

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia 🌐 www.rcdcea.org.uk

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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 ☎ 01473 742074

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
Credit card offerings can be made via the parish web site home page.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 31st January, 2021

Sunday Readings: Year B. Weekday Readings: Year 1, Week 4

Services This Week

Sunday 31 st –	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Fr Alfred Bull RIP Foundation Mass
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Brenda Ingle
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The people of the parish
Monday 1 st February	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 2 nd	The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 3 rd	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Eric List RIP Foundation Mass
Thursday 4 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass- Westbrook family Foundation Mass
Friday 5 th	St Agatha 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 6 th	St Paul Miki and Companions 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Horne family Foundation Mass
Sunday 7 th – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Charles Vieira
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Adolf von Fragstein RIP
	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's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the pre-scientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed, Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

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 unflinching 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 today, in the Guild Room.

Christmas Offering

The collection for the Christmas Offering to Fr Mathew closes today. If you have not already made a donation, please put your offering in the special Christmas collection envelope or in any envelope clearly marked 'Christmas Gift' and place it in the collecting box on the table at the back of church today.

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 parish and as charitable giving to the church, can be Gift Aided. There is no fixed 'price' for a Mass, but an offering of £10 is considered usual in many dioceses.

Derrick Gilbert RIP

Some of our more senior parishioners will remember Derrick who was very active in the parish during the 1970s and 1980s, chairing what was then a very active parish social committee. He was a caller at the weekly bingo sessions in the church hall, which were very popular events, and, being a carpenter by trade, was the mainstay of the parish maintenance and decorating efforts at the time, and later an active fund raiser for St Albans school. He passed away in Ipswich hospital yesterday. Please pray for the repose of his soul, and remember his widow Pat, his three children David, Colin and Suzanne and his grandchildren in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

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.

Parish Updates

If you have any suggestions, comments or feedback on the various methods that are being employed within the parish in an attempt to keep people up to date with things during lockdown, then please do get in touch. We would like to remain in touch with those who cannot now get to church in person, and re-establish contact with those with whom we may have lost touch. Any feedback on what we can do to improve, or add to, what we are doing would be gratefully received.

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, Pippa Williamson and Carol Sims.

Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Andrew Murray, Alfred Sheppard, Elizabeth Powell, Theresa Akehurst, Pietro Gilardi, Gwendoline Nicholas, Annie Kearny, Cecil Everitt, Cecilia Molyneux, William Clancy, Andrew Flynn, Imelda Foulger, Jeanie Walker, Ivy Long and Darren Platts 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: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 31st January, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nation, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Collect:

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. 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: Deut. 18:15-20

I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps.94:1-2,6-9

Response to the psalm is: *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord,
hail the rock who saves us.

the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

Come in; let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we

As on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

Second Reading: 1Cor. 7:32-35

An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried **woman**, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

He taught them with authority.

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Prayer Over the Offerings

O Lord, we bring to your altar these offerings of our service; be pleased to receive them, we pray, and transform them into the Sacrament of redemption. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Prayer after Communion:

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase. Through Christ our Lord.