

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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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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*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.*

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 11th October, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 28th Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 11 th – 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Deceased members of the Poll family
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – Open intention

Monday 12 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Janes family

Tuesday 13 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Vieira family

Wednesday 14 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Samuel Gagen RIP

Thursday 15 th	St Teresa of Jesus No Mass Today
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Friday 16 th	Feria
	10:00 am Holy Mass – Tomy Thachaparambil RIP

Saturday 17 th	St Ignatius of Antioch
	10:00 am Holy Mass

Sunday 18 th – 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass - The People of the Parish
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Theo and Ezme
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – Ernest Thomas RIP

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

Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel. In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward - the king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation, yet he asks us to repent of our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.

CAFOD

Friday was CAFOD's Family Harvest Fast Day and hopefully you all supported this by partaking of a simple meal in solidarity with those unfortunates less well off than ourselves. Today there is a collection for CAFOD to assist its work of relieving the suffering of those people facing the worst of the Coronavirus crisis. Please pray for all those affected and donate what you can to the retiring collection. There are special donation envelopes in the narthex – please use one and Gift Aid your donation if you are a tax payer. You are also welcome to make donations online to the parish bank account – details can be found on the parish web site. Please make sure that you enter the payment reference as CAFOD FAST to differentiate this from a donation to the parish. You can also donate easily via text. Just text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising activities via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. Please be as generous as you can.

First Holy Communion

Last Sunday, Tarquin Degville and Luciano La Bella made their First Holy Communion during the Mass at 10.00 am.

Next Sunday Ezmae Anderson and Theo Brennan will be making their First Holy Communion during the Mass at 10.00am. They will be seated as two separate family units of six each on both sides of the Sanctuary socially distanced both from the congregation and the priest. Please pray for them all and their and their families.

In the coming weeks we will have few more First Holy Communions some at the evening Mass as our attendance at that Mass is the lowest. Parents are also welcomed to choose our Saturday

Ernest Thomas RIP

Ernest Thomas, our First Holy Communion Catechist and safeguarding representative died peacefully on Wednesday morning. He had received communion on Sunday and the Sacrament of the Sick on Monday. May he rest in peace. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the bereaved relatives. The funeral arrangements are yet to be finalised.

Parish 150 Club

The winning numbers in the September prize draw, which was made on Sunday 4th October 2020 are shown below. Congratulations to all the following winners:

First	£15	No 121	Mrs R Shorten
Second	£10	No 107	Mr & Mrs R Cork
Third	£5	No 189	Mr & Mrs T Smith
Fourth	£5	No 76	Mrs B Knox
First Bonus	£40	No 11	Mr F Vieira
Second Bonus	£20	No 54	Mrs C Long

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.

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.

Rosary Whirlwind British Isles: October 2020; For a Faith, Life and Pace

Rosary Whirlwind will invoke the mighty intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary inviting a whirlwind of Heavenly Grace to blow where it wills across our nations. On Tuesday October 13th - Feast of Our Lady of Fatima of the Holy Rosary we will undertake the Rosary Whirlwind British Isles from wherever we are. The parish will have the Rosary after the Mass at 10.00am. You are invited to sign up your location on the Map at www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk if you are praying the rosary at home or at your work place. On Saturday October 31st the eve of All Saints – there will be a National Rosary Relay Rally from 9 am to 9 pm and we plan to be part of it by praying the Rosary after Mass. The bishop will be leading the Rosary from our Cathedral at 2.00 pm which will be live streamed.

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 Frederick Dooley, Leslie Moss, Agnes Marchant, William Lynch, June Drew, John Brown, Jean Wade-Smith and Josef Stendera 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.

Mass Readings: Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11th October, 2020

Entrance Antiphon: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Collect: May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works. 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. 25:6-10 *The Lord will prepare a banquet, and will wipe away tears from every cheek..*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm: Response to the psalm is: *In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures

where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,

to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;

he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness

no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Second Reading: Phil. 4:121-14,19-20 *There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt. 22:1-14

Invite everyone you can find to the wedding.

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Prayer over the Offerings: Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Prayer after Communion: We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.