

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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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.

Pentecost Sunday: 23rd May, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

Services This Week

Sunday 23 rd – Pentecost Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass – the People of the Parish
Monday 24 th	Mary, Mother of the Church 10:00	Holy Mass
Tuesday 25 th	St Bede, the Venerable 10:00	Holy Mass
Wednesday 26 th	St Philip Neri 10:00	Holy Mass
Thursday 27 th	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest 10:00	Holy Mass
Friday 28 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass
Saturday 29 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass
Sunday 30 th – The Most Holy Trinity	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass

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 season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem, the event which marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is so we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

The Solemnity of Pentecost

This weekend, the Church celebrates Pentecost, one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the upper room. A "strong, driving" wind filled the room where they were gathered, and tongues of fire came to rest on their heads, allowing them to speak in different languages so that they could understand each other. It was right after Pentecost that Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, preached his first homily to Jews and other non-believers, in which he opened the scriptures of the Old Testament, showing how the prophet Joel prophesied events and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He also told the people that the Jesus they crucified is the Lord and was raised from the dead, which "cut them to the heart." When they asked what they should do, Peter exhorted them to repent of their sins and to be baptised. According to the account in Acts, about 3,000 people were baptised following Peter's sermon. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church - Peter, the first Pope, preaches for the first time and converts thousands of new believers. The apostles and believers, for the first time, were united by a common language, and a common zeal and purpose to go and preach the Gospel.

Fr Mathew

It is with great joy that we welcome back Fr Mathew after his visit home to India. Happily, he has come through the period of isolation, following his journey, without any symptoms of Covid and is now able to re-join us with a clean bill of health.

Once again, we offer our grateful thanks to Fr Chris Dobson who has been looking after us so well whilst Fr Mathew has been away. As Fr Chris lives not too far away, it is more than likely that we will see him again at some point in the future, but in the mean time we wish him well as he continues with his well-earned retirement.

Church Re-wiring

Further work has been carried out this week on the re-wiring of the church to address the problems identified earlier in the year when the building was inspected. There is one last defect to be corrected next week, along with remedial work which will be carried out in the church hall to remedy identified defects there. After this, we should have a 5 year electrical test certificate for both properties.

Side By Side

The new spring edition of the CAFOD magazine, Side By Side, is now out and can be read on line on the parish web site.

New Parish Room

The new parish room building is now nearing completion, with the new floor being completed this week and the electrical installation nearly finished. The beech hedge at the side of the Highfield Approach entrance has been cut back and removed, to allow for the widened entrance and new ramp and steps to the church door to be constructed.

Relaxation of Covid Regulations

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) has issued revised guidance to churches following the recent relaxation by the Government of some of the Covid regulations. Not all of these will be relevant to our parish, but those that might be include the re-introduction of the collection and offertory procession, the presence of altar servers to assist at services, the re-introduction of home visits by Eucharistic Ministers and the re-introduction of the Prayers of the Faithful. The updated guidelines can be read in full on the parish web site. Fr Mathew will be looking at these matters on his return before any changes are implemented, and also considering the future of live streamed services.

If you, or a member of your family, is unable to attend Mass, please get in touch with Fr Mathew and we will, with your agreement, endeavour to make arrangements for a home visit by Fr Mathew or by a Eucharistic Minister, to bring you the Blessed Sacrament at home.

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.

Retrouvaille Course

The Catholic charity Retrouvaille is offering an online course from July 1st to July 4th 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.

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

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 Mary Poll (1996), Veronica Nicholson (2008), Henry Head (1924), Ken Bainbridge (2018), Joan Elliott (1980), Freda Casartelli (1985), Ronald Bailey (2008), Frank Janes (1979), Terence Billesbury (2011), Louise de Lorenzi (1995), Patrick Allpress (2020), Christopher Ward (1958), James Fitzgerald (1999), Margaret McArdle (2015), Bridget Quigley, Ron Goodchild, and Edith Ragoonaden (2017) 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: Pentecost Sunday: 23^d May, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

Collect: O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. 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. 2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 103:1,24,29-31,34

Response to the psalm is: *Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are.

How many are your works, O Lord!

The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your Spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your Spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last forever!

May the Lord rejoice in his works!

May my thoughts be pleasing to him,

I find my joy in the Lord.

Second Reading: Gal.5:16-25

The fruit of the Spirit.

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires. Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:26-27

The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth..

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset. I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

Prayer Over the Offerings: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion: O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured put upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ Our Lord.