

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 6JS

☎ 01473 741975

📞 07939 920844

🌐 www.marymagdalens.org

📧 @marymagdalens

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

🌐 www.rcdea.org.uk

📺 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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent: 14th March, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B. Weekdays: Year I, 4th Week of Lent

Services This Week

Sunday 14 th –	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Molly & George Cranston
Fourth Sunday of Lent	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Ambrose & Noel Andrews RIP
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The people of the parish
Monday 15 th	Lent Feria	No Mass today
Tuesday 16 th	Lent Feria	No Mass today
Wednesday 17 th	St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Roger Mayhew RIP
Thursday 18 th	Lent Feria	No Mass today
	7:30 pm	Lenten Taizé Service from St Mary's (Streamed)
Friday 19 th	St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family Followed by Stations of the Cross.
Saturday 20 th	Lent Feria	
Sunday 21 st – Fifth Sunday of Lent	10:00 am	Holy Mass
	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 reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the

final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God.

The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus. In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured.

By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection. The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative.

The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation. In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

***Lætare* Sunday**

Today is the fourth, or middle, Sunday of Lent, called *Lætare* Sunday from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "*Lætare Jerusalem*" - "Rejoice, O Jerusalem". Strictly speaking, the Thursday before *Lætare* Sunday is the middle day of Lent, and it was at one time observed as such, but afterwards the special signs of joy permitted on this day, within the austere period of Lent and intended to encourage the faithful in their course through the season of penance, were transferred to the following Sunday. On this Sunday, we look with expectation to the great Solemnity of Easter for which we have been preparing ourselves as a Church during the Lenten season. By its anticipation of the joy of Easter, *Laetare* Sunday is meant to give us hope and encouragement as we slowly progress towards the Paschal Feast. On both *Laetare* Sunday and *Gaudete* Sunday (the Third Sunday of Advent), a priest may wear rose vestments rather than the more austere purple. The colour rose is used as a sign of the joy which characterises these two Sundays. The use of rose vestments probably stems from an ancient papal tradition of blessing golden roses which would be sent to Catholic heads of state in Europe on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a holiday celebrated by Catholic and Protestant Christians in some parts of Europe. It falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter. During the 16th century, people returned to their mother church for a service to be held on *Lætare* Sunday; in this context, one's 'mother church' was either the church where you were baptised, the local parish church, or the nearest cathedral. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone "a-mothering". Today, the secular celebration of Mother's Day has come to represent a day when children honour the mother of the family, by presenting gifts and cards in recognition of the service and sacrifice made by their mothers in raising their children. Today we pray especially for all mothers.

This Sunday

This Sunday, the evening Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Vincent Paul OCD from St. Mark's as Fr. Mathew will be away for the first dose of his Covid vaccine. We do not have Mass on Monday and Tuesday as he is not sure about the effects.

Lent Taizé Service

Next 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.

From Fr Mathew

My mother in India is unwell. It is not covid-19, she is just getting on. And she is not in imminent danger of death. I plan to be away in India from 10th April to 10th May. I will have to spend 7 days in quarantine in India upon my arrival there. I have managed to do that in a retreat centre rather than at home so that I can have regular Masses and adoration. The director of the centre has agreed to give me a retreat. So, it will be my annual retreat that all priests are required to do every year. On my return I will have to Quarantine again for as many days as the government requires me to do. Even if I am at home the toilets and the guild room will be available for the parish use. I will not be coming anywhere near that. Fr Chris Dobson will be celebrating Mass for us when I am away. Unfortunately, I will have to cancel the 6.00pm Mass on Sundays when I am away and all the weekday Masses. However, we will be back to our normal routine when I am back and after my quarantine. International travel is so difficult now. And I would not have made that decision were it not for my mother's health. It is a traditional expectation that the son priest officiates at the funeral of their parents. That might not happen in a pandemic situation with all the quarantine rules of different countries. So please say a prayer for mother and for me. For now for us things will be as usual till 9th April then again from 16th or 23rd May. I will be available to you by e-mail WhatsApp parish group and by mobile when I am away. Thanks. Fr. Mathew

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 £9,177, but we are still nearly £6,000 short of our target. Thank you to all those who have already donated – we are extremely grateful. If you have not already donated, then it is not too late. You can make a cash donation by leaving money in an envelope, suitably marked “Parish Room” and leave it in the collection box at the back of the church, or pop it through the presbytery letter box. You can make a direct payment to the parish bank account using the details at the top of the front page of this newsletter – please use the payment reference “Parish Room”. Or you can make a donation via your credit card using the Donate button on the home page of the parish web site. If you do donate, and you are a tax payer, then please do Gift Aid any donation as this will increase its value by 25% as we will be able to reclaim the tax you have already paid on the money donated.

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 Isabel White, John Roche, Noel Andrews, Noel Andrews, Alberto Computaro, Marion Keenan, Margaret Quinn, Ambrose Andrews, Margaret Savage, Patricia Porteous, Lilliana Zagni, Margaret Stobo, John Keenan, Ruby Stendera and Patrick O'Donovan, 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.

Mass Readings: Fourth Sunday in Lent: 14th March, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Collect: O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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: 2Chron. 36:14-16,19-23 *The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord

rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 136:1-6

Response to the psalm is: *O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!*

By the waters of Babylon

there we sat and wept,

remembering Zion;

on the poplars that grew there

we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,

our captors, for songs,

our oppressors, for joy.

"Sing to us" they said,

"one of Zion's songs."

O how could we sing

the song of the Lord

on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,

let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue

cleave to my mouth

if I remember you not,

if I prize not Jerusalem

above all my joys!

Second Reading: Eph. 2:4-10

You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you O Christ!

Gospel: John 3:14-21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Prayer Over the Offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion: O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer Over The People Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord.