

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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📘 @marymagdalens



**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.*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 – Gaudete Sunday** **Sunday Readings: Year B. Weekday Readings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent** **Services This Week**

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – (Live streamed) Monica Mary Ogdan (Foundation Mass)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The people of the parish
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	St John of the Cross	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria	
		No Mass Today
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass –
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – (Live streamed)
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The people of the parish

*The 10:00 Mass on Sundays is streamed live. You can find the link to watch this on the Mass Times page of the parish web site*

### **We are back again – 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.**

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

Today's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John. The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognise Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

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## Advent Wreath – Gaudete Sunday

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these. The name comes from Philippians 4:4-5 *Gaudete in Domino semper* – Rejoice in the Lord always. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus' return. Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments, but on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. Similarly today, the pink or rose-coloured candle of our Advent Wreath is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the Shepherds Candle and it represents joy:

*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"*

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## Baptism

Today we have four baptisms. Larissa, whose baptism has been postponed 4 times due to the Coronavirus restrictions and church closure, will be baptised during the 10:00 am Mass. Antoni, Destiny and Leighton will be baptised in a separate service at 11:15 am today. We welcome them all to our church family with great joy. Please pray for them, their parents and godparents.

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## Parish 150 Club

The November prize draw of the parish 150 Club was made last Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December after 10:00 Mass. Congratulations to the following winners:

£15	No 19	Canon Mathew George	£10	No 202	Mrs T Rose
£5	No 226	Mrs D Casey	£5	No 250	Mrs C Long

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## Catholic East Anglia

The December/January issue of Catholic East Anglia, the Diocesan newspaper, is now available to read on-line or a printed copy can be collected from the narthex. In this issue there is a Christmas message from Bishop Alan Hopes as well as articles about Fr Pat Cleary's installation as a canon of the Diocese, Fr Dick Healey's retirement and news of a new shrine to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the St Mark's parish garden.

## **St Pancras School Carol Service**

Unfortunately the planned carol service involving the children of St Pancras school, had to be cancelled due to staff sickness.

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## **CAFOD World Gifts**

In the run-up to Christmas, CAFOD's World Gifts are still available to provide all your fun and ethical gift needs. What's more, they've got an exciting new look which they hope you will love! With virtual gifts for as little as £4, you can change the lives of those living in poverty across the world, all from the comfort of your own home. They have added a delivery option to make it even easier to send World Gifts. Choose "Post Direct" when ordering your gift online and they will print your personalised message in your card of choice send it directly to your loved one. They have some inspiring new gifts to choose from this year - checkout the CAFOD web site at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or follow the link from the parish web site.

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## **Parish Development Project**

Work continues apace on the construction of the new parish room. 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 are available in the narthex should you visit church for private prayer.

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## **Advent & Christmas**

Fr Mathew writes: "As we all know, we are in tier 2 of the Covid-19 restrictions now. Assuming nothing changes, we are making plans for Christmas but things may change if the government decides to place Suffolk in a different tier. As of now, there will be three Masses on Sundays: 8.00am, 10.00 am and 6.00 pm just as we had before the pandemic and the lockdown. We are not taking bookings as we never had to turn anyone away so far. However, we are taking bookings for the Christmas Masses. Our Christmas Masses are on 24<sup>th</sup> at 5.00 pm and 25<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 am and 10.00 am. Please email [bookings@marymagdalens.org](mailto:bookings@marymagdalens.org) or use the contact form on the parish web site to book a place. IF WE HAVE SPACE at the Christmas Masses, we will not turn away anyone who has not booked. However, the best way to ensure your place is to book in advance.

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## **TK (Talitha Koum)**

TK (Talitha Koum) is an Ipswich based charity whose mission is to reach out with love, compassion and practical support to vulnerable women. It has two key aspects to its work, it provides supported housing for women recovering from addictions and other life challenges from its purpose-built therapeutic accommodation set on a 2-acre rural site at Withnesham known as The Hope Centre, and it runs Women Together Recovery Support groups. You will be pleased to know this is not an appeal for your funds – but an appeal for your help. A financial services organisation called Movement for Good has £120, 000 to donate to good causes and is inviting you to nominate your favoured charity to receive one of 10 daily £1000 donations during its 12 Days of Giving campaign this December. TK is asking that you go to the Movement for Good web site [www.movementforgood.com/12days/index.php?cn=1135528&ct=health](http://www.movementforgood.com/12days/index.php?cn=1135528&ct=health) and register a vote for TK, so that it is in with a chance to receive one of the £1000 donations.

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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 Gwendoline Lockwood, Peggy Sallabank, Marie Quinn, Betty Smythe, Ellie McDonagh, Joan Baron, Edward Richardson, William Schemensky, Thomas Baldwin, Peter Tierney, William Hoey, Johannah Parlone, Isabella Stiff, Douglas Eno, Agnes Humble, Frederick Lowry-Corry, Kathleen McCullar, John Woodstock, Valerie Jenkins, and Giuseppe Nelli whose anniversaries occur this week.

*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: Third Sunday of Advent: 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

### Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

### Collect:

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**First Reading:** Isa. 61:1-2,10-11 *I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

**Response to the psalm is:** *My soul rejoices in my God.*

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks upon his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

**Second Reading:** 1Thes. 5:16-24 *May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8,19-28

*There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

### Prayer Over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

### Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

### Prayer after Communion:

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.