

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 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 11th July, 2021 Sea Sunday

Readings: Sunday: Year B. Weekdays: Fifteenth Week of the Year, Year I Services This Week

Sunday 11 th – 15 th Sunday in	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – Bishop Michael Evans RIP
Ordinary Time	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
Monday 12 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 13 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 14 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Thursday 15 th	St Bonaventure 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 16 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 17 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Joseph George RIP
Sunday 18 th – 16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
	2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Syro Malankara Mass Holy Mass
	6:00 pm	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

This week's Gospel and the one for next week describe how Jesus sent the disciples to minister in his name and the disciples' return to Jesus afterward. These two passages, however, are not presented together in Mark's Gospel. Inserted between the two is the report of Herod's fears that Jesus is John the Baptist back from the dead. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is presented in connection with the teaching of John the Baptist. Jesus' public ministry begins after John is arrested. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, who preached the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God.

While we do not read these details about John the Baptist in our Gospel this week or next, our Lectionary sequence stays consistent with Mark's theme. Recall that last week we heard how Jesus was rejected in his hometown of Nazareth. The insertion of the reminder about John the Baptist's ministry and his death at the hands of Herod in Mark's Gospel makes a similar point. Mark reminds his readers about this dangerous context for Jesus' ministry and that of his disciples. Preaching repentance and the Kingdom of God is dangerous business for Jesus and for his disciples. Mark wants his readers to remember that we, too, may find resistance as we choose to be disciples of Jesus.

Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus sent out the Twelve. These twelve were selected from among Jesus' disciples and named by Mark in chapter 3. Mark notes that these twelve are also called "apostles." The word *apostle* means "one who is sent." The number twelve is also a symbolic number, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. By naming twelve apostles, Jesus shows his mission to be in continuity with the mission of God's people, Israel.

Jesus' instructions to the apostles are very specific. He repeats the mission that they are sent to preach and to share his authority to heal and to drive out demons. Jesus sends them in pairs, establishing his mission as a communal endeavour and instructs them to travel lightly, without the customary food, money, and extra set of clothes. These instructions mean that the Twelve will be dependent on the hospitality of others, just as Jesus depended on others to provide for his needs.

Jesus continues to send us into the world as his disciples. But like the first disciples, we are not sent alone: Jesus has given us the community of the Church, which strengthens our life of discipleship. The Christian message can only authentically be proclaimed in and through the community of faith that is the Church. In our work with others, we build this community of faith and can invite others to share in it.

Sea Sunday

Today, 11th July, is Sea Sunday when we have the opportunity to remember and pray for seafarers, their families and all who support them. It is a day of remembrance, prayer and celebration, and an opportunity to think about and thank those seafarers who work tirelessly throughout the year bringing us goods we often take for granted. 90% of the world's goods are transported by sea and for a very large number of people working in shipping, this represents a way of life. The life of a modern seafarer can be dangerous and lonely, and especially so in the past months during the Covid pandemic - they may spend up to a year at a time away from home, separated from their family and loved ones and often working in harsh conditions. Stella Maris, formerly known as the Apostleship of the Sea, is the Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide. It provides practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race. Its port chaplains and volunteer ship-visitors welcome seafarers, offer welfare services and advice, practical help, care and friendship. Stella Maris in Great Britain is part of an international network, working in 334 ports with 227 port chaplains in 59 countries.

On the parish web site you can find a short video appeal produced by Stella Maris which describes some of the work that is carried out by the organisation. There is also an audio appeal from Bishop Alan Mason that you can listen to – this appeal will be played during the 10:00 streamed Mass. Stella Maris relies wholly on voluntary contributions and to aid in this work, there will be a retiring collection taken at all masses today.

Offertory Donations

The total offertory gift for the month of June was £2005, made up of £1020 standing orders and £985 cash. Thank you.

Eastern Rite Masses

On 3rd Sunday of each month, the local members of the Malankara Catholic community will celebrate Mass at St Mary Magdalens at 2:00 pm. The Syro Malankara Catholic Church traces its

origins to the missions of Thomas the Apostle in the 1st century. It is one of the two Eastern Catholic churches in India and follows the West Syriac Rite Divine Liturgy of St James. The other church being the Syro-Malabar Church which employs the East Syriac Rite liturgy. Local members of this community will also celebrate their Mass here on the 4th Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm. Both communities celebrated for many years at St Pancras church until Fr Leeder retired – we are happy to welcome them to St Mary Magdalens.

Relaxation of Covid Regulations

As you know, the Government is due to confirm tomorrow what legal restrictions are going to be removed on July 19th. Once it is known what the legal changes are, the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) will issue guidance to the Catholic churches on changes to practice. This is likely to take a little while, and until new guidance is formally received, no changes will be made to the format and structure of our services. It is speculated that the wearing of face masks will no longer be a legal requirement, but it is suggested that, in respect of fellow parishioners, people continue to wear face masks in church even if not compulsory. It is also anticipated that the social distancing requirements will be removed, in which case the full number of pews in church will be brought back into service, and people will be able to chose their place and distance themselves as they feel appropriate.

Confirmation Classes

As in previous years, we are going to be part of a three-parish group with St Marks and St Pancras, to prepare candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. It is hoped that classes will commence in September. Candidates from school Year 9 upwards are invited to register their interest. The confirmation round in 2019-2020 never took place due to Covid restrictions, and candidates who were part of that group are also welcome to resume or revise their preparations.

It is also hoped to hold RCIA preparation classes if there is enough interest. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for adults interested in becoming Catholic or for Catholics who missed out on key events, for example the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If you are interested in either one of these classes, or even both, please contact Martin Pakes on 07918 174651, email contact@marymagdalens.org or use the contact form on the parish web site.

Readers

Please note that it is intended to resume the normal rota arrangement for reading at Masses from 25th July, assuming that the anticipated Covid restriction easing on July 19th does in fact take place. Readers will be contacted and provided with the details. New readers are always welcome. If you would like to join the group that have the privilege of reading God's word at Mass, please speak to Martin Pakes, Fr Mathew, email readers@marymagdalens.org or use the contact form on the parish web site. Training and coaching will be given to any new readers.

Congratulations

Last Saturday, 3rd July, Deacon Michael Smith was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of East Anglia at an ordination Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes and 25 priests of the Diocese, at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich. Fr Michael, at 57 year old a late candidate for ordination, completed his training in Rome studying for 4 years, at the Pontifical Beda College. After a break, he will take up his new role, having been appointed to the clergy at the Cathedral.

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 Daniel Crowe (1988), Bishop Michael Evans, 3rd Bishop of East Anglia (2011), Arthur Root, Christine Bowers, Catherine Head (1961), Evelyn Porter-Jones (1965), Aurelia Gajewska (1981), Caroline Shannon (2005), George Hartery (2008), Fu-Lien Simpson (2020), Walter Keenan, William Sheridan (1981), Bishop Alan Clarke, 1st Bishop of East Anglia, (2002), Jessie Lubeck (1991), Rose Lee (013) and Bridget Atkins (2018) 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:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Collect:

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. 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: Amos 7:12-15 Go, prophesy to my people.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer,' get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 84:9-14

Response to the psalm is: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,	Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
a voice that speaks of peace,	and justice look down from heaven. R
peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. R Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.	The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. I

Second Reading: Eph. 1:3-14 Before the world was made, God chose us.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised. Shorter form: read italicised text only.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13 He began to send them out.

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

Prayer over the Offerings:

Look upon the offerings of your church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, that they may bring even greater holiness. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.

Prayer after Communion:

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. Through Christ our Lord.