

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

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Parish Priest: Fr Mathew George

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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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter: 25th April, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B. Weekdays: Fourth Week of Easter

Services This Week

Sunday 25 th –	8:00 am	Holy Mass – George & Gladys Collins
Fourth Sunday of Easter	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Ernie Lacey RIP (Foundation Mass)

No Evening Mass Today

Monday 26th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Tuesday 27th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Wednesday 28th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Thursday 29th St Catherine of Sienna

No Mass Today

Friday 30th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Saturday 1st May
May

No Mass Today

Sunday 2 nd –	8:00 am
Fifth Sunday of Easter	10:00 am (Streamed)

Holy Mass – Elsie Lacey RIP (Foundation Mass)

Holy Mass – Raymond George James RIP

No evening Mass today

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

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus. This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Vocations Sunday

Today is Vocations Sunday, a day established by Pope Paul VI in 1964 to coincide with Good Shepherd Sunday, as a world day of prayer for vocations, and consequently is also known in the Catholic church as Vocations Sunday. To recognise this day, there is a pastoral letter issued by Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool and chair of the National Office for Vocations. There is also a pastoral letter from Bishop Alan to be read at all Masses. Copies of both letters are available in the narthex, and can also be read on the parish web site.

Marriage and Family Life Mass

This year's Marriage and Family Life Mass will be both live and live streamed at the Cathedral on Saturday June 12th at 11am. Certificates will be available for those celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2020 and 2021 (anniversaries of one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter). You will need to register to attend the event and can do so on-line at <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/>

There will be a collection at the Mass for those who wish to help the Marriage and Family Life Commission in their work.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

This year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, celebrating the year of St Joseph and the family, will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 3rd. There will be no public procession but Bishop Alan will be celebrating Mass at 12 noon, with an intention for the diocese, and at around 2.30pm there will be Rosary and Benediction. It will be live streamed, but if you wish to attend in person you will need to book on-line at www.walsingham.co.uk and those attending are advised to bring their own food and drink and are reminded that masks must be worn and social distancing restrictions must be adhered to.

Ignite Youth Festival

The Diocesan Youth Team, Ignite, will be holding its annual Catholic Youth Festival as a virtual event again this year. The festival will be held over the first weekend in May, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May, with sessions between 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm each day. The festival will consist of music, workshops, inspiring talks and prayer and is open to all young people from the age of 13 years. Further information can be found on the Ignite Festival website www.ignitefestival.co.uk.

Our Parish Family

Last Sunday, Alfie and Willow Perkins were baptised at the 10:00 Mass. We welcome them to our parish family and ask that you remember them, their parent and godparents in your prayers.

On 26th April, Fr Chris will be officiating at the funeral of Linda Christine Kirk. Please remember Linda too in your prayers and pray for the repose of her soul.

Next Sunday, 2nd May, we will have another baptism when Wilson Lebaga will join the Catholic church and our parish community.

Parish 150 Club

Thank you to all those who have paid their subscriptions to date – if you have not yet paid yours then your prompt attention to this would be appreciated. The April prize draw will be postponed for a week or two to allow the outstanding payments to hopefully be received.

If you are a parishioner but not a member of this Club, then please would you consider joining? It is a parish venture, and it would be nice to think that every parishioner would support it. Membership costs £12 per year for a single number, which will then be entered in each of the 12 monthly prize draws. Membership forms are available in the narthex, or, if you don't want to deal with handling paper or are not currently attending church, you can email your membership request to 150club@marymagdalens.org

Parish Development Project



The final coats of paint have been applied and a start has been made on the second fix electrical items. The sanitary ware for the two toilets has been installed and the cabinets in the kitchenette. There are some updated pictures taken this week available on the parish web site. The money received in response to the appeal for funds to complete the new parish room project continues to rise and has now reached £11,165, but we are still over £3,500 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 though 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, Carol Sims and Annick Smith.

Parish Anniversaries

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Lucy Mountford, Martin Mongan, Joan Haznos, James Ratcliffe, Ceszarina Meyer and Doris Carvey whose anniversaries occur this week. A complete list of anniversaries of all 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 of Easter: 25th April, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Collect:

Almighty, ever-living God, lead us to share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First Reading: Acts. 4:8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 17:1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

Response to the psalm is: *The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end.

Second Reading: 1John 3:1-2

We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 0:11-18

The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Prayer Over the Offerings:

Grant, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion:

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.