

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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🌐 [www.marymagdalens.org](http://www.marymagdalens.org)

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

📧 @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.*

## ***The Baptism of the Lord: 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021***

***Sunday Readings: Year B. Weekday Readings: Year 1, Week 1***

### ***Services This Week***

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> – The Baptism of the Lord	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Conlon family foundation Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass - The people of the parish
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Maier family foundation Mass
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Nora Andrews foundation Mass
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Scott family foundation Mass
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	St Fursey	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Moss family foundation Mass
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Conlon family foundation Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass
	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.

## Today's Gospel

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptised with water, but that the one who is to come will baptise with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

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## The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Closely connected with the salvific events of the Epiphany are the mysteries of the Baptism of the Lord. The season of Christmas comes to an end with this feast. Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan and marks the inauguration of His mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.' We are reminded of our rebirth as children of God in Baptism in which we rise from the waters of the sacramental font as children of God. For each of the baptised, the immersion in, or pouring of, water and the invocation of the Trinity is a real sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and 'walk in newness of life'.

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## Streamed Mass

With the significant recent rise in the number of Covid 19 cases and deaths in our region, the Government imposed the strictest Tier 4 Coronavirus regulations on Suffolk with effect from 00:01 Boxing Day. Under Tier 4 regulations, places of worship can remain open and there will continue to be Mass each weekday at 10:00 am and on Sunday there will be the usual three Masses at 8:00 and 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. The suspension of the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass which was introduced by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales last year, remains enforce, and with the new variant of the Coronavirus that has now been discovered, many people are understandably very nervous about leaving their homes to attend Mass, but equally many feel a conflict in not fulfilling a commitment that has always been part of their normal lives. In an effort to make our church available to as many as possible who cannot attend in person, the 10:00 Mass each Sunday is being streamed live and can be "attended" virtually from home by anybody with a smart phone, a tablet, a computer or even as TV as long as the device has an internet connection. The easiest way to watch the streamed services is to go to the parish web site [www.marymagdalesn.org](http://www.marymagdalesn.org) and look at the Mass Times page where you will find a link. Simply click that link and you will be taken to the live stream, or if the live broadcast has already finished, you will be taken to the recording of it. Hopefully this will allow as many as possible to continue to join in the parish celebration of the Holy Mass even in these difficult times. If you have not already done so, we would ask that you subscribe to our YouTube channel. If we can get 100 or more subscribers, we can obtain a fixed channel identifier which will make watching much easier.

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## Christmas Post

There are still a number of cards in the narthex letter rack. Please check the rack before you leave church and take any cards addressed to you as, in previous years, we have sadly had to dispose of several cards that were never collected by the intended recipients.

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## Christmas Offering

As you will all be aware, Easter and Christmas present us with two scheduled opportunities to collect the traditional personal gift from the parish community to our parish priest, Fr Mathew. The pandemic completely ruled out the Easter gift in 2020 and now the Christmas collection is upon us. For many people these will be the most difficult of economic times, and Mass attendance has been significantly reduced as people respond in various ways to the current crisis. These two factors may make the total of our Christmas offering less than might otherwise have been the case. Therefore our generosity, particularly for those who can still more readily afford to contribute, is perhaps under greater scrutiny than ever. All contributions, big or small, will be much appreciated. Either put your offering in the special Christmas collection envelope, or in any envelope clearly marked as 'Christmas Gift' and return it at any time between now and the end of January. We will ensure that it gets to Father Mathew. The total realised will be published in the newsletter.

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## Parish Development Project



With the Christmas break, work on the new parish room has not progressed this week. However, the response to the fund raising drive has! 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 following the appeals made, the amount donated to supplement this gift and allow the project to be completed, is now £7738, over half way to the target! If you have not already seen it, there is a letter from Fr Mathew to all parishioners which provides more information about this, which can be seen on the parish web site. This has been sent out to all parishioners for whom we have registered postal addresses. Copies are available in the narthex. If you are able to make a donation, it would be gratefully received and if you are a tax payer, please Gift Aid any donation as this will increase its value by 25%.

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## Bishop Alan Hopes

There is a recording of an interesting interview with Bishop Alan carried out on New Year's day by Ciaran Losasso of the Diocesan Unite team. In this interview, Bishop Alan talks of his early life, his Anglican upbringing and ordination, his conversion to Catholicism and his anticipated retirement later on this year! You can watch this interview on the Diocesan web site, or you can follow the link on the news article of our parish web site.

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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 Albert Thaine, Rita Aldis, William Taylor, Peter Eaton, Margaret Howes, Kevin Finnegan, Martha Bacon, Marie Thulliez and Eleanor Ivemy 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.*

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## Mass Readings: The Baptism of the Lord: 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**Collect:** Almighty, ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your

children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. 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. 55:1-11

*Come to the water: listen and your soul will live.*

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps.12:2-6

**Response to the psalm is:** *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

Truly, God is my salvation,

I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading:** 1 John 5:1-9

*The Spirit and water and blood.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. . Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 1:7-11

*You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said: 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

**Prayer Over the Offerings** Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

**Prayer after Communion:** Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.