

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

🌐 [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

📺 youtube.com/c/StMaryMagdalens

**Parish Priest:** Fr Mathew George

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**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.

## Fifth Sunday in Lent: 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2021

**Readings: Sunday: Year B. Weekdays: Year I, 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

### Services This Week

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Lent	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass – for the agony of Jesus in Gethsemane Holy Mass Holy Mass – The people of the parish
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lent Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lent Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Annunciation of the Lord 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lent Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass Followed by Stations of the Cross.
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Lent Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass 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 the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead - an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration - events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel - affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

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### **Baptisms**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of babies Willow Perkins, Alfie Perkins and Edward Chambers during the Mass at 10.00 am. They will be seated separately, as per the social distancing rules and will not affect the congregation's safety in any way. However, it is great to welcome three children into our parish family even in this pandemic. Please remember them, their parents and godparents in your prayers.

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### **Palm Sunday**

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week. There are Holy Week posters available in the narthex - please take one and display it at home. This year, due to the Coronavirus restrictions, the Holy Week services will be a little different. On Palm Sunday we will follow the Second Form of the Solemn Entrance and there will be no gathering outside church or entry procession. Fr Mathew will bless the palms and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem from the narthex before entering the church. There will be no hymns sung. The shorter form of the Passion from St Mark's Gospel will be read by a single reader and there will be no crowd parts exclaimed by the congregation. Blessed palms will be available at the back of church for you to take away with you at the end of Mass. Details of the changes to the Easter Triduum - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil - services will be advised next week.

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### **Monica Ford RIP**

Andrew and the Ford family would like to thank everyone for the cards, kind wishes, prayers and support received in their recent loss of Monica. The family nominated St Elizabeth Hospice as its preferred charity to receive memorial donations in Monica's memory and these donations have amounted to over £1100 for which the family and the Hospice are most grateful.

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### **More Expense**

As part of a new requirement from our insurers, a recent inspection of the electrical installation of the three church properties - Presbytery, church and hall - was carried out. A fault was discovered in the house, which we hope to be able to rectify ourselves. However, more serious issues were identified in both the church and the hall, requiring professional remedial action. Quotes have been obtained for the works which involve the partial re-wiring of the church as it still uses the rubber cabling installed when it was built in 1955, and replacing the out dated consumer unit in the hall. Although the cost will not be as high as originally feared, we are still faced with an unexpected cost

of £2,760 to remedy the defects and obtain a safety certificate to satisfy the insurers. Any donations to help with this additional expense will be gratefully received.

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### 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 10<sup>th</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> April then again from 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> May. I will be available to you by e-mail WhatsApp parish group and by mobile when I am away. Thanks. Fr. Mathew

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### Parish Development Project



Further good progress has been made this week with the installation of the doors and windows for the new parish room, and the completion of the first fix of the IT cabling. We are now ready for the plasterers to begin their work shortly, which will suddenly make the whole room seem nearer completion. There are some photographs on the web site taken this week to show progress. 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, and, as mentioned above, with the additional cost now of the necessary electrical works we need financial support more than ever! 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.

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### 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.

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### Parish Anniversaries

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Joseph Baran, Ranford Barret, Wilfred Murray, Patrick Kearney, Pamela Spencer, Antonio Cassarelli, Maureen Westrup (née Long), Roger Mayhew, Michael Cleary, Frances D'Arcy, Aubrey Delaney, James Faul, William McCarthy, Joseph Lappetito, Karen Murphy, Alice Bolt, Clare Moss, William McCarthy and David Bloomfield 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.*

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**Mass Readings: Fifth Sunday in Lent: 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2021.**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and the cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

**Collect:** By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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:** Jer. 31:31-34

*I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps. 50:3-4

**Response to the psalm is:** *A pure heart create for me, O God.*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness in your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit in me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

**Second Reading:** Heb. 5:7-9

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

**Gospel:** John 12:20-33

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: ‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. ‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

**Prayer Over the Offerings**

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants he teachings of Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ Our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon:** Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

**Prayer after Communion:** We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.