

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

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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 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: 22nd August, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Twenty First Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

Sunday 22 nd – 21 st 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
Monday 23 rd	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Janes Family
Tuesday 24 th	St Bartholomew 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Vieira Family
Wednesday 25 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Coates family Living and deceased
Thursday 26 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 27 th	St Monica 10:00 am	Holy Mass - For the intentions of Fr. Mathew
Saturday 28 th	St Augustine 10:00 am 2:00 pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar Mass for Kanaya Christians
Sunday 29 th – 22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass - For Cyril and Krishna 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

For our Gospel today we hear the conclusion of the "Bread of Life discourse" in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed in our liturgy over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that he is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have eternal life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been teaching these things, John's Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus' words. In today's Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer references them, or the Jews. Instead John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus' own disciples.

Today's Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus' disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus' teaching, these disciples also cannot accept Jesus' words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John's Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus' disciples ceased to follow him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 to only 12 people, and it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns his attention.

Simon Peter's response to Jesus' question as to whether those closest to him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter's confession of faith in the Synoptic Gospels. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about himself: Jesus is the one from God in whom they have found the path to eternal life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgment about who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God's grace invites us to be Jesus' disciples, but each person must respond to the grace of God and confess as his or her own the belief that Jesus is the one from God. This faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to eternal life.

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>"

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.

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.

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.

A Note from Fr. Mathew

Many of you have expressed concerns about my wellbeing and its impact on the parish in the past few months. The pandemic has been difficult for all of us in manifold ways. It is important that the parish needs a new lease of life. As I am not sure whether I am the person capable of doing that I have requested a move to our Bishop, and he has been kind to grant it. It will not happen very soon as the transfers of priests are arranged already. However, there is a time we all need to move on and do that with love and care. I was appointed to this parish on 1st March 2017 as a locum priest for 6 months when Fr Russell, who was with you more than 13 years, had to go to Walsingham. And here I am with you after 4 years and a bit more. It is right to say that I have gone past my "sell by date" or if you are kind "best before date". I do not intend to be a 'lame duck' priest or just 'coast' while I am still with you as it will take time for the bishop to make up his mind and sort out the practicalities. They are never easy. I have 2 cats. That makes his job even more difficult. I shall do the best I can while I am still with you. And positively it will give me chance to complete the parish room and the disabled access to that which I have started with your initiative, generous help and support. Any change will not affect the First Communion programme, Confirmation or the normal services in the church. *And by the way the 27th is my 52nd Birthday.*

Parish 150 Club

The August prize draw of the 150 Club will be made next Sunday, 29th August, in the Guild Room after 10:00 Mass.

If you are a parishioner but not a member of this Club, then please would you consider joining? It is a parish venture, and it would be nice to think that every parishioner would support it. Membership costs £12 per year for a single number, which will then be entered in each of the 12 monthly prize draws. Membership forms are available in the narthex, or, if you don't want to deal with handling paper or are not currently attending church, you can email your membership request to 150club@marymagdalens.org

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 John Brant (2002), Giulio Fella (2009), Claude Turner (2008) and Monica Wright (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.

Mass Readings: 21st Sunday In Ordinary Time: 22nd August, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

Turn away your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Collect:

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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: Josh. 24:1-2,15-17,18 *We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 33:2-3,16-23

Response to the psalm is: *Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

I will bless the Lord at all times,

his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad. ☩

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. ☩

They call and the Lord hears

and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;

those whose spirit is crushed he will save. ☩

Many are the trials of the just man

but from them all the Lord will rescue him.

He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. ☩

Evil brings death to the wicked;

Those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. ☩

Second Reading: Eph. 5:21-32 *This mystery has many implications for Christ and his church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?' 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your church. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Prayer after Communion:

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.