

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Mathew George

✉ 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.*

Please consider setting up a standing order in favour of the parish instead of a weekly cash offering.

Bank: Barclays **Account Name:** St Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Parish **Account number:** 70777323 **Sort code:** 20-44-51

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: 24th January, 2021

Sunday Readings: Year B. Weekday Readings: Year 1, Week 3

Services This Week

Sunday 24 th –	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Stephen John Smith
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – The people of the parish
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass
Monday 25 th	The Conversion of St Paul	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 26 th	Saints Timothy and Titus	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 27 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Sheridan and Morris families Foundation Mass
Thursday 28 th	St Thomas Aquinas	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Bolt family Foundation Mass
Friday 29 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Pratt family Foundation Mass
Saturday 30 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Carter family Foundation Mass
Sunday 31 st –	8:00 am	Holy Mass –
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	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 begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Remember that in Cycle B of the Lectionary, most of the Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth, instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfilment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen - Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfilment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

Parish Development Project



Work is progressing on the new building – on the News page of the parish web site, you can see photos taken this week to see how things are progressing. 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 £7863, over half way to the target! 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%.

New Bishop

It is anticipated that Bishop Alan will be retiring as the Bishop of East Anglia this year. In the narthex, there are some cards showing a prayer for the election of a bishop. If you visit church, please take one and pray for a new bishop. The prayer card is reproduced on the web site for those not attending church in person, and the prayer is shown below:

O God, eternal Shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and, to us, show watchful care. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

S. Felix, pray for us

All holy Martyrs & Saints of East Anglia, pray for us.

150 Club

The January prize draw of the parish 150 Club will be made after 10:00 Mass next Sunday, 31st January, in the Guild Room.

Christmas Offering

The collection for the Christmas Offering to Fr Mathew remains open until Sunday 31st January. Please either put your offering in the special Christmas collection envelope or in any envelope clearly marked 'Christmas Gift' and return it at any time between now and the end of January. Alternatively, use the account details at the top of this newsletter to make an on-line payment and enter "Christmas Gift" as the payment reference. We will ensure that it gets to Father Mathew.

Monica Ford RIP

It is with great sadness we announce that Monica Ford passed away Wednesday 20th January. Although Monica has not enjoyed good health for some time, her passing was none the less unexpected. She has been an active member in the Town's Catholic community for many years, and a mainstay of the Ipswich Catholic Women's League. Our sympathies and condolences go to her husband Andrew, and all her family. She will be greatly missed. Please remember Andrew and the family in your prayers and pray also for the repose of Monica's soul.

On-Line Giving

During these times when our ability to attend church in person is impacted by Coronavirus restrictions, please consider donating on-line to our offertory collection. You can do this by making a one-off payment, or setting up a regular payment by Standing Order from your bank account. Account details to allow a payment to be made can be found at the top of this newsletter and full information on setting up a standing order can be found on the parish web site. If you would like to make an offering by donating from your credit card, a new facility has been added to the parish web site to enable you to this. Please visit the parish web site and click the Donate button on the home page.

Mass Intentions

During lockdown, Fr Mathew is continuing to say Mass each weekday at 10:00 am, and on Sundays at 8:00, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. If you would like a Mass said for any intention, these can be requested by email as shown at the top of the front page, by using the contact form on the parish web site, by speaking to Fr Mathew or by completing a Mass envelope available in the narthex. Fr Mathew will always try to say the Mass on the date of your choice, although this cannot be guaranteed. Mass offerings are voluntary contributions to the priest who says the Mass, so there is no fixed 'price' for a Mass, but an offering of £10 is considered usual in many dioceses.

Knights of St Columba Competition

The Knights of St Columba have launched three competitions for high school age children - an Easter scene painting competition, a prayer competition and an essay completion. Each carries prizes for the winners, and you can enter representing the parish which would also then win a prize if you were successful. Posters about these can be seen in the narthex and on the parish web site and full details of the completions can also be obtained from the parish web site.

The God Who Speaks

Some new resources and materials have been made available as part of The God Who Speaks initiative that is running. Our readers may be interested in a new Guide for Readers that has been produced by Leeds Diocese. You can find the link to this guide on the parish web site.

Can You Help?

Fr Mathew is looking for an "old school" desktop calculator – battery, mains or solar. If you have a working calculator that is no longer required, and would be willing to donate it, please contact Fr Mathew.

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 Margaret Long, Anna Graham-Picket, Sarah Kelly, John McRae, John Hughes, Mary Corrigan, Edward Coyle, Edward Ennis, Kitty Finn, Elizabeth Miller, Cesare "Reno" Pasini, Richard Miller, Leslie Hiscocks, Gertrude Wilson and Franciszek Meller 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 in Ordinary Time: 24th January, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in 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: Jon. 3:1-5,10 *The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.24:4-9

Response to the psalm is: *Lord, make me know your ways.*

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my Saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

Second Reading: 1Cor. 7:29-31 *The world as we know it is passing away.*

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand: believe the Good News. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 *Repent and believe the Good News.*

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Prayer Over the Offerings

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord.