4th October, the memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi". The Peter's Pence collection is a gesture of solidarity. Through it, every member of the faithful can participate in the activity of the Pope as Pastor of the universal Church. It is an activity that also supports the most needy and ecclesial communities in difficulty who approach the Apostolic See for help. It is an ancient practice which began with the first community of the apostles and it continues to be repeated because charity distinguishes the disciples of Jesus: "From this, they will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13, 35). This retiring collection will be taken on Sunday 4th October.

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, Marlee Kingham who was baptised last Sunday, 13th September, after her baptism had to be rearranged when the intended May baptism was postponed.

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. The programme for the day can be found on the poster in the narthex, or from the parish web site, where you can also find the 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 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.

Please also remember especially Ernest Thomas, our First Holy Communion catechist, who is seriously ill in hospital.

Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Bertie Armes, John Murphy, Patrick Macken, Mary Moss and Alison Clarke 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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 20th September, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Collect:

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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: Isa. 55:6-9 *My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 144:2-3,8-9,17-18

Response to the psalm is: *The Lord is close to all who call him.*

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

Second Reading: Phil. 1:20-24,27 *Life to me is Christ.*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

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. 20:1-16 *Why be envious because I am generous?*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Prayer over the Offerings: Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may we always be firm in keeping your statutes.

Prayer after Communion:

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ Our Lord.