

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.*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 4th October, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 27th Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 4 th – 27 th	8:00 am	Holy Mass – 1 st Holy Communion Children
Sunday in	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Angela Vieira
Ordinary Time	6:00 pm	Holy Mass - The People of the Parish
Monday 5 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 6 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 7 th	Our Lady of the Rosary	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Bryan O'Neil
Thursday 8 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Friday 9 th	St John Henry Newman	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Saturday 10 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Sunday 11 th –	8:00 am	Holy Mass
28 th Sunday in	10:00 am	Holy Mass
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 once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbours can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways - through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?

CAFOD

This year CAFOD's Family Harvest Fast Day is this Friday, 9th October, and is focussed on helping 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 next week 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. There are a series of special on-line events organised by CAFOD to mark Harvest Fast Day – details can be found on the parish web site.

First Holy Communion

Today Tarquin Degville and Luciano La Bella will be making their First Holy Communion during the Mass at 10.00 am. Please pray for them, and their families. Please also pray for their catechist Ernest Thomas who is unwell and will not be able to be there for their First Holy Communion. In accordance with the present rules, they will be seated as two separate family units of four and five on either side of the sanctuary where the servers used to sit before the pandemic and will be socially distanced both from the congregation and the priest. In the coming weeks we will have few more First Holy Communion Masses which may be celebrated at other Sunday Mass times, or on a Saturday or weekday if that fits better with individual family's arrangements.

Bishop Alan's Message about Mass Attendance

The Holy Father has been encouraging everyone to try to return to our normal pattern of worship and prayer and especially to come together for the celebration of Mass which is the source and summit of the Church's life and mission. I hope it may be possible for our people to do so providing that they are not self-isolating. I am very pleased that our Diocesan Schools have all been able to open safely – I am grateful to our head-teachers and staff for making this possible in spite of all the challenges they are facing. May the Lord give us strength and hope to persevere in these days!

50th Anniversary of the Canonisation of the 40 English Martyrs

This Anniversary occurs on Sunday 25th October. There will be a Votive Mass of the Forty Martyrs in our parish that day. Many of the martyrs are from our own Diocese – a full list of their names and

dates of martyrdom is available on the parish website.

Beatification of Carlo Acutis

Carlo Acutis was born on 3rd May 1981 in East London and died on 12th October 2006. He was well-known for his devotion to the Eucharist, and his talent for computers, which he used to give witness to his faith during his illness with leukaemia. He is a wonderful example for young people, and will be beatified on 8th October in Assisi. More information can be found on the Catholic News Agency web site or by following the link on the parish web site.

World Mission Sunday

This year's World Mission Sunday falls on 18th October. On this day the whole Church unites in prayer for its missionary activity, and in collecting funds to support Catholic communities across the world living in situations of poverty and privation. The need is even greater this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in countries with inadequate financial and medical resources. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year is 'Here I am, send me!' There will be retiring collection for Missio on 25th October. For more information about World Mission Sunday, please visit www.missio.org.uk.

St Pancras Primary School

St Pancras primary school has places available for the current academic year. 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.

St Mary's Primary School

Applications for a reception class place at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Woodbridge Road, in 2021 should be completed online and submitted to Suffolk County Council to arrive before 15th January 2021. It is essential that you also submit a completed Supplementary Information Form (SIF) direct to St Mary's school before the deadline date of 15th January 2021. The SIF can be found on the school website or follow the link on the parish web site. Any questions in regard to this matter should be directed to the school using the email address admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk.

Peter's Pence

Today we will take a retiring collection for 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".

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.

Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Norman Nicholas, Peter Youngman, Margaret Nichols, Jean Denny and Giuseppe Buglione 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: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Collect: Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. 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. 5:1-7

The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm: Response to the psalm is: *The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.*

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

to plant it you drove out the nations.

It stretched out its branches to the sea,

to the Great River is stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls?

It is plucked by all who pass by.

It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,

devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,

look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back;

let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Phil. 4:6-9

The God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 21:33-43

He will lease the vineyard to other tenants.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?' I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

Prayer over the Offerings: Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

Prayer after Communion: Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume. Through Christ our Lord.