


# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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• [www.marymagdalens.org](http://www.marymagdalens.org)

 @marymagdalens

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

• [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk)

 youtube.com/c/StMaryMagdalens

**Parish Priest:** Fr Mathew George

• [parishpriest@marymagdalens.org](mailto: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 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021***

***Readings: Sunday: Year B.***

***Weekdays: Twentieth Week of the Year, Year I***

### ***Services This Week***

Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Holy Mass - The Vieira family Holy Mass – Laura Croker RIP Syro Malankara Mass Holy Mass – The People of the Parish
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass - Janes Family
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00	Holy Mass - Viera Family
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass - The Coats Family Living & Deceased
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	St Bernard 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	St Pius 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass - Vieira Family Holy Mass - For Jackson and Riya 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 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. Although no longer mandatory, we are committed to following Government guidance 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 guidance is still that you wear a face covering whilst in church.

## Today's Gospel

Today's feast celebrates Mary's Assumption into heaven. It is one of three feasts of Mary that are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics. January 1 is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven has long been held as an important Catholic belief. The belief was not defined as dogma, however, until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.

The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, *the Magnificat*. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel. Mary's *Magnificat*, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

The Gospel for this day reminds us that Mary's Assumption into heaven is best understood with regard for the full spectrum of Catholic beliefs about the person of Christ and the person of Mary. Only Mary, who was born without stain of original sin - the Immaculate Conception - could give birth to Christ, who is fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognises Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all.

Today's Gospel highlights Mary's faith. Mary's faith enabled her to recognise the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation.

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## Petition for an Apology

Fr Mathew writes: "I would like to encourage you all to sign a petition (you may choose not to do so) for an adoption apology for women and their babies, now adults who were cruelly separated by past forced adoption practices. A study in 1968 of mother and baby homes revealed that 11.6% of the homes were run by the Catholic Church. I am aware that it all happened, including the study even before I was born and in countries that I thought I would never be in. (Well, India had worse incidents and they have not addressed them yet). But there is a collective Catholic responsibility to encourage healing. The link to follow in order to sign the petition is: <http://movementforanadoptionapology.org>"

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## The New Parish Room

Since last report in April, the total donated in response to the Parish Room appeal, including Gift Aid, now stands at £15,700. This means we have exceeded our initial target of £15,000 and have been able to complete the new room.

In consultation with our builder and architect we have agreed to extend the works on the frontage to allow for (a) the replacement of a greater area of concrete at the drive entrance and (b) to raise the height of the ramp retaining wall to help reduce the cost of the railings which, due to issues of supply, have risen steeply in cost over the last few months.

Any further donations to help offset the additional costs involved which are expected to be in the region of £8,000 to £10,000 would therefore be warmly welcomed.

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## 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](mailto:webmaster@marymagdalens.org).

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## **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.

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## **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*

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## **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 19<sup>th</sup> July. This guidance is available to read on the parish web site.

## **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.

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## **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.

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## **Parish Anniversaries**

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed and especially for Violet Akenhurst (1979), Bridget Keenan (1963), William Gleeson (1972) and Michael Whitbread (2013) 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: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, who today were exalted above the choirs of Angels into eternal triumph with Christ.

**Collect:**

O God, who, looking on the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary, raised her to this grace, that your Only Begotten Son was born of her according to the flesh and that she was crowned this day with surpassing glory, grant through her prayers, that, saved by the mystery of your redemption, we may merit to be exalted by you on high. 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:** 1Chr. 15:3-4,15-16,16:1-2 *They brought the ark of God and put it inside the tent that David had pitched for it.*

David gathered all Israel together to bring the ark of God up to the place he had prepared for it. David called together the sons of Aaron and the sons of Levi. And the Levites carried the ark of God with the shafts on their shoulders, as Moses had ordered in accordance with the word of the Lord. David then told the heads of the Levites to assign duties for their kinsmen as cantors, with their various instruments of music, harps and lyres and cymbals, to play joyful tunes. They brought the ark of God in and put it inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and they offered holocausts before God, and communion sacrifices. And when David had finished offering holocausts and communion sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps. 131:6-7,9-10,13-14

**Response to the psalm is:** *Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your strength.*

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;

we found it in the plains of Yearim.

"Let us go to the place of his dwelling;

let us go to kneel at his footstool." R

Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:

your faithful shall ring out their joy.

For the sake of David your servant  
do not reject your anointed. R

For the Lord has chosen Zion;  
He has desired it for his dwelling:  
"This is my resting-place forever,  
Here I have chosen to live." R

**Second Reading:** 1Cor. 15:54-57 *He gave us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are those who hear the word of God, and keep it. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 11:27-28 *Happy the womb that bore you!*

As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Happy the womb that bore you and the breasts you sucked!' But he replied, 'Still happier those who hear the word of God and keep it!

**Prayer over the Offerings:**

Receive, we pray, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise, which we celebrate on the Assumption of the holy Mother of God, that it may lead us to your pardon and confirm us in perpetual thanksgiving. Through Christ Our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon:**

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the eternal Father.

**Prayer after Communion:**

Having partaken of this heavenly table, we beseech your mercy, Lord our God, that we, who honour the Assumption of the Mother of God, may be freed from every threat of harm. Through Christ our Lord.