

PARISH NEWS

2nd December 2018

First Sunday of Advent Yr C

St Mary Magdalene's, St Martha's, Our Lady of the Rosary

The Catholic Parish serving Bexhill-on-Sea, Little Common, Sidley and the surrounding areas

St Mary Magdalene's Parish Reconciliation Services

- **St Martha's, 3pm,
Saturday 8th December**
- **St Mary Magdalene's
3pm,
Sunday 9th December**

*Individual Confession / Reconciliation
with the Priests.*

*Priests from the Deanery will be
available.*

Parish Advent and Christingle Service Including our children's Nativity Play

**Sunday 16th December
at 2:30 pm
St Martha's Church**

Lots of children are needed for the Christingle Nativity Play: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds and Wisemen.

Two *short* rehearsals at St Martha's:

1st After 9am Mass on
Sunday 2nd December

&
2nd At 2pm Saturday 15th December

**If you have any queries please contact
Sarah on 01424 213514.**

**Please join us for the Service and
after in the hall for refreshments.**

*Please contact Ron Brazier if you
require a lift to the service.
Tel: 844177*

Message from Bishop Richard:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your welcome to the parish on the occasion of Fr Simon's Induction Mass.

Thank you to all who were involved
in the celebration.

Do be assured of my prayers for you all.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

On the First Sunday of Advent, 'may the Lord be generous in increasing your love... and may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God our Father when our Lord comes with all his saints'. Every year priests encourage the faithful not to get carried away with the secular celebration of Christmas. If we're bored of Christmas by 25th December, then we haven't been doing Advent properly. Remember, Jesus is 'the reason for the season'. Advent means 'to come' or 'arrival', and so we might think we are preparing for the celebration of Our Lord's Nativity, but as that has already happened our focus is on Christ's Second Coming: 'stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man'.

Advent a mini-Lent, hence the purple, but the focus is one of expectant and hopeful waiting: 'stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is close at hand'. We should think about how to expand our hearts in order to make room for Christ to be re-born in us this Christmas. The Bexhill Foodbank offers us an alternative Advent Calendar; where for 24 days, you can box up items and drop them off at the Foodbank on: Tuesdays 1pm-3pm and Thursdays 10am-12noon, so they can prepare Christmas hampers for those in need.

Recently we had a tent pitched outside St Mary Magdalene. 'Lisa and Peter' stayed with us after being evicted from their flat. Now they have been found temporary accommodation in Eastbourne. Then 'Simon and his dog' moved into his tent. That we know their names makes the homeless problem in our town even more real. Sadly, having a tent pitched outside the Church is not a long-term solution as we do not have the basic facilities to sustain the requirements of hygiene that we take for granted. We do have a spirit of generosity; over time, you have been placing money in our poor boxes, and so there is some restricted money available that can be used to support work with the needy. After consulting the Pastoral Care Group and the Finance Committee, the parish has now made donations to the St Barnabas Homeless Project, the Bexhill Foodbank and the Pelham in Sidley. Please keep topping up the poor fund (a special 2nd collection next weekend) so that we can continue to help those in need here in Bexhill. Fr Simon.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan: "The Word who is Life" St Martha's Hall on 13th December at 7pm

Bishop Richard comes to present to us the pastoral vision for our Diocese as we move towards 2030.

We pray for those who have died: Fr David Goddard RIP.

We pray for the sick especially: Steve Allingham, Stephanie Bacon, Diane Batkin, Tony Batkin, Christopher Browne, Angela Burden, Winifrede Connellan, Andrew Cruikshank, Brendan Dillistone, John Fitzpatrick, Christopher Gardiner, Sean Gaughan, Yvonne Gibbs, Michael Halse, Jackie Hearn, Leanne Hearn, Carly Hearn, Abraham Jacob, Neil Jenkins, Margaret Keep, George Thomas Lowry, Karl Pearson, Paddy Pearson, Ida Reynolds, Diana Richardson, Mary Stewart, David Spooner, Carol Standen, Rachael Smart, Janet Smith, Terry Standen, Rosanna De Souza, David Standen, Eileen Sullivan, Mary Tenneffe, Martin Tippin, Anne Wilkinson and Hazel Wood.

Plate Collections

25th November
£924.62
Gift Aid: £485.22

2nd collection
£101.96
Gift Aid: £95.50

Maintenance of
Memorial Garden

2nd December
Christmas Flowers
(blue envelopes)

9th December
Parish Poor Fund
(blue envelopes)

16th December
Friends of the
Holy Land
(not in our scheme)

Conquest
Hospital
Chaplaincy

For a visit from one
of the Catholic
Chaplaincy Team
for Anointing,
Holy Communion,
or a general visit.
Volunteers needed for
visiting patients
please contact:
The Conquest
Chaplain:

Cecilia Weathers
01424 757088

Holy
Communion for
Housebound
Parishioners

Ron Brazier:
844177



CTiB Prayer Cycle

This week: St Martha's (Fr Simon Dray, Fr Rajesh Minz, Deacon Simon Kirkdale)

Next week: Living Word Church
(Dale Barrett)

**Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament**
Every Friday
10:30am- 12.30pm
St Mary Magdalene's Church

Churches Together in Bexhill FOODBANK Advent 2018

Foodbox: An alternative way of preparing for Christmas. Please see posters and information leaflets at the back of the church. Your foodbox can be delivered directly to the foodbank on: Tues 1pm - 3pm or Thurs 10am-12 noon.
Thank you!

Flame 2019

**Join 10,000 Catholic Young
People at Wembley Arena:
Saturday 2nd March 2019**

Around five hundred people from A&B went to Wembley Arena last March for Flame 2018.

Tickets are already on sale can be booked online:
cymfed.org.uk/flame2019

Little Common Christmas Tree Lights

Today-Sunday 2nd December at 5 pm

Switching on of Little Common Christmas Tree Lights (at roundabout) followed by Carols at the Community Centre led by Rev'd Jonathan, Rev'd Tricia and Fr Simon.

**'Wait for the Lord',
an Advent Service of Music and
Prayer from Taize and Iona
Sunday 9th December, at 4 pm**

St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET. Anyone who would like to help lead the music is requested to attend a practice beforehand at 3 pm.

New Name for DABCEC:
The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Christian Education Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, RH10 6RP, is now known as the:
**St Philip Howard Centre
for Education, Formation & Mission.**

National Board of Catholic Women

Day with Bishop Richard on:
**Saturday 23rd February,
From 10 am to 1 pm,
at the St Philip Howard Centre
(formerly DABCEC).**

Explore ways to engage with
'The Word who is Life'.

Book at nbcw@rcdab.onmicrosoft.com

Advent Sharing Groups 2018 - Throughout Advent A Simple Path for Advent - Prayer and Reflection programme

Monday's	2.30 pm	Anne Wilkinson	215710
Tuesday's	8.00 pm	Cathy Bate	224031
Friday's	7:00 pm	Anne Barry & Lisa Young	846031 07801658296

To take part in any of these sessions, please contact the appropriate group leaders.

Parish Diary - December

Wed 5 th December	RCIA Session	7:00pm Presbytery
Thurs 6 th December	WJT Session	6:30pm Presbytery
Mon 10 th December	FHC Session	6:30pm St Martha's hall
Thurs 13 th December	Diocesan Pastoral Plan with Bishop Richard	7:00pm St Martha's hall
Sat 15 th December	FHC Session	11am St MM hall

St Mary Magdalene's Flower Team

They *urgently* need more volunteers.

There are now only 3 members!

They would especially be grateful for help to decorate the church for Christmas. If you are willing to help regularly or just for Christmas please contact Helga on 848504.

Cafod World Gifts

Booklets now available at the back of the churches.

Gift Aid Envelopes 2018/19

For more information about Gift Aiding your donations please contact the Parish Office.

'The Real' Fairtrade Chocolate Advent Calendars:

These are now available, to order please call Jack: 01424 214605

The Hastings & District Interfaith Forum (HDIFF) Festival of Faiths & Cultures

Sunday 9th December 6pm to 9.30pm

Concordia Hall, Church Road, St Leonard's on Sea
Refreshments, Stalls, Raffle, and Festive music performances - inc. Kerala Community. All Welcome!

Christmas Card Competition 2018

If you are in years 4, 5 or 6 of Primary School you are invited to enter our 'Parish Christmas Card Competition'

Entries should be A5, and should have child's name, date of birth, school, telephone number and name of church they currently attend.

No words other than "Happy Christmas" on the picture please. Entries to be put in an envelope and marked "Christmas Card Competition".

Please send to the Parish Office or hand to the Priests.

The Winning entries will be used to advertise our Christmas Mass times and the winner will also receive a £20 voucher ☺.

Final date for entries: Wed 5th December.

Parish Christmas Day Lunch



St Martha's Hall, 12:30pm for 1pm

All parishioners and their friends welcome (*singles, pairs and families*) for a traditional turkey and pudding feast (with a vegetarian option). Wine and other drinks will accompany the meal.

Although there is no charge, donations will be gratefully received on the day.

If you would like to join us, contact the Parish Office: 210263 or Julia Dance: 213078.

Christmas Masses 2018 St Mary Magdalene's Parish

Christmas Eve

Monday 24th December

- 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas St Mary Magdalene's
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas St Martha's
- Midnight - Midnight Mass St Mary Magdalene's
Masses at 8pm and Midnight are preceded by Carols that commence 30 mins before each Mass

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25th December

The Nativity of the Lord

- 8.00am Dawn Mass St Mary Magdalene's
- 9.00am Dawn Mass St Martha's
- 10.00am Day Mass Our Lady of the Rosary
- 11.00am Day Mass St Mary Magdalene's
- 2.00pm Syro-Malabar St Mary Magdalene's

Christmas Collection is the 'Clergy Offering'

Feast of St Stephen

Wednesday 26th December

- 10.00am Mass St Mary Magdalene's

Crib Offering is for the 'Catholic Children's Society A & B Crisis fund'

Justice & Peace Assembly

'Slavery On Our Doorstep', DABCEC, (St Philip Howard Centre)

Saturday 26th January, 10am

(coffee from 9.30).

Learn about the slave trade hidden under your nose and how you can help those affected. Speakers from the Santa Marta Group and Sussex Police.

To book contact rosie.read@dabnet.org
Or 01293 651161

Parish Information

The Presbytery
St Mary Magdalene's
Sea Road, Bexhill on Sea,
TN40 1RH. Tel: 01424 210263

St Martha's
Cooden Sea Road, TN39 4SL
Our Lady of the Rosary
Southlands Road, TN39 5HG

Clergy:
Fr Simon Dray
Fr Rajesh Minz
Deacon Simon Kirkdale
Sisters of Providence
(Rosminian) 01424 214818
Parish Office Administrators:
Bonita Osmond-Maher
Lisa Young
Telephone: 01424 210263
Email:
stmm@btconnect.com
Website:
www.stmmbexhill.co.uk

Office Hours:
Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm

Finance:
Charles Durrant
Email:
stmm.finance@btconnect.com

Hospitals
Conquest Hastings
01424 757088
Bexhill - Irvine Unit
Contact: Mary Williams
marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk
St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Mary Williams
marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk

Parish Schools
St Richard's Catholic College
Principal: Miss Doreen Cronin
01424 731070
admin@strichardscc.com
www.strichardscc.com

St Mary Magdalene's Primary School
Interim Head:
Mrs Siobhan Andrews
01424 735810
office@stmarymagsbex.e-sussex.sch.uk
www.stmarymags.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Independent Nursery
Supervisor: Gemma Oliver-Taylor
01424 224499
info@stmmnursery.co.uk

PARISH NEWS

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 1st December

St Mary Magdalene's 9:30am Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Otto Halligan-Witham RIP

First Sunday of Advent Year C

(Jeremiah 33:14-16, Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

St Mary Magdalene's

5:30pm Confessions
6:00pm Intentions of the Paris Family

Sunday 2nd December

St Martha's 9:00am William Bird RIP & Blessing for 50th Wedding Anniversary of Robin & Christina Lloyd
Our Lady of the Rosary 10:00am George Thomas Lowry GE
St Mary Magdalene's 11:00am Tony Barry RIP & RCIA - Rite of Acceptance
St Mary Magdalene's 3:00pm St Michael's 'Lights of Love Service'
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm People of the Parish

Christmas Flowers (blue envelopes)

Monday 3rd December

Memorial St Francis Xavier
10:00am Fr Chris Benyon GE

Tuesday 4th December

10:00am Tom Hanks RIP

Wednesday 5th December

10:00am Noreen Corness RIP

Thursday 6th December

10:00am Bartolomeo Visconti RIP

Friday 7th December

Memorial St Ambrose

10:00am Louis Rosenau RIP & David McGurk RIP

8:10am School Intention
10:45am - 12:30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 8th December

Solemnity The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:30am Confessions
10:00am Anne and John McEwan RIP
After 10am Burial of Ashes of
Mass Anne & John McEwan RIP
3:00pm Reconciliation Service

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

(Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6)

St Mary Magdalene's

5:30pm Confessions
6:00pm Peggy & Roy Fisher RIP

Sunday 9th December

9:00am Priests Intentions
10:00am People of the Parish
11:00am Robert Stevens RIP
3:00pm Reconciliation Service
6:00pm Thanksgiving for
Joseph & Thomas Family

Parish Poor Fund (blue envelopes)