

ST. MARY MAGDALEN, IPSWICH



R C Diocese of East Anglia - registered charity 278742

website: www.rcdea.org.uk

Parish Priest: Canon Mathew George The Presbytery, 468 Norwich Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 6JS
Tel: 01473 741975 Mob: 07939 920844 Email: parishpriest@marymagdalens.org
Website: www.marymagdalens.org Facebook: @marymagdalens

Parish School : St. Pancras Catholic Primary School, Stratford Road, Ipswich, IP1 6EF
Head teacher : Mr. Stephen Barker Tel: 01473-742074

Catholic Chaplain to the Ipswich Hospitals: Fr. A. Gates
Please contact Fr. Gates if you are going into Hospital (Tel: 01473-726701) or let Fr. Mathew know.
Mass in Ipswich Hospital Chapel on Mondays at 4pm – all welcome

The Solemnity of the Epiphany – 7th January 2018

Sunday Readings: Year B

7 Sunday

Weekday Readings: Year II – First Week of the Year

8 am Open intention

10 am Fr Mathew's intention

[Tea/coffee after Mass in the Church Hall – All welcome!]

6 pm People of the parish

8 Monday *The Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord*

9:30 am Janes family

9 Tuesday (Feria)

No Mass

10 Wednesday (Feria)

No Mass

11 Thursday (Feria)

No Mass

12 Friday (Feria)

No Mass

13 Saturday (Feria)

No Mass

Intentions for Sunday, 14th January

8 am: Open intention

10 am: Open intention

6 pm: Open intention

Welcome

To all new parishioners and especially to visitors.

Sacrament of Penance

Whilst Fr Mathew is away, the Sacrament of Penance will be available with Fr Michael Rear on Sundays only, either before or after Mass.

The Epiphany of the Lord

The *Solemnity of Epiphany* signifies a number of things. In the east, where it originated, it celebrates Jesus' birth and his baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. In the west it is associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. What is emphasised is the "Revelation to the Gentiles" mentioned in Luke, where the term Gentile means all non-Jewish peoples. The Biblical Magi, (traditionally named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) who represent the non-Jewish peoples of the world, paid homage to the infant Jesus in stark contrast to Herod who sought to kill him. However, in this event there is also a revelation of God to the Children of Israel.

Usually called the Feast of Theophany - meaning "God shining forth" or "divine manifestation" – the Orthodox Christians celebrate it on January 6th or 19th depending on the liturgical calendar they use. In England and Wales we move it to the nearest Sunday to January 6th. The focus of the feast is the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Messiah and second person of the Holy Trinity at the time of his baptism, one of only two occasions when all three persons of the Trinity manifested themselves simultaneously to humanity: God the Father by speaking through the clouds, God the Son being baptized in the river, and God the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending from heaven (the other occasion was the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor). Thus Epiphany is a Trinitarian feast.

Notes from Fr. Mathew

Peter Jones, to whom I rushed to give the sacrament of the sick (last rites in old terms) at St. Nicholas Hospice in Bury St. Edmunds after last Sunday's 10:00 Mass, passed away on New Year's day morning. Years ago, when he started to have health issues, he had requested me to celebrate his requiem Mass. I am going to honour that promise. That Mass will be in Thetford on January 12th. I was planning to go to India on January 9th but I will be going instead on the 13th after celebrating the Requiem Mass. I will arrive in India on the 14th and have a family baptism on the 15th. In the eastern rites, Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion are given together in one ceremony during the Mass (which is a 2 hour Mass). I will be a bit jetlagged but fine.

All parish priests have a duty to celebrate a Mass for their parish every Sunday and Solemnities. You may not find a "missa pro populo" on Sundays when I am away - that is because I will be celebrating it for you in India rather than passing it on to Fr. Michael when I am away.

I would like to say a very big thank you to everybody for the generosity shown to me in the Christmas collection, the cards, gifts and kind messages. The Christmas offering came to £1,215.61. Thank you very much.

The Sick of the Parish

Please pray for those who are sick or housebound, especially for Noel Andrews, Margaret Arbon, Peggy Barron, Jason Beaumont, Michael Clarke, Deacon Peter Coates, Fabiana DiMascio, Ron Green, Fr. David Hennessy, Jo Kelly, Molly Mc Garry, Roger Mayhew, Yvonne Metcalf, Robert Mullan, Mary O'Reilly Maureen Sparks and Ken Banbridge.

Our Own Dear Departed

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, especially for Christina Fisher and Geraldine Lofthouse recently deceased and Albert Richardson, Eleanor Chandler, Hugh McColl Rodger, Vera Johnston, Timothy Downey, Regina "Queenie" Scott, Godfrey Schofield, Albert Thaine, Rita Aldis, William Taylor and Peter Eaton whose anniversaries occur about now.

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.

150 Club

The draw for the December monthly prizes and the third quarter bonus prizes took place last Sunday, 31st December. Congratulations to the following winners:

Monthly Prizes	1 st	£15	No 82	Mr & Mrs R Cork
	2 nd	£10	No 176	Mrs P M T Williamson
	3 rd	£5	No 215	Mrs J Meldrum
	4 th	£5	No 161	Mr & Mrs T Smith
Bonus Prizes	1 st	£50	No 215	Mrs J Meldrum
	2 nd	£40	No 191	Mrs J DiMascio
	3 rd	£20	No 116	Mrs C Sims

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Please note there is a new rota for January and February on the notice board in the narthex, and available for download on the web site.

We do require some additional people to volunteer for this ministry. If you would like to be considered, please speak to Fr Mathew, email him (parishpriest@marymagdalens.org) or use the contact form on the parish web site.

The First Communions & First Confessions 2018

Please keep our candidates in your prayers: Kian Garvie, FilipSzczecina, Zifia Graves, Alicia Ianello, Taylor Green, Antonio Cocker, Matilda Pierce, Michael Skyes, Louis Selby-Ndlovu, William Lebaga, Roxanne Martins, Boluwatle Adedapo, Rowan Har, Florence Davey, Amelia Oliver, Bianka Bandosz, Eniko Stuller, Feng Yu, Jacob Wojtczak, Stacey Boateng, Weronika Przybys, William Taylor, Edith Wankowska and Yuri Teixeira.

Baptism

Congratulations to Anaia Osarieme Ize-Iyamu who was baptised on Sunday 17th December and Igor Lukasz Jackiewicz who was baptised last week, 24th December. On Tuesday 2nd January, we welcomed baby Samuel Douglas to the church when he was baptised during the 9:30 Mass. Please remember them all, their parents and godparents in your prayers.

Church Cleaning

Would all cleaners please note there is a new rota for 2018. This is on the notice board in the narthex and can be downloaded, if required, from the parish web site. We could really do with some additional helpers to join the cleaning team. It is not particularly onerous – if you could spare just a couple of hours every 2-3 months to help keep our church looking good it would really be appreciated. If you can help, please contact Sarah King by email (churchcleaning@marymagdalens.org) or use the contact form on the parish web site.

Contact in Fr Mathew's Absence

This weekend will be the last Sunday Fr Mathew will be with us before being away for nearly a month from January 13th to February 8th on a private visit home to India. During his absence there will be no weekday Masses at St Mary Magdalens. Sunday Masses will be covered by Fr Michael Rear.

Fr Mathew will be picking up his email whilst away, so please feel free to contact him via email using parishpriest@marymagdalens.org or the contact form on the parish web site. He can also be contacted by leaving a voice message on his mobile number – he will call back if the urgency requires. If a priest is required urgently, please contact one of the other Ipswich clergy – Fr Leeder (St Pancras) 01473 252596, Fr Gates (St James) 01473 726701, Fr Christopher Smith (St Mark) 01473 684963 or Fr John Warrington (St Mary) 01473 728115. For non-urgent matters please use the contact form on the parish web site or leave a message on the presbytery answering machine 01473 741975.

Parish Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint a new parish treasurer – our current treasurer, Teresa Rose, will be stepping down in the new year and we need a new person sometime in March or April. If you have some finance / accounting experience and are happy to give generously some of your time for the parish, please let Fr Mathew know. The treasurer will be a *de facto* appointment to the parish Finance Committee.

We are also seeking to appoint a new manager for our parish hall bookings. Managing the hall is very important for us as 29% of our annual income comes from hiring it out. Without that income we would not be financially viable as a parish. If you can help with this, again please let Fr Mathew know.

Catholic East Anglia

The *Catholic East Anglia* newspaper will be going monthly from January 2018 to help get news out across the diocese of East Anglia more quickly, and it needs your help with stories, pictures and distribution. The paper will be produced every month, except August and December, increasing from the current six bi-monthly editions a year. Each edition will go down from 16 to 12 pages but there will be more room overall for news and features from across the Diocese and many stories will be published quicker than before. Editor Keith Morris is keen to identify communications champions in each parish who would send in news items and pictures and help distribute the paper, making sure it is displayed prominently and simply handed out at the end of Mass. If you would be interested in this role at St Mary Magdalen parish, please speak to Fr Mathew.

Tea and Coffee after 10:00 Mass

Every Sunday after 10:00 Mass, tea and coffee (usually with a few other nibbles!) is available in the hall after Mass. This is a great way to meet and socialise with fellow parishioners – why not pop in for a cuppa? Would helpers please note a new rota is available from 1st January – it is on the narthex notice board or can be downloaded from the web site.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany (Year B)

7th January 2018

Entrance Antiphon:	Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in His grasp, and power and dominion.
First Reading:	Isaiah 60:1-6
Responsorial Psalm:	All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Second Reading:	Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia, Alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!
Gospel:	Matthew 2:1-12
Communion Antiphon:	We saw his star in the east, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Creating Missionary Parishes

Creating Missionary Parishes is a day to help those who need a practical framework to create or refresh a parish mission team. It will be on Saturday January 13th at Newmarket parish Centre. The Diocese of Plymouth New Evangelisation team will join us on the day. Their inspiring but very practical presentations will explain how their successful programme has created over 38 parish mission teams in their diocese. The programme takes people on a personal journey of exploration into their own faith, seeking to give a fuller sense of personal discipleship and to equip them to discern ways of evangelising with a wiser and deeper empathy for the person they encounter and where they may be in their spiritual journey. Two groups in East Anglia are already using the programme. Martin Pakes will be attending from St Mary Magdalens and has available seats in his car if you would like to attend - please speak to Fr. Mathew or Martin Pakes.

Church Gallery

The work on re-structuring the church gallery front wall will start on Monday 8th January, due to finish 19th. The work has been timed during Fr Mathew's absence to minimise the disruption to daily services and allow the workers an un-broken work period before having to clear up for Sunday Masses. As before when we have benefitted from the resources provided by Hollesley Bay, we will need to provide meals for the two workers – a midday lunch and a hot evening meal. We are looking for volunteers who will undertake to provide one or more of these meals during this period. If you can help, please put your name down on the sheet in the narthex.

Following this work by Hollesley Bay workers, staff from Higham Forge will be starting on Monday 22nd to fit new wrought iron railings to the top of the restructured wall, completing the work by Wednesday 25th.

Peace Sunday

The 51st World Peace Day will be celebrated in England and Wales next Sunday, January 14th 2018. No one can be unaware of the tens of thousands of people around the globe who have been displaced and forced to leave their homes because of violence or climate related disasters. Many in this country have responded to the invitation to shelter the stranger and more are involved in campaigns to stem this tragic flow in their work to challenge the arms trade and to protect our environment. With this timely theme, we are all invited to reflect on our role to be peacemakers, and peace seekers, today. For more information, please see the *Pax Christi* web site at www.paxchristi.org.uk.

FIND

The FIND tub is available in the narthex all year round – St Mary Magdalen parish has a proud track record of supporting this particular charitable appeal in the past - please continue to do so throughout the year with your donations of non-perishable foods.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25: 40)