

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

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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 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 26th September, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Twenty Sixth Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

Sunday 26 th – 26 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
Monday 27 th	St Vincent de Paul 10:00 am	Holy Mass - The Janes Family
Tuesday 28 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass - The Vieira Family
Wednesday 29 th	Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels 10:00 am	Holy Mass - Holy Souls
Thursday 30 th	St Jerome 10:00 am	Holy Mass - Martin Curry RIP (FM)
Friday 1 st October	St Therese of the Child 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Cranston Family RIP
Saturday 2 nd	The Holy Guardian Angels 10:00 am	Holy Mass - Sheridan & Morris families (FM)
Sunday 3 rd – 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am 10:00 am (Streamed) 6:00 pm	Holy Mass The Vieira Family Holy Mass - Roger Mayhew RIP 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 we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognised the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Today is the annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It's always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move, to pray for them as they face many challenges, and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

The Holy Father has sent a message for this event, the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In the light of the recent disturbing scenes broadcast from Afghanistan, this day for migrants and refugees will have special poignancy. The theme for this year is "Towards an ever wider *we*" which is a major theme in the Pope's encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*. The Pope's message pays particular attention to the care of our common family, which, together with the care of our common home, encourages us to become ever more welcoming and can be read on the parish web site. Other articles and interviews can be found on the CBCEW web site.

Welcome Back

Today we welcome back Fr Mathew who has returned after his travels. We are very grateful to Fr Paul Vincent and Fr Bineesh John of St Mark's and F Chris Dobson, who have all looked after us so well during Fr Mathew's absence.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Friday this week, 1st October, is the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we are all asked to support this by partaking of a simple meal in solidarity with those unfortunates less well off than ourselves. This year, the focus of CAFOD's appeal is the Climate Crisis and how it impacts those in third world countries. There are collection envelopes in the narthex for this special appeal – please take one and be as generous as you possibly can. If you are not attending church then you can donate online at cafod.org. If you do donate, please Gift Aid your donation if you are an income tax payer as this will increase the value of your donation to CAFOD by 25% at no additional cost to you. By donating to CAFOD this Harvest Fast Day, you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. CAFOD works with local experts to help people around the world to adapt to the changing climate and protect our common home.

Vacancy

St Mary & St Peter Catholic Primary School in Gorleston, part of the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust, is seeking to appoint a new Head of School to start as soon as possible, or in January 2022. Further details of the position along with an application form, can be found on the trust website stjohnthebaptist-cmat.org.uk and on the school web site smspprimary.co.uk or you can follow the links from the parish website article. Closing date for applications is Friday October 1st, with interviews for the selected candidates to follow on Thursday and Friday 7th and 8th October.

FIND

The organisers of FIND, the local support group for Families in Need, have passed on their thanks to the parish now that we have restarted food collection. We are told that 145 food parcels were sent out last week so the need is still there. Whilst all items donated will be gratefully received, there is a particular need for lentils, tinned tomatoes, peanut butter, tinned peas, tinned fruit, soup, flour and small (40 pack) teabags. The FIND tub in the narthex is there ready for any donations you are able to make, and our parish collectors are standing by to take your donations to the FIND depot for distribution. Please be generous.

Jean Orme RIP

Many of you will have known Jean Orme, the wife of Fr Martin Orme who was assistant priest at St Mary Magdalens for many years during Fr Russell Frost's tenure as parish priest. Jean sadly passed away on September 18th. A requiem Mass will be said for Jean at St Pancras church, details of which are awaited and will be published once confirmed. Please remember Jean in your prayers and also pray for her family and friends who mourn her passing.

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Mass for Miscarriage

On Sunday 10th October at 12 noon, there will be a special Mass of consolation and hope for families who have lost a child. The Mass, organised by the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Commission, will be celebrated at the church of Our Lady & St Ethelreda, Newmarket. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Parish 150 Club

The September prize draw, which will include the September Bonus prizes, will be held in the Guild Room after 10:00 Mass today. Everybody is welcome to come in and witness the draw. The 150 Club generates a significant contribution to the parish income and its continued success is dependent upon keeping up the membership level. If you are not a member of the 150 Club, please do consider joining – it's never too late and there is room for you!

The Threat of Assisted Suicide

The Catholic Church remains opposed to any form of assisted suicide. It is a crime against human life and we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. A Second Reading of the Assisted Dying Bill is due to take place on October 15th in the House of Lords. If this becomes law, the Bill would allow a terminally ill adult, with less than six months to live, to be assisted in committing suicide. (i) please pray that the bill will be defeated; (ii) please urgently write to the peers, and particularly if you have stories you are able to share, to give voice to the concerns and fears of disabled people and to offer personal stories of those with medical expertise in end of life care and (iii) please engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022 – A Reminder

The programme for children making their First Holy Communion in 2022 will be starting shortly. Children to join the programme must first register - to do this please download the registration form from the parish web site or take a hard copy from the narthex, complete, sign and date it and return it to Fr Mathew no later than October 10th. The first parents-only meeting will be on 17th October 2021.

The Sick of the Parish

We ask your prayers for all our brothers and sisters who are unwell, afflicted or distressed. Comfort and relieve them according to their needs, and grant them the love and consolation of your Spirit: John Anderson-Hurst, William Barnes, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, Sheila Curry, Fabiana Di Mascio, Patrick Doran, Ron Green, Josephine Kalagira, 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 Paul Constable (1992), Fr Anthony Sketch, former parish priest (2012), Wolfgang Barc (1977), Cecilia Allpress (2006), Alison Clarke (2010), Emilia Ciuffo (2019), Patrick Macken (1980), Edward Cuffe (2002), Martin Curry (1999), Stephen Smith (2008) and Aleksandrs Svystun (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: 26th Sunday In Ordinary Time: 26th September, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Collect:

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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: Num. 11:25-29 *Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!*

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 18:8,10,12-14

Response to the psalm is: *The precepts of the Lord gladden he heart.*

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. R

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding forever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. R

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward in their keeping.

But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me. R

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin. R

Second Reading: James5:1-6 *Your wealth is rotting.*

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45,47-48 *Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.*

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

Prayer over the Offerings:

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low..

Prayer after Communion:

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his death. Who lives and reign forever and ever.