

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

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✉ parishpriest@marymagdalens.org

Parish Priest: Fr Mathew George

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 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1st August, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Eighteenth Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

Sunday 1 st	8:00 am	Holy Mass – John Earley RIP
August – 18 th	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Richard Fox RIP
Sunday in Ordinary Time	(Streamed)	
	2:00 pm	Eastern Orthodox Mass
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
Monday 2 nd	Feria	
	10:00	Holy Mass – The Janes family
Tuesday 3 rd	Feria	
	10:00	Holy Mass – The Vieira family
Wednesday 4 th	St John Vianney	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Thursday 5 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 6 th	The Transfiguration of the Lord	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 7 th	Feria	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Joseph George RIP
Sunday 8 th –	8:00 am	Holy Mass – The Vieira family
19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Laura Croker RIP
	(Streamed)	
	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

This Sunday we continue to read from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, but not continuously. Our Lectionary omits John's report of Jesus' walking on water. After the feeding of the multitudes, the disciples leave in a boat and Jesus follows them. In today's Gospel, we learn that the crowd has noticed the departure of Jesus and his disciples and so seeks them out in Capernaum. In the dialogue that follows between Jesus and the crowds, Jesus unfolds for us the gift of himself that that he gives in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel, there are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd, having followed Jesus to Capernaum, asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing him. They have been fed. Jesus acknowledges this, yet challenges them to see beyond the fulfilment of their material needs. The crowds have followed Jesus because they have been fed. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because he can give them eternal life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and his mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have faith in the one sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that Jesus is from God. How strange this sounds since Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people. What more is expected?

But the crowd cannot see beyond the surface of the sign. They show this in their interpretation of the sign that came from Moses. In their description, they identify Jesus with Moses, as if to say, as Moses gave the people manna in the desert, give us a sign so that we will know that you are from God. They are looking to identify a prophet without realizing that God is standing before them. Jesus corrects their misinterpretation, saying that the manna received by their ancestors came from God. As God fulfilled their ancestors' needs in the desert, so God has provided them with food for eternal life. In the bread that they have received from Jesus, they have received physical nourishment and also spiritual nourishment. Jesus wants the crowd to see beyond the surface to the One who provides true nourishment.

The conclusion of the dialogue reveals the crowd's blindness. They ask for what Jesus has just told them they have found: "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus answers plainly that he himself is the Bread of Life they seek. Jesus himself is the Bread of Life who will satisfy every hunger and thirst. This is the first of several such statements found in John's Gospel. We understand these better when we remember that God revealed his name to the people of Israel as "I am," as Yahweh. Jesus is now claiming this name for himself. In the weeks ahead, we will see the offense that this gives to the people.

Catholic East Anglia

The August edition of the *Catholic East Anglia* newspaper is now available online and paper copies are available in narthex. This publication is free of charge – please do take a copy home with you. The edition includes reports on the latest priestly ordination, a Catholic boy from a council estate that became Lord Mayor of Norwich and catechists honoured for passing on their faith. There is also an East Anglian CAFOD report from the G7 Summit in Cornwall and a Papal honour for a Cambridge Catholic.

If you are not attending church to collect a copy, you can read it on-line on the parish web site.

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*

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 Cyril Robinson (1970), Anne Mongan (1978), Ann Garnet (1988), Leonard Gray (2007), Elijah O'Connor (1963), William Brennan (1983), Rachel Styles (1987), Paul O'Donovan (1997), Guiseppina Iannelli (2016), Stephen Fox (1983), Patricia Jennings (1993), Barrie Johnson (2009), Mary Murphy (1972), Francis Jordon (1958) and Frederick Rutter (1986) 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: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1st August, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

Collect:

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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: Exo. 16:2-4,12-15

I will rain down bread for you from the heavens.

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, "Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!" Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not. I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God." And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 77:3-4, 23-25, 54

Response to the psalm is: *The Lord gave them bread from heaven.*

The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us,
we will tell to the next generation:
the glories of the Lord and his might. ☩

He rained down manna for their food,
and gave them bread from heaven. ☩

Mere men ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food.

He commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.

He brought them to is holy land,
To the mountain which his right hand had won. ☩

Second Reading: Eph. 4:17,20-24

Put on the new self that has been created in God's way.

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 6:24-35

He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Prayer after Communion:

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.