

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

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📺 [youtube.com/c/StMaryMagdalens](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMaryMagdalens)

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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 14th February, 2021 ***Sunday Readings: Year B. Weekday Readings: Year 1, Week 6*** ***Services This Week***

Sunday 14 th – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Monica Ford RIP
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The people of the parish
Monday 15 th February	Feria	
	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Holy Mass – Janes Family Exposition and Benediction via Zoom
Tuesday 16 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira Family
Wednesday 17 th	Ash Wednesday	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Elsie Robinson Foundation Mass
Thursday 18 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Andrews Family Foundation Mass
Friday 19 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Scott Family Foundation Mass
Saturday 20 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Moss Family Foundation Mass
Sunday 21 st – First Sunday of Lent	8:00 am	Holy Mass –
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Monica Ford 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

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke - but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfilment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

Ash Wednesday

"By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return." Genesis 3:19

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting - the practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us.

In line with Coronavirus precautions, the distribution of the ashes will be slightly different this year. The priest will address the people present and only once say to all the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The priest will then put on a face mask and distribute the ashes to those who come to him in silence.

Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting and marks the beginning of Lent, a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Mass on Ash Wednesday will be at 10:00 am as usual, and whilst not a Holyday of Obligation, it is good to attend Mass on this day to mark the beginning of this penitential season and begin preparations for Easter in the right way.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering, the personal gift from the parish to the parish priest, was closed for further contributions on January 31st. The total raised was £940.00. Fr Mathew writes: *"I would like to thank everyone for your generous Christmas offering. I am aware that many of you could not come to the church for the Christmas Masses due Covid restrictions, but still made an effort to make the Christmas offering for the priest. Thank you very much."*

CAFOD Big Walk for Water Campaign

This Lent, CAFOD invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the *Big Walk for Water* virtual event. Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking a 5 mile route on Saturday 20th February at 2:00 pm.

Could you *Walk for Water* as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day for 40 days? Find out more at CAFOD.org.uk/walk or follow the link on the be parish web site. For any questions, contact CAFOD on 0300 011 5680 or by email resources@cafod.org.uk.

Our Dear Departed

Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have recently passed away: Adrianna Tucciarone, Monica Ford, Derrick Gilbert and Anna Ryan. The requiem mass of Monica Ford will take place here on Friday 26th February at 2 pm. Due to Covid restrictions the numbers are very limited and sadly the service will therefore be restricted to family. The funeral will be streamed live for the benefit of her many friends who will be unable to attend in person – details will be published nearer the time. The requiem will be followed by interment in Westerfield Parish Church. Family flowers only but donations in Monica's memory will be welcome to St Elizabeth Hospice, Ipswich.

Confirmation is awaited on the date of Derrick's funeral, which will again be live-streamed for the benefit of those unable to attend in person, and the details will be published in due course.

Please keep their friends and families in your thoughts and prayers.

Parish Accounts 2020

The 2020 parish accounts have recently been completed and despite reductions in our offertory and hall rents totalling in excess of £12k show a small surplus on General Funds of £269. This was possible due mainly to receipt of a revenue grant of £5k from the Rope Fund charity coupled with Alive in Faith income of £4k, plus lower spending on property maintenance and other running costs as a result of restricted operations in the church and hall. 2021 will however be another challenging year as income from the offertory and hall rentals is likely to remain depressed. Property maintenance will need to remain at the top of our list of priorities as we seek to ensure that the fabric of our buildings is not allowed to deteriorate. For instance we have recently discovered that the flat roof on the kitchenette/toilet block has been leaking and is in need of repair. Those parishioners who are not attending services in person at the moment and who normally put their offertory in the collection plate can assist with supporting the church by making their offering by standing order to our bank account. Details can be found on the parish website at or forms are available in the narthex. You can also make a credit card donation via the web site. Copies of the 2020 summarised accounts are available in the narthex and can also be found on the parish website.

Parish Development Project



Great progress this week with the construction of the new parish room with the installation of the roof trusses. It won't be long before the roof is on and the building is weather proof and work no longer susceptible to bad weather interruptions. The money received in response to the appeal for funds to complete the new parish room project has now reached £9040. Thank you to all those who have already donated. If you have not already done so and 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%.

The Sick of the Parish

Please pray for those who are sick or housebound: John Anderson-Hurst, William Barnes, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, 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.

Parish Anniversaries

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Victoria Pagnillo, Mary Cuffe, Willie Long, Harry McAuliffe, Maureen Mulligan, Mary Sparrow, Margaret Doolin, Patrick Kavanagh, Cynthia Woollard, Peter Grimwood and Kathleen Smy whose anniversaries occur this week. A complete list of the dear departed of the parish can be found on the web site.

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.

Entrance Antiphon:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Collect:

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling 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: Lev. 13:1-2,44-46

The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons. The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 31:1-2,5,11

Response to the psalm is: *You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt
in whose spirit is no guile.

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: "I will confess

my offence to the Lord."
And you Lord have forgiven
the guilt of my sin.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart.

Second Reading: 1Cor. 10:31-11:1

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

The leprosy left him at once and he was cured

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Prayer Over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Prayer after Communion:

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for the food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.