

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 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 3rd October, 2021

Readings: Sunday: Year B.

Weekdays: Twenty Seventh Week of the Year, Year I

Services This Week

Sunday 3 rd – 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – Stephen Mullen
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass - Roger Mayhew RIP
	2:00 pm	Eastern Orthodox Mass
	6:00 pm	Holy Mass - The People of the Parish
Monday 4 th	St Francis of Assisi 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Janes Family
Tuesday 5 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Vieira Family
Wednesday 6 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass – Holy Souls
Thursday 7 th	Our Lady of the Rosary 10:00 am	Holy Mass – The Vieira Family
Friday 8 th	Feria 10:00 am	Holy Mass
Saturday 9 th	St John Henry Newman	
	10:00 am	Holy Mass – Sheridan & Morris Families (FM)
Sunday 10 th – 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00 am	Holy Mass – The Vieira Family
	10:00 am (Streamed)	Holy Mass
	6:00 pm	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 according to Mark. For the past three Sundays, we have been hearing Mark's reports of conversations between Jesus and his disciples. Recall that in Mark's Gospel, Jesus uses these private moments to teach his disciples in greater detail about the Kingdom of God. Beginning with today's Gospel, Jesus returns to Judea, Jewish territory, and resumes his public ministry. The first verse of chapter 10 of Mark's Gospel tells us that crowds gathered around Jesus, and he taught them, as was his custom. Immediately, the Pharisees approach Jesus to test him.

The Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, as found in Deuteronomy 24:1-5. This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

In private, Jesus' disciples question him further about this teaching on divorce. It is to his disciples that Jesus lays out the implications of his teaching by explaining that remarriage after divorce is adultery. Jesus' teaching was more restrictive than the teaching of the Pharisees, which permitted remarriage. Jesus further distinguished his teaching from the cultural norms of his time by applying his words equally to men and women. Jewish culture permitted only that a husband may divorce his wife. Wives were not permitted to divorce their husband for any reason, including adultery.

At first glance, the final part of today's Gospel seems unconnected to the previous teaching about divorce. When read together, however, these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught his disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands his disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Hopefully you remembered that last Friday, 1st October, was the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were all asked to support our brothers and sisters less well off than ourselves by partaking of a simple meal in solidarity with those unfortunates. This year, the focus of CAFOD's appeal is the Climate Crisis and how it impacts those in third world countries. There will be a retiring collection today to receive your donations in response to this appeal. There are special collection envelopes in the narthex – please use one and be as generous as you possibly can. If you are not attending church then you can donate on-line 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.

Jean Orme RIP

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, sadly passed away on September 18th. Her requiem will be celebrated by Fr Russell Frost, with Bishop Alan Hopes in attendance, at St Pancras Church, Ipswich, on Monday 11th October at 12:00 noon. Please remember Jean in your prayers and also pray for her family and friends who mourn her passing.

Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Commission

There are two upcoming events organised by the Diocesan MFLC - a Mass for Miscarriage will be held next Sunday, 10th October at 12 noon. This will be a special Mass of consolation and hope for families who have lost a child and will be celebrated at the church of Our Lady & St Ethelreda, Newmarket. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Also at the church of Our Lady & St Ethelreda, Newmarket on Saturday 6th November, there will be a special Mass for those affected by infertility. This will be followed by a talk from Dr Phil Boyle,

President of the International Institute of Restorative Reproductive Medicine and founder of NeoFertility. It is respectfully asked that children do not attend this special Mass.

More information about these events, and the Marriage and Family Life Commission generally, can be found on the Diocesan web site, or follow the link on the parish web site.

Parish 150 Club

The September prize draw of the parish 150 Club was made last Sunday. Congratulations to the following prize winners:

£15	No 195	Mrs P Williamson	£10	No 67	Mr A Ford
£5	No 225	Mrs S Curry	£5	54	Mrs C Long
September Bonus Prizes:					
£40	No 74	Mrs M Palmer	£20	No 111	Miss C Anderson-Hurst

Walsingham Pilgrimage

As the Covid restrictions are now lifted, the LIFE pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will once again take place, this year on Saturday 23rd October. Pilgrims will be travelling from several places, some by coach, some by other means, but organisers are aware that for many, such a venture would be a risk, and there are many still cautious of the possibility of infection. For all those, and for those for whom distance prevents them attending in person, the Shrine livestream (Watch Livestream - Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady) will carry the main events of the day and allow those who wish to join in the prayers and devotions. The main programme commences with the midday Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation, celebrated by Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury. Details of the remainder of the programme can be found on the LIFE website at <http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org>. Bishop Mark has chosen as the theme for the day, 'The Courage to Proclaim the Gospel of Life on Post-Pandemic Britain'. It would be wonderful if you can join in prayer with those in Walsingham on that day, that the Light of Christ will overcome the darkness in the minds of politicians and all people so that they can see the truth of the sanctity of human life.

Love Christmas Campaign

Love Christmas is an ecumenical initiative and is a very practical way for our parishes to reach out to those in need this Christmas. There is support offered and matched funding can also be available to those involved in the campaign. Information about last year's campaign can be found on-line at <https://www.loveyourneighbour.uk/love-christmas-about>. There is a national webinar for catholic parishes which will be held on Wednesday October 6th between 11 am and 12 noon which will explain how you can get involved. To register for the seminar go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4917266>.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022 – A Final Reminder

Children wishing to join to join the First Holy Communion programme for 2022 must first register by completing a registration form – either download one from the parish web site or take a hard copy from the narthex, and returning it to Fr Mathew no later than October 10th. The first parents-only meeting will be on 17th October 2021.

St Pancras Primary School

St Pancras Primary School will be holding two open mornings on the 10th and 17th November and an open evening on 24th November for those parents who would be interested in viewing the school & applying for a Reception Class place for academic year 2022/2023. Places must be booked so please contact the school to make an appointment - telephone number 01473 742074.

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, Rose Parsons, 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 Norman Nicholas (1995), Ernest Thomas (2020), Peter Youngman (1979) and William Park (2008) 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: 27th Sunday In Ordinary Time: 3rd October, 2021.

Entrance Antiphon:

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. 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: Gen. 2:18-24 *They become one body*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.' This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 127

Response to the psalm is: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. ☩

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
Your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. ☩

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! ☩

Second Reading: Heb. 2:9-11

The one who sanctifies, and the one who is sanctified, are of the same stock.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16 *What God has united, man must not divide.*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Prayer over the Offerings:

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifice instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ Our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume. Through Christ our Lord.