

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

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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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter: 9th May, 2021

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

Services This Week

Sunday 9 th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter	8:00 am	Holy Mass – For family (Jan Nowicki)
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Deceased members of the Andrews family (Foundation Mass)

No Evening Mass Today

Monday 10th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Tuesday 11th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Wednesday 12th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Thursday 13 th	The Ascension of the Lord
	9:00 am

Holy Mass

Friday 14th St Matthias

No Mass Today

Saturday 15th Easter Feria

No Mass Today

Sunday 16 th – Seventh Sunday of Easter	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass

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

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well - and Jesus says that his disciples do know him - will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God. Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen - one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

Word from Fr Mathew

Fr Mathew writes from India: *"Thank you very much for your prayers during my absence and a special thanks to Fr. Chris and to all those who have taken up additional tasks in my absence. I now have a confirmed ticket from Bombay to Heathrow on 11th May in the evening. I will then be going into hotel quarantine for 10 days somewhere in London. All being well, I hope to be back in Ipswich on 21st or 22nd and plan to say our usual 3 Masses with you all on Sunday 23rd May and the daily weekday Masses at 10.00 am from Monday 24th.*

My mother is improving. Though not Covid positive she is still frail but in good spirits. Due to the Covid situation in India I celebrate Mass at home with her most days. She is practically Shielding. Since I meet her daily, I too am very careful about where I go and who I meet. With nearly 20 to 30 people among 100 people tested being positive, the chances of meeting someone who is Covid positive (and who does not know that he/she is positive) is almost a certainty now here in India. And I need a negative test result to travel. So far things have gone well and I hope to have the same grace till arrive in Ipswich."

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Thursday of this week is The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, and in normal times would be a Holyday of Obligation. The CBCEW has suspended the obligation to attend Mass during the Covid pandemic, but none the less, with restrictions currently being gradually relaxed, it would be good to attend Mass on this day and in-line with the recent *Varia* issued by the CBCEW encouraging us all to move forward in the practice of our faith. We are very grateful to Fr Chris Dobson who has agreed to celebrate Mass with us on Thursday at 9:00 am. The Mass will be

streamed for the benefit of those who are not able to attend in person.

The Day of the Lord

The Catholic Bishops of England Wales have issued a reflection on The Day of the Lord. It is an important message for all of us to think about as we begin to move forward from the present lockdown and face the challenges of bringing our communities and the practice of faith to a greater expression and strength in the coming months. Copies of this document are available in the narthex, or you can read this document on-line on the parish web site

Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians

Today, 9th May is the Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians, an annual event which enables Eastern and Western Christians to come together in communion through prayer, uniting the Roman Catholic Church in Europe with dioceses of the Eastern Catholic churches in union with the Bishop of Rome – these churches include the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara communities in India, of particular relevance to us as these represent the Christian roots of Fr Mathew and our other Indian priests in Ipswich. FACE, Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East, is a registered charity which devotes itself exclusively to supporting Eastern Christians, in the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa, through projects in education, healthcare, pastoral support and interreligious dialogue, so that they may remain in their homelands where Christianity was born and first spread. There is no special collection today, but details of how you can donate to support the work of FACE can be found 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.

Parish 150 Club

Thank you to all those who have paid their subscriptions to date – there are still 16 subscriptions from last season still unpaid - if you have not yet paid yours then your prompt attention to this would be appreciated. However, despite this, the draw for April will be made today in the Guild Room after the 10:00 Mass.

Even if these missing subscriptions are received, we still have room for more subscribers to join us! 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

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 John Beeby, Peter McWalter, Peter Samudvsky, Phyllis Cullen, Eileen Mills, Michael Byrne, Mary Hollis, Reginald Park, Frank Gray, John Smith, Clare Jermy, Stanley Poll and Terence Sparkes 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: Sixth Sunday of Easter: 9th May, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: the Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Collect:

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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: Acts. 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 *The Holy Spirit has been poured out on the pagans too.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 97:1-4

Response to the psalm is: *The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.

He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth,
Ring out your joy.

Second Reading: 1John 4:7-10 *God is love.*

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: *"If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."* Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:1-8 *Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.*

Jesus said to his disciples: *'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'*

Prayer Over the Offerings: May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you forever, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion:

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ Our Lord.