

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

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

First Sunday in Lent: 21st February, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B. Weekdays: Year I, 1st Week of Lent

Services This Week

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
Monday 22 nd February	Feast of The Chair of St Peter	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes Family
	6:00 pm	Exposition and Benediction via Zoom
Tuesday 23 rd	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira Family
Wednesday 24 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Elsie Robinson Foundation Mass
Thursday 25 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Andrews Family Foundation Mass
Friday 26 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Scott Family Foundation Mass Followed by Stations of the Cross.
	2:00 pm	Private Requiem Mass for Monica Ford.
Saturday 27 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Moss Family Foundation Mass
Sunday 28 th – Second 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 Sunday is streamed live. 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.

Fr Mathew

Last weekend Fr Mathew was feeling unwell, and as a result Sunday and weekday services were unfortunately cancelled. Concerned that he may have contracted Covid, Fr Mathew isolated himself and undertook a test on Tuesday which happily proved negative. Having taken this week off to rest, he is now recovered and will say all three Masses today as normal. Thank you for all your good wishes and prayers for him during the week.

CAFOD Big Walk for Water Campaign

On Friday 26th February, CAFOD holds its Lenten Family Fast Day. This is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. Your donations go to highly trained, highly skilled local experts around the world who save and support the health of the world's poorest families.

Andella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

On Friday 26th February, will you eat a simple meal in solidarity with our poorer brothers and sisters and give what you save to help people like Andella? Through CAFOD's global church family, your support can reach to the ends of the earth. Please collect a Family Fast Day envelope from the narthex today and give whatever you can.

You can also donate online at CAFOD.org.uk/give or you can also easily give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10 which will also cost your standard network fee. You will be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising by telephone and SMS. If you would like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

150 Club

The February prize draw of the 150 Club will be made in the guild Room after Mass next Sunday, 28th February.

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.

Monica Ford RIP

On Friday this week, 26th February, the Requiem Mass for Monica Ford will be held at St Mary Magdalen church at 2:00 pm, followed by interment at St Mary Magdalene church Westerfield. Government Coronavirus restrictions limit the number of people that are allowed to attend funerals, so mourners in church are by family invitation only. However, the service will be live-streamed on YouTube for the many friends and acquaintances who would doubtless like to attend if they could. The recording of the Mass will subsequently be available on-line for those who are unable to watch live. The link for the service can be found on the *Mass Times* page of the parish web site or you can go direct to the St Mary Magdalens YouTube channel – the address is at the top of the front page. An order of service is also available on the parish web site for those viewing from home.

Derrick Gilbert RIP

The date has now been confirmed for Derrick's funeral service which will take place at St Mary Magdalens at noon on Thursday 4th March. This service too will be streamed live because of the restrictions in place on numbers attending funerals services. More details to follow next week.

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

Lent Taizé Service

On Thursday, March 18th at 7:30 pm, a Lenten Taize service is to be held at St Mary's church, Woodbridge Road. The church will be in semi-darkness, lit up with candles and a few lights. Beautiful music of monastic chants, from the depth of the Scriptures, is wrapped around with deep silences and prayerful intercessions. The service will be on-line only due to Coronavirus restrictions, but all are invited from the parish, deanery, diocese and the wider world to view on YouTube. The link for this service can be found on the parish web site.

John Ryan RIP

Some of our older parishioners may remember John and Margaret Ryan, an Irish couple who used to live in Preston Drive and worship at St Mary Magdalens before moving out of the parish. Sadly, John passed away peacefully and unexpectedly a couple of days ago. Please pray for repose of his soul and for his widow Margaret and the rest of their family at this very sad time. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Parish Development Project



Progress on this project continues apace with the roof gables now built and the whole building taking shape. 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 Kate Brown, Margaret Hutchinson, Frederick Adams, Anne Gambo, Felix Hennon, Gladys Cooper, Helen Hinton, Angela Hurren, Walter Reynolds, Audrey Hartery, Sidney Mason, Dorothy Bolt, James Adams, Pamela Andrews, Vincenza Webber, Winifred Grant, Kitty Finn, Helen Whelan, Alan Hobbs and Richard Collis 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: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Collect: Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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: Gen. 9:8-15

God's covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the flood.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 24:4-9

Response to the psalm is: *Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.*

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: 1Pet. 3:18-22 *That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. 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.'

Prayer Over the Offerings

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Prayer after Communion:

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer Over The People

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation and eternal redemption be assured. Through Christ our Lord.