

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Mathew George

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Parish school: St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Stratford Road, Ipswich, IP1 6EF

Head of School: Mrs Lucille Martin ☎ 01473 742074

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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.

The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 18th July, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Sixteenth Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

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	Syro-Malankara Mass
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass
Monday 19 th	Feria No Mass Today	
Tuesday 20 th	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass – Vieira family
Wednesday 21 st	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Janes family
Thursday 22 nd	St Mary Magdalen 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 23 rd	St Bridget 10:00 am	Holy Mass – T M Joseph RIP
Saturday 24 th	Feria 10:00 am 2:00 pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar Mass
Sunday 24 th – 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Vieira family
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
	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

In this today's Gospel, we read the report of the return of the Twelve, who were sent by Jesus to preach repentance, heal the sick, and drive out demons. When the Twelve return to Jesus, he invites them to come away from the crowds and rest, but the crowds will not give them peace. As the Twelve have shared in Jesus' ministry, they now appear to share in his popularity. The crowds continue to approach them, and Mark reports that the disciples don't even have time to eat. In an effort to get away, Jesus and his disciples board a boat in hopes of finding a deserted place, but the crowds notice this and arrive ahead of them. The crowds are so persistent that Jesus and his disciples cannot find a place to be alone. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus is moved with pity and begins to teach the crowds.

Our Gospel for today stops here, but Mark's report of the unyielding demands of the crowd continues in the verses that follow. If we were to continue reading from Mark's Gospel, we would hear Jesus instruct his disciples to feed the crowd in the familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The work of Jesus and his disciples appears to be a round-the-clock job. In the next few weeks, we will hear the story of Jesus' feeding of the multitude, but our Lectionary will turn to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John to report and reflect on this story.

In today's Gospel, we hear the Twelve referred to as "apostles." The word *apostle* is a Greek word meaning "one who is sent." Jesus chose twelve men from among his disciples whom he sent to share in his ministry of preaching and healing. The first report of this is found in the third chapter of Mark's Gospel, where the Twelve are also called apostles and the names of this select group are listed.

We who are Jesus' disciples today have also been sent to share the Gospel with others. Perhaps our commitment to following Jesus as his disciple leaves us feeling tired and overwhelmed. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm the importance of times of rest and renewal. Jesus wanted his disciples to come away and spend time alone with him. This is what we seek and find in our life of prayer and in our celebration of the Eucharist.

Living Stones Prayer group

A joyful, friendly community which meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at St Mark's church, Hawthorne Drive, Ipswich, to praise, worship and listen to the word of God together in a way that is open to the Holy Spirit and affiliated to the English Charis National Service Communion. These sessions are open and all are welcome.

World day for the Grandparents and the Elderly

The Holy Father has designated next Sunday, 25th July, as the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. There will be special prayers for them that Sunday.

The Feast of St Mary Magdalen

Thursday this week, 22nd July, is the feast day of our patron, Saint Mary Magdalen. Mary Magdalen was the first recorded witness to the resurrection of Jesus, His most ardent and loving follower. She had stood with His mother Mary at the foot of the cross on that brutal Good Friday afternoon and had been by the side of Mary during those difficult hours. On Easter morning, she went with the other women to the tomb and it was there, in the garden near the tomb, that Jesus appeared to her. It was she who brought the news of the resurrection to the apostles, causing Peter and John to race to the tomb to see what had happened.

She was from Magdala, a small fishing town on the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Tiberias. She was known to be a "*great sinner*", a woman of the streets who heard Jesus speak of the mercy and forgiveness of God and subsequently changed her life completely. This tradition explains why Mary Magdalen was revered for centuries as the "*model penitent*". Her matter-of-fact witness to the resurrection moved Peter and John to go and see for themselves: "*I have seen the Lord and these things he said to me*". Jesus had chosen her to bring the news to them and she simply told them what had happened.

She has always been an example of great love and great forgiveness, one of those close to Jesus who grasped the truth of God's love for human beings and spent her life bearing witness to that love.

Icon of St. Joseph

The icon of St. Joseph is going around the diocese for special prayers for families. Our chance to welcome the icon is on Sunday is on the Sunday after Christmas - the Feast of the Holy Family. Here is a prayer from the Holy Father to St Joseph for all families to pray.

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ grew to maturity.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen*

Church Entrance Building Works

You will have noticed that works to the church frontage have commenced in earnest this week. Steps to the front have already been removed in preparation for building of a retaining wall and further works will consist of reconfiguring and widening the current entrance ramp, building a ramp from the church entrance to the new parish room and building new steps at each side of the raised area. New metal safety railings will be installed to all raised areas but due to supply issues we may initially have to erect a temporary alternative whilst awaiting their delivery.

The work is expected to take around 4 weeks and during this time access to the church entrance will be restricted depending upon where construction is taking place. At some stage the main entrance from Highfield Approach will have to be closed meaning that people will have to enter the church and Guild Room via the presbytery driveway off Norwich Road and along the garden path.

Thank you for your patience whilst these works are being carried out.

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. 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.

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 Adam Pawlowski-Brooks (2020), Lilian Barnes, Jeremiah Cahillane (1994), Peggy Oxley (2006), John Welham (1974), Margaret Faul (2009), Alice Reilly (1987), Neil Ford (1989), Elizabeth Thrower (2001), Robert Coyle, Margaret McManus (1981) and Elizabeth de Souza (2012) 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: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 18th July, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Collect:

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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: Jer. 23:1-6

The remnant of my flock I will gather and I will raise up shepherds to look after them.

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them anymore; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks! See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 22

Response to the psalm is: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures

where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,

to revive my drooping spirit.. ☩

He guides me along the right path;

he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness

no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;

with these you give me comfort.. ☩

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. R

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. ☩

Second Reading: Eph. 2:13-18

Christ Jesus is the peace between us, and has made the two into one.

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God: in his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

They were like sheep without a shepherd.

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

Prayer over the Offerings:

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord, the gracious and merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Prayer after Communion:

Graciously be present to your people, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.