

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.*

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 27th September, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 26th Week of the Year

Services This Week

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

Monday 28 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Janes family

Tuesday 29 th	Saints Michael and Gabriel, Archangels
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Vieira family

Wednesday 30 th	St Jerome
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Thorne & Curry families

Thursday 1 st October	St Therese of the Child Jesus
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Holy Souls

Friday 2 nd	The Holy Guardian Angels
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Holy Souls

Saturday 3 rd	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Holy Souls

Sunday 4 th – 27 th	8:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday in	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Angela Vieira
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

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent - tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

CAFOD

This year CAFOD's Family Harvest Fast Day is on 9th October to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate what you can at the second collection on Sunday 11th October. You are welcome to make donations online. The details of our parish account are on our website. Please make sure that you put the payment reference as CAFOD FAST.

As a further fund raiser this year, CAFOD is running the World Food Day Raffle, with over £6000 cash prizes. The draw will be made on 16th October. Tickets are £1 each and can be purchased on line on the CAFOD web site up to October 2nd.

World day of Prayer for Migrants

This year the World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees is celebrated today, 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 next Sunday.

Covid 19 Test & Trace App

As you may know, this week the NHS Test and Trace app for smart phones was released, and we have all been encouraged to download the app which will notify you if you have come into contact with someone who tests positive for Coronavirus. In the narthex you will find a QR code which you can scan using the app and you will then be "checked in" to the church so that you can be alerted should anybody else present at the same time as you subsequently test positive for Coronavirus. You can find more information about the app on the parish web site.

150 Club

The September draw for the parish 150 Club is due to be made today. However, due to the absence of one of the organisers, this has been postponed and will now be made next Sunday, 4th October.

In order to minimise any possible infection risk by passing paperwork around, we are now able, and would prefer, to pay 150 Club prizes direct to the winners' bank accounts rather than by cheque. If you would like to receive any prizes in this way, please advise in writing by email to 150club@marymagdalens.org giving the bank account number and sort code to receive any prize. This is necessary for GDPR reasons. Any persons who have already received prizes in this way need not re-register.

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.

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.

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 Edward Cuffe, Martin Curry, Stephen Smith, and Norman Nichols 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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 27th September, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Collect: O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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. 18:25-28 *When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 244-9

Response to the psalm is: *Remember your mercy, Lord.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

Second Reading: Phil. 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: *His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 21:28-32

He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Prayer over the Offerings: Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Prayer after Communion:

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.