

# 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

**Readings: Sunday: Year B.**

**Weekdays: Twenty Second Week of the Year, Year I**

### Services This Week

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> 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
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass –
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Feria <b>No Mass Today</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass –
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	St Gregory the Great 10:00 am	Holy Mass -
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass - 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

This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness - clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmask a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

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## World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Wednesday of this week is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Pope Francis has established 1<sup>st</sup> September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth. *"The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."* (Pope Francis, Letter inaugurating World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation).

In all circumstances of human life there are choices to be made regarding the environment and our reverent stewardship of God's gift of creation. *"The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. Therefore the earth's treasures no longer serve to build God's garden for all to live in, but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction."* (Benedict XVI, homily at Inaugural Mass, 2005).

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## **Ride 'N' Stride**

The annual Ride 'N' Stride event, organised by the Suffolk Historic Church's Trust, will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. It's not too late to register if you would like to Ride or Stride to raise money – all proceeds are shared between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and St Mary Magdalens. You can register with the Suffolk Historic Church's Trust at [www.shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/](http://www.shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/) where you can download sponsorship forms and a full list of churches and chapels that are expected to be open.

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## **FIND**

For 30 years, Families in Need (FIND) Ipswich has offered a lifeline to people in Ipswich and the surrounding areas who are experiencing poverty and despair. During the height of the Covid pandemic, things were particularly difficult with increased demand but with many food donation points located in places that were closed due to Covid restrictions, for example our own church. Things are now getting back to normal and FIND is, as always, in need of donations to support its work. There is a large demand for non-perishable food items, toiletries, tea, coffee, preserves etc. Our FIND tub is in the narthex ready to receive your donations. Although FIND needs fresh items too, it is best not to leave these in our tub as items may remain there for a few days before being collected – instead fresh or frozen food donations can be made direct to FIND at 5 Braziers Wood Road, IP3 0SP.

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## **Happy Birthday**

We wish Fr Mathew belated good wishes for his birthday which was last Friday, 27th August. For those attending the 150 Club prize draw after 10:00 Mass, there may be an opportunity to partake of a little celebration.

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## **Streamed Sunday Mass**

In its statement entitled *Sunday – Its Our Day*, the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) wrote "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." We began live-streaming our 10:00 Sunday Mass on the feast of Christ the King last year and during the pandemic, a large number of people watched both the service live and the subsequent recording. Numbers watching have steadily declined in recent weeks as people are gradually returning to church in person. With the CBCEW statement in mind, our 10:00 Mass on Sunday mornings will continue to be streamed live until the end of the current church year, the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November. After that, for those who are housebound and unable to get out to attend Mass in person, there will be many other streamed services available to watch instead.

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## **Parish 150 Club**

The August prize draw of the 150 Club will be made today 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](mailto:150club@marymagdalens.org)

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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 Alyssa Maior (2018), Paul Treiber (1964), John Grant (2002), John Eaton (2010), Vincent O'Brian (1990), Rose Carter (1978), Richard Twomey (2007) and Patrick Byrne (1998) 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: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time: 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

### Entrance Antiphon:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

### Collect:

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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: Deut. 4:1-2,6-8 *Add nothing to what I command you, keep the commandments of the Lord.*

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 14:2-53

#### *Response to the psalm is: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

but honours those who fear the Lord. ℣

he who walks without fault,

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;

he who acts with justice

who takes no interest on a loan

and speaks the truth from his heart. ℣

and accepts no bribes against the innocent. ℣

He who does no wrong to his brother,

Such a man will stand firm forever. ℣

who casts no slur on his neighbour,

who holds the godless to disdain,

### Second Reading: James 1:17-18,21-22,27 *You must do what the word tells you.*

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

### Gospel Acclamation:

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

### Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 *You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

### Prayer over the Offerings:

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power. Through Christ Our Lord.

### Communion Antiphon:

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

### Prayer after Communion:

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.