

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Mathew George

✉ [parishpriest@marymagdalens.org](mailto:parishpriest@marymagdalens.org)

**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.*

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## **The Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**

**Sunday Readings: Year A**

**Weekday Readings: Year II, 34<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year**

### **Services This Week**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
November –  
Jesus Christ,  
King of the  
Universe

10:00 am

Holy Mass – Celebrated in private for the people of the parish

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Feria

10:00 am

Holy Mass – Celebrated in private for the intention of the Frank Edward Junior.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

St Andrew

10:00 am

Holy Mass – Celebrated in private for the intention of the Vieira family.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

Feria

10:00 am

Holy Mass – Celebrated in private for the intention of Leslie Payne RIP.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

Feria

10:00 am

Holy Mass at St Pancras School – Celebrated in private for the staff and students of St Pancras School.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

Feria

10:00 am

Holy Mass – Celebrated in private for the Deceased friends of the Wate and Gorman families.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

Feria

10:00 am

Holy Mass – Celebrated in private for the people of the parish.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday of Advent

10:00 am

Holy Mass – Celebrated in private for the intention of John Shorten.

## Lockdown II

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Parliament passed into law *The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020*, which came into force Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. In these Regulations, places of worship are permitted to remain open for certain purposes, and to attend a place of worship is listed as an acceptable reason to leave home. The purposes for which a place of worship may remain open are for "individual prayer" - "prayer by individuals which does not form part of communal worship." This means that, once again, we are in a position where we cannot attend the celebration of Mass in church and as such only private Masses will be celebrated in church during this lockdown period.

### Spiritual Communion

For those occasions when we can't be in our churches, an act of Spiritual Communion can help us keep Christ at the centre of our lives as we worship and pray at home.

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen*

### Today's Gospel

Today's Gospel passage is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on Jesus' life and ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones - the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself. When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones.

### The Feast of Christ the King

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, probably better known to us as the Feast of Christ the King. It is one of many opportunities the Catholic Liturgical Church year offers to each of us consider the creature which is called time, receive it as a gift and begin to really live differently. Yet, for many Catholics who commemorate the Feast, it is just one more somewhat esoteric celebration which we go through every year at this time. This mistake is at least right on one count, it really is all about time. The Catholic Christian notion of receiving time as a gift from God is one of the many things which make us counter-cultural. In fact, the number of things which make us counter-cultural is increasing as the West abandons its foundations in Christendom and embraces a secularist delusion.

The Church really is the Mystical Body of the Risen Christ. That Body is inseparably joined to the Head. Jesus Christ is alive, he has been raised, and he continues His redemptive mission now through the Church, of which we are members. As we choose to actually live our lives liturgically, not just go through the motions, we can move through life in the flow of the liturgical calendar. We can experience the deeper mystery and meaning of life, now made new in Jesus Christ, the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus Christ is King! Jesus Christ is meant to become the Lord of our whole lives, and inform the very pattern of how we live them.

### Parish Development Project

Following the news last week that we have been given planning permission for the construction of

the new parish room alongside the church, anybody visiting church will have seen already that things are beginning to happen with the erection of wooden hoardings around the garage to protect the area where works will begin. The vast majority of the funding for this project has been provided by a generous, Gift Aided donation from one of our parish families, but there is a balance which we will need to raise ourselves. There is a letter from Fr Mathew to all parishioners which provides more information about this, but circulating this letter in the current lockdown will be a challenge. The letter can be seen on the parish web site and is being sent out to all parishioners for whom we have registered email addresses. Hard copies will be available in the narthex should you visit church for private prayer.

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### **Advent**

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin verb *advenio*, "to come towards," and refers to the coming of Christ. The term *the coming* includes three references: first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to his second coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

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### **Christmas 2020**

Several bookings for the proposed Christmas services have been received and acknowledged. 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 we make may still have to be changed should government guidance change. At this time, it is intended to say Mass at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 smaller 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. If you have not yet done so, please do so quickly. 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.

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### **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.

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### **Own Dear Departed**

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Angela Walmsley-Cotham, Richard Courtney, Leslie Hewitt, Catherine Harwood, Freda Precious, William Cowan, Joseph Marczell, Cynthia "Cissie" Kerr, Charles Dwyer, Sheila Capon, Bernard McDonagh and Joseph Clougherty 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.*

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### **Mass Readings: The Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe :22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**

**Entrance Antiphon:** How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him be glory and power for ever and ever.

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. 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:** Ezek. 34:11-12, 15-17

*As for you, my sheep, I will judge between sheep and sheep*

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps. 22:1-3, 5-6

**Response to the psalm is:** *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

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.

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:** 1Cor 15:20-26, 28 *He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father; so that God may be all in all.*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matt. 25:31-46

*He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

**Prayer over the Offerings:** As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ Our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**Prayer after Communion:** Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.