

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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: 5th September, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Twenty Third Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

Sunday 5 th – 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass – The Vieira Family Holy Mass – The People of the Parish Holy Mass
Monday 6 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass –
Tuesday 7 th	Feria No Mass Today	
Wednesday 8 th	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Vieira Family
Thursday 9 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass The Janes Family
Friday 10 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 11 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Sunday 12 th – 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass - The Vieira Family Holy Mass - The People of the Parish 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 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 we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

Education Sunday

Next Sunday, 12th September, is Education Sunday, a special day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education, held in the United Kingdom each year to coincide with the beginning of the school year. The theme is devised by an ecumenical steering group representing different Christian denominations and organisations and the focus this year is thanking all those who work in Catholic schools for their hard work and dedication during the pandemic. Did you know that Education Sunday is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales? This year the focus of Education Sunday is to thank all those who work in Catholic schools for their hard work and dedication over what has been a very challenging 18 months.

CAFOD Appeals

A bit like buses, two come along at once. CAFOD, the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, has two appeals currently running and is appealing for donations and prayer support. In Afghanistan, CAFOD is helping people caught up in the crisis. The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating as tens of thousands Afghans flee their homes, compounding an existing crisis following decades of conflict and drought.

In Haiti, a devastating magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck on Saturday 14th August at around 8.30 am local time. As the search continues through the rubble, the current death toll is more than 1,200 with up to 6,000 people injured. An estimated 10,000 buildings have collapsed including homes, churches, schools and hospitals. The southern peninsula is a remote area of the island, and tropical storm Grace added further to the urgent humanitarian needs of a vulnerable people.

Donations for both of these appeals can be made via the CAFOD website www.cafod.org.uk or alternatively follow the links on the parish web site.

Ride 'N' Stride

The annual Ride 'N' Stride event, organised by the Suffolk Historic Church's Trust, will take place on Saturday 11th 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/ where you can download sponsorship forms and a full list of churches and chapels that are expected to be open.

Stella Maris

Bishop Alan Hopes will be making a pastoral visit to the Seafarer's Centre at the port of Felixstowe on Monday 13th September, and celebrating Mass. The Bishop will be arriving at 3:00 pm and the Mass will start at 5:00 pm. The Mass is open to all, but the size of the chapel will limit attendance and anybody interested in attending is asked to contact the port chaplain, Julian Wong on 07758 356372, to confirm a place.

FIND

Francis Morrell, who has regularly collected donations from our FIND tub for many years, has taken on additional responsibilities in support of FIND at St Marks and St Mary's parishes and will no longer be collecting from St Mary Magdalens. We are very grateful to Paul and Chris Riches, already volunteer workers for FIND, who have agreed to take on the task of collecting our FIND donations each week. Your generosity in supporting FIND is very much appreciated – let's make sure Paul and Chris have plenty to do!

Streamed Sunday Mass

In its statement entitled *Sunday – Its Our Day*, the 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." With this in mind, we will continue to live stream the 10:00 Mass each Sunday until the end of the current church year, the Feast of Christ the King. 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.

Parish 150 Club

The August prize draw of the 150 Club was made last Sunday. Congratulations to the prize-winners who were:

£15	No 201	Mrs M Palmer	£10	No 165	Mr & Mrs M Mayston
£5	No 211	Mrs M Palmer	£5	103	Mr & Mrs M Pakes

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

Can you Help?

On Saturday 18th September, we are arranging a working party to tidy up the church hall and surrounding area, starting from 10:30. Refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and a bacon baguette, will be provided at 12:00 noon. We need as many volunteers as possible - if you can help, please add your name to the list in the narthex for catering purposes.

St John's Cathedral

The Diocesan Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich has announced four heritage open days that will take place on Friday and Saturday 10th and 11th September and Friday and Saturday 17th and 18th September. The events include both on-line/virtual experiences and in-person events and offer opportunities to explore behind the scenes, climb the tower, learn about the stained glass windows, explore the ground floor, visit the gardens and more. Details of the events can be found on the Diocesan web site www.rcdea.org.uk or follow the link from 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 Minnie Morris (1975), Albert Richardson (1969), Teresa Austin (2008), Carmine Ragosta (2019), Javoslav Bodnar (1982), Patrick Clifford (1998), Katherine Brett (2005) and Canon William Burrows (1959) 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.

Entrance Antiphon:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Collect:

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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: Isa, 25:4-7 *The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and the tongues of the dumb shall be loosed.*

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 145:7-10

Response to the psalm is: *My soul give praise to the Lord.*

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *℟*

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,

| the Lord, who protects the stranger. *℟*

The Lord upholds the widow and the orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *℟*

Second Reading: James 2:1-5 *God chose the poor to be the heirs to the kingdom.*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37 *He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

O God, who gave us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my souls is thirsting for God, the living God.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.