

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 6JS

☎ 01473 741975

☎ 07939 920844

🌐 www.marymagdalens.org

📺 @marymagdalens

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

🌐 www.rcdea.org.uk

📺 youtube.com/c/StMaryMagdalens

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 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 25th July, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Seventeenth Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

Sunday 24 th – 25 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
Monday 26 th	Saints Joachim and Anne	
	10:00	Holy Mass – Janes family
Tuesday 27 th	Feria	
	10:00	Holy Mass- Vieira family
Wednesday 28 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Thursday 29 th	St Martha	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 30 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 31 st	St Ignatius of Loyola	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Joseph George RIP
Sunday 1 st August – 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
	2:00 pm	Eastern Orthodox 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

Through most of Lectionary Cycle B, our Sunday Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Mark. Over the past two Sundays, we heard how Jesus sent his disciples to share in his mission. If we were to continue reading Mark's Gospel, we would next hear his report of how Jesus feeds the crowds in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Our Lectionary, however, leaves Mark's Gospel for the next several weeks and instead presents this event from the Gospel of John. In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is presented as a sign of his authority and divinity. Jesus interprets the meaning and significance of this miracle as a sharing of his Body and Blood. This chapter is sometimes called the "Bread of Life Discourse."

In many important ways, John's Gospel uses the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to teach about the Eucharist. Like the Last Supper, this miracle is said to have occurred near the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. Jesus' language is similar to the language he used at the Last Supper as reported in the Synoptic Gospels. John's description of this event also anticipates the Messianic banquet of heaven, as the crowd reclines and all hungers are satisfied with abundance. This connection is further amplified by the response of the crowd, who want to make Jesus a king. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven.

Recall that John's Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper differently than the Synoptic Gospels. Instead of describing the meal and Jesus' actions with the bread and cup, John describes how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. We hear this Gospel when we remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. This recollection of Jesus' action at the Last Supper complements the institution narrative of the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's letters that we hear repeated at each Mass.

In both stories about the Eucharist - the washing of the disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes - the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action. Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself, and we are sent to serve others.

John's Gospel notes the detail that the bread blessed and shared with the crowd are barley loaves. This is the food of the poor. It reminds us that God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve the poorest among us.

The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labours, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

World day for the Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has instituted a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Identifying with the more senior members of our society, he says "The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!" There is a message from the Holy Father which can be read in full on the parish web site. There is also a filmed reflection from President of the Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Vincent Nichols together with a special prayer to help celebrate the day.

As the Pope says, we should cherish the elderly and recognise that there's no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to grandchildren.

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.*

Step 4 Guidance from the CBCEW

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has issued a statement of guidance to churches following the Step 4 easing of Covid restrictions by the Government, which commenced on 19th July. This guidance is available to read on the parish web site. The CBCEW also issued the following statement entitled *Sunday – Its Our Day*:

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the Covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement "The pandemic is not over." Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: "The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives." May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.

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.

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 Laura Croker (2002), Veronica "Mary" Brooks (2011), Evelyn Davies (1985), Stephen Moss (1963), James Barrett (1973), Frederick Scoging (1976), Michael Rock (2005), Karl Barc (1989), Mary Sheridan (1986), John Perry (1986), Josef Szczepanko (1986) and Mark Cooper (1999) 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: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 25th July, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Collect:

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that endure. 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: 2Kings 4:42-44 *They will eat and have some left over.*

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear.' 'Give it to the people to eat', Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some left over, as the Lord had said.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 144:10-11,15-18

Response to the psalm is: *You open wide your hands, O Lord, you grant our desires..*

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.

You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. *℟*

They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. *℟*

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.

He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. *℟*

Second Reading: Eph. 4:1-6 *One Body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.*

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: John 6:1-15

Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all who were sitting ready.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

Prayer over the Offerings:

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Prayer after Communion:

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.