

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 ☎ 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.

The 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 13th June, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Eleventh Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

Sunday 13 th – 11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Adolf von Fragstein RIP
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
Monday 14 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 15 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 16 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass – Joseph Samuel Brooks
Thursday 17 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass- Holy Souls
Friday 18 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass
Saturday 19 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass
Sunday 20 th – 11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Mary & Stanley Poll RIP
	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

After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days - Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable's meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

Today's Gospel reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us, but just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.

First Holy Communion 2022

Parents who would like their children to celebrate their First Holy communion in 2022 are welcomed to book their places. Enrolment forms are available in the narthex, or can be found on the parish web site. An enrolment form must be completed for each child, signed, dated and returned to Fr Mathew no later than Sunday 10th October 2021. There will be a kick-off meeting for the parents of all the children enrolled and this will take place at 4:00 pm in the Parish Room on Sunday 17th October. We hope to begin the classes in November 2021.

Day for Life

Day for Life is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. This year's *Day for Life* is celebrated in England and Wales next Sunday, 20th June. This day, inaugurated by Saint John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection. This assists pro-life organisations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach. The proceeds of the *Day for Life* collection to be held in parishes in England and Wales assists the work of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church. For more information, visit dayforlife.org

Offertory Receipts

During the lockdown, and restricted Mass attendance post-lockdown, the parish income through the "collection plate" has been reduced, but we are grateful to those who have switched to standing order payments or have made direct payments on-line to help keep the bills paid! The income year to date is as follows: **January:** £1897 of which £1021 was Gift Aided. **February:** £1318 of which £965 was Gift Aided. **March:** £2232 of which £1502 was Gift Aided. **April:** £1625 of which £970 was Gift Aided. **May:** £1920 of which £1160 was Gift Aided. Thank you all for your generosity.

CBCEW Message to the G7

Ahead of the G7 group of nations summit taking place in Carbis Bay, Cornwall from 11th -13th June, bishops representing the Catholic communities of England, Wales and Scotland have written

to Prime Minister Boris Johnson to stress that we must work together to ensure a just and sustainable future for our global community. You can read the full text of the bishops' letter on the parish web site

Photo Gallery

A new section has been added to the parish web site – a photo gallery showing a series of pictures of our church over time. If you have any pictures of the church, the hall or parish life over the years, and would like them added to the collection, please contact webmaster@marymagdalens.org.

Help Wanted

Recognising the concerns of our neighbours, we need to make sure the church property is kept as tidy as possible and over the period of lockdowns and building work, things in the grounds have got a little wild! To address this, we are organising a working party for next Saturday morning, 19th June, to tidy up the church and hall grounds. We are calling for volunteers to give up a couple of hours between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon on that day to assist with hedge trimming, grass cutting, weed clearing, removal of debris etc. The parish has two hedge trimmers, but if volunteers could bring their own, along with an extension lead, that would be a major help. Sacks will be provided for the rubbish, but then we will also need volunteers to take them to the recycling centre for disposal. There is a list in the narthex – please sign up so we can see how many are volunteering.

Returning to Normal

As Government restrictions are gradually being lifted, we can begin to return to something a little closer to normality. With that in mind we are seeking people to think about signing up for the various roles and duties normal parish life involves. We need volunteers to read at Mass, we need flower arrangers, we need cleaners, we need collection counters, we need people to make coffee after Sunday Mass, we need people who can sew and help repair vestments and altar cloths, we need people to help with children's liturgy, we need people to help as catechists – to prepare First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates and adult converts, we need people with practical skills to help with maintenance (carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, gardening), we need people who can help by providing lifts to church for the elderly or housebound – the list is endless!

We all have God-given talents and everybody is asked to think about how they can use the talents they have to help contribute to the life of our parish, and to make your offer of service known either using the contact form on the parish web site, or by speaking to Fr Mathew. To get things fully back up and running we need lots of help so please do think seriously about what you can do to play your part. The more volunteers we have, the more life we can bring back to our parish post-lockdown, and the wider we can spread the workload so as not to over-burden a few. But it would be nice not just to get back to normal but to build and improve on what we had before and use this restart as a catalyst to help rejuvenate the parish. Thank you in anticipation.

The New Parish Room

The electrician will be returning on Monday to finish the electrical work in the parish room which should mean the new room is all powered up, lit and we can then complete the installation of the IT equipment. We are still awaiting a confirmed finish date for the frontage of the new room which is dependent upon feedback and confirmation from the planners regarding the type and style of safety railings required. There has been some recent correspondence between the parties involved and so this should hopefully be sorted soon and the project can then finally be completed.

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 Adolf von Fragstein (2000), Caroline Shannon (2005), Maria Janssen (1972), Robert McAspurn (1993), Annunziata De Dona (2017), George "Mick" O'Halloran (2009), Thomas Akers (1966), Elizabeth Oxborrow (1982), Bridget Slevin, Parkinson Alexander (2020), Felix Shipp (1983), Hilda Brant (1993), June Teuma (2017) and Paulo Borghese 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.

Entrance Antiphon:

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

Collect:

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

First Reading: Eze. 17:22-24 *I make low trees grow.*

The Lord says this: 'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 91:2-3,13-16

Response to the psalm is: *It is good to give you thanks, O Lord*

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. *℟*

The just will flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. *℟*

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. *℟*

Second Reading: 2Cor 5:6-10 *Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34 *It is the smallest of all the seeds; yet it grows into the biggest shrub of them all.*

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.' Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

Prayer over the Offerings:

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Prayer after Communion:

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your church. Through Christ our Lord.