

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

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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.*

Feast of All Saints: 1st November, 2020

Sunday Readings: Year A

Weekday Readings: Year II, 31st Week of the Year

Services This Week

Sunday 1 st November Feast of All Saints	8:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Holy Mass - The People of the Parish Holy Mass – Holy Mass –
Monday 2 nd	All Souls Day 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 3 rd	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 4 th	St Charles Borromeo 11:00 am	Requiem Mass – Ernest Thomas RIP
Thursday 5 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 6 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 7 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 8 th – 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Holy Mass - The People of the Parish Holy Mass Holy Mass

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

Every year the Church recalls the example, witness, and prayer of the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as Saints. These saints are more than just role models; they are family members with whom we continue to share relation, in a bond of prayer, called the Communion of Saints. Every year when we celebrate this day, the Gospel we proclaim recalls for us Jesus' teaching about happiness, the Beatitudes. We quickly note in this reading that none of those Jesus names as "blessed" or "happy" are expected . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

What does Jesus mean when he uses the word "blessed?" This word is sometimes translated as "happy" or "fortunate" or "favoured." In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, who mourn, who are persecuted. This might have been welcome and surprising news to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Because of this, it is natural that we proclaim this Gospel on the Feast of All Saints. Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived. On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

The Feast of All Saints Day

All Saints' Day was formally started by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13th in 609 AD. Boniface IV also established All Souls' Day, which follows All Saints. All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1st. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2nd, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven.

Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints - that is those recognised in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. Usually, All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day. However, in the current Coronavirus restricted times, this obligation has been waived by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

November – Month of the Holy Souls

The parish community as a whole will pray for the departed souls from our parish in the month of November. If you have anyone to be specially remembered, please write his or her names on a piece of paper and put it in the box on the altar. The box will remain on the altar for the whole month of November. There are also special envelopes in the Narthex to offer Masses for the dead.

The parish web site has been updated to include the record of the deceased of the parish and the days on which their anniversaries occur. This will enable us all to check regularly those people we remember and pray for those whose anniversary is occurring on each day – especially important in the month of November.

Ernest Thomas RIP

Ernest Thomas, our First Holy Communion Catechist and safeguarding representative died peacefully on Wednesday 7th October. A requiem Mass will be held this Wednesday 4th November at 11:00 am, in place of the normal 10:00 parish Mass that day – normal Mass attendees are welcome to attend subject to the normal social distancing rules. May he rest in peace. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the bereaved relatives.

Christmas 2020

It seems early to be thinking about Christmas, but clearly under the current restricted operations, services this year are going to be rather different from normal, and there is a strong possibility that any arrangements made may have to be changed should government guidance change between now and December. At this time, it is intended to say Mass at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December. This Mass will be aimed primarily at families with children. On Christmas morning, there will be Mass at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

It is possible that, being Christmas, these Masses will be very well attended, but in order to comply with social distancing regulations, numbers will have to be limited. To ensure safety and legal compliance, we are going to have to implement a booking system for places at these Masses. It is not possible to state a maximum number of people who can attend any one service, as the total will depend on the size of the parties – clearly the total accommodated will be bigger with a fewer number of larger family groups which do not have to be distanced, where as individuals attending

will need to be distanced from others leading to a lower total. To help this to be managed, you are asked to register your intention to attend the Christmas Masses and book places for your families as required. Places will be allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis. Please email bookings@marymagdalens.org or use the contact form on the parish web site – select Christmas 2020. Please provide your name, contact telephone number and email address, the Mass you wish to attend and the number in your party. You will receive a confirmation of your booking if you can be accommodated. Fr Mathew has said that should these Masses be heavily oversubscribed, he will say additional Masses to meet the demand, either later on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day.

Parish 150 Club

The October prize draw of the 150 Club was made in the Guild Room last Sunday. Congratulations to the winners who are shown below.

First	£15	No 226	Mrs D Casey
Second	£10	No 50	Mr & Mrs R Cork
Third	£5	No 255	Mrs S Sheppard
Fourth	£5	No 189	Mr & Mrs T Smith

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.

Financial Position of the Parish

Fr Mathew writes: Following a review of our financial position at a Finance Committee meeting last week, the parish made an operating loss of £3,000 for the 9 months ending 30th September and is projected to make a loss of £5,000 for the full year. Since the end of March when Coronavirus restrictions were first imposed our offertory has dropped by an average of £100 per week but I would like to express my thanks to all those parishioners who have continued to contribute during this period. An increased number of you are now paying by standing order or direct credit to the parish bank account which is assisting greatly and if anyone is not yet signed up to give by Gift aid I would encourage this as it increases the income we receive by 25%. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Chris Croker if you would like further information on our financial position and/or would like to sign up to the Giftaid scheme.

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 Peck, Stanley Manthorpe, Francis McMahon, Louise Scott, Doris Parker, Robin Haywood-Farmer, Patrick Walmsley-Cotham, Jessie Maksymiw, Teresa Schofield, Mabel Youngman, Evelyn Murray, Mary Ward, Winifred Flory, Jean Hynes, John Cuffe, Corrado Giudicianni, Walenty Bialobrzycki, Minnie Spooner, Margaret Woods, Mary Dwyer and Cyril Youngman 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: Feast of All Saints – 1st November, 2020

Entrance Antiphon:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. 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: Apoc. 7:2-4,9-14 *I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.*

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm: Response to the psalm is: *Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading: †John 3:1-3 *We shall see God as he really is..*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt, 5:1-12

Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

May these offerings we bring in honour of all the Saints be pleasing to you, O Lord, and grant that, just as we believe the Saints to be already assured of immortality, so may we experience their concern for our salvation. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Prayer after Communion:

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints, we implore your grace, so that, coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of your love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland. Through Christ our Lord.