

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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*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.

Second Sunday in Lent: 28th February, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B. Weekdays: Year I, 2nd Week of Lent

Services This Week

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
Monday 1 st March	St David, Patron of Wales	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes Family
	6:00 pm	Exposition and Benediction via Zoom
Tuesday 2 nd	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira Family
Wednesday 3 rd	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass - for all the victims of Covid.
Thursday 4 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
	12:00 noon 5:00 pm	Funeral Service for Derrick Gilbert (streamed) Exposition and Lent Station Mass at St Marys
Friday 5 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	No Mass.
Saturday 6 th	Lent Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 7 th – Third Sunday of Lent	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass
	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.

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 second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event.

The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship.

In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples - Peter, James, and John - to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfilment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death.

CAFOD Big Walk for Water Campaign

On Friday 26th February, CAFOD held its Lenten Family Fast Day. Did you remember? 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, or alternatively make a payment direct to the parish account – details at the top of the front page – and quote CAFOD as the reference.

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.

Bishop Alan's Pastoral Message

Too late for inclusion in last week's newsletter, Bishop Alan issued a pastoral letter for the First Sunday in Lent. You can find his message on the parish web site.

150 Club

The February prize draw of the 150 Club will be made in the Guild Room after Mass today. Prize winners will be published in next week's newsletter and on the parish web site.

Lenten Station Mass 2021

The Lenten Station Mass for the Deanery of St Edward, will be celebrated this Thursday, 4th March, at 6:00 pm, preceded by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00 pm with an hour for prayer. The people of St. Mary's parish are invited to attend – up to the present safe capacity of the church, and the Mass will be live streamed for the benefit of those unable to attend in person. The link for the live stream can be found on the *Mass Times* page of the parish web site.

Derrick Gilbert RIP

Derrick's funeral service will take place at St Mary Magdalens at noon next Thursday, 4th March. The service will be streamed live for the benefit of family and friends who cannot travel due to the current Coronavirus restrictions, and also because of the restrictions in place on numbers attending funerals services. The details of the live stream can be found on the *Mass Times* page of the parish web site, and will be sent out via the parish social media channels on Wednesday as a reminder.

Lent Taizé Service

On Thursday, March 18th at 7:30 pm, a Lenten Taizé 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.

Parish Development Project



The money received in response to the appeal for funds to complete the new parish room project continues to rise and has now reached £9127. 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%.

Retrouvaille Course

The Catholic charity Retrouvaille is offering two online courses later this year to help couples who are struggling in their marriage. Marriage difficulty and breakdown is not something that's often discussed openly – yet it is, sadly, a common experience. This pandemic year in particular has strained many marriages to breaking point. : Retrouvaille is for couples with marriages that are struggling, or who are not communicating well, and for those who are considering marriage separation or divorce. It is also for those who have separated or divorced, who want to try again to reconcile. For more information visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk, or text or call 0788 729 6983.

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 Georgina Beeby, Elizabeth Millar, Ernest Doolan, Daphne Westbrok, William Flemming, Donald Ludlow, Thomas Kearney, Florence Pratt, Ellen Armes, Audrey Gould, James O'Mara, Mary Irvine, Edward Miller, Josephine Ratcliff, Patrick McDermott-Roe, Francis Doyle, Catherine Coyle, Francis Coyle, Edward Razzell, Joseph Hynes and Archbishop Peter Smith, 2nd Bishop of East Anglia, 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.

Please pray for the election of a new bishop of East Anglia in the run up to Bishop Alan's retirement: *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.

Mass Readings: Second Sunday in Lent: 28th February, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Collect: O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold

your glory. 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. 22:1-2,9-13,15-18 *The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 24:4-9

Response to the psalm is: *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

I trusted, even when I said:

"I am sorely afflicted."

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading: Rom. 8:31-34 *God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Prayer Over the Offerings

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Prayer after Communion:

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer Over The People

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord, with a blessing that endures for ever, and keep them faithful to the Gospel of your Son, so that they may always desire and at last attain that glory whose beauty he showed in his own body, to the amazement of his Apostles. Through Christ our Lord.