

**Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill on Sea
Newsletter for 4th Sunday of Lent (22nd March 2020)**

Suspension of Public Liturgies

With effect from **4pm on Friday 20th March** there will no public Masses, Services, Sacraments* or Liturgies celebrated in our Parish Churches, until further notice. Masses will be said privately by Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh, and all the scheduled Mass intentions will be honoured. [**For now, the Confessions at 9.30am on Saturdays at St Mary Magdalene will continue to happen – measures will be taken to ensure appropriate social distancing*].

The Church of St Mary Magdalene in the Town Centre will be open for the private prayer of the faithful before the Tabernacle from *9am to 6pm at weekends and 9am to 12noon on weekdays*.

Please maintain appropriate self-distancing.

From **4pm on Friday 20th March**, the Mass centre of St Martha's in Little Common will remain closed throughout this period as we cannot monitor its use.

Sacramental Preparation is suspended until further notice. It is extremely likely that First Holy Communions and Confirmations Masses will be rescheduled. More info to follow.

Funerals will be at the Crematorium or Graveside only.
Requiem Masses will be offered privately by the priests.

Sunday Obligation: All parishioners are hereby dispensed from the obligation to assist / participate in Sunday Masses and Holy Days of Obligation, until further notice.

Presbytery and Parish Office Closure: This building now reverts to a residence only. There will be no events, catechesis or meetings within the presbytery. The administrators will be working from home, accessing emails sent to stmm@btconnect.com. This is the best way to contact the parish office. In **emergency situations**, email Fr Simon on simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk as he can access this anywhere he has a 4G or WIFI signal. Try to minimise telephone calls to the parish office as we will only be able to monitor the office answerphone periodically, as staff will be working from home.

Live streaming of Holy Mass:

Worthing: <https://www.stmaryoftheangels.org.uk/catholic-mass-online/> &

Caterham: http://www.caterhamcatholic.co.uk/Sacred_Heart_Catholic_Church/public.html

We will try and use Facebook to show our private Masses. EWTN on Sky also has Mass daily.

Parish Email: stmm@btconnect.com Tel: 01424 210 263

See also our Facebook Page: Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary: St Mary Magdalene & St Martha's
Website: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk

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Spiritual Communion: *I wish, Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy mother received you, with the spirit and fervour of the saints. If you can't access Confession:* **Act of Personal Contrition:** *O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again.*

Sacrament of the Sick: For urgent requests, email stmm@btconnect.com or simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk as these are the most efficient contact methods. Alternatively, phone Fr Simon opt 3 or Fr Rajesh opt 2 on 01424 210 263 – you may need to leave a voicemail message. Avoid leaving messages on the parish office voicemail as staff will be working from home. If a patient is in the Conquest Hospital, their next of kin must contact the Hospital Chaplaincy on 01424 757088 who will co-ordinate with the Catholic Chaplains. For Care Homes, the next of kin, must first check with the home that a visit is permitted. However, please note that visits cannot be made to those who are self-isolating with or for Coronavirus.

Support and assistance: Ron Brazier 844177, Chris Jones 602914

If anyone has to self-isolate, do not feel afraid or lonely, the Parish Pastoral Care Group and the SVP may be able to assist you with shopping needs, prescription collections or simply for a chat on the end of the phone. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have been asked, where possible, to keep in telephone contact with their assigned communicant.

Mass intentions this week (said privately):

Saturday 21st March: Margaret Mulligan RIP & James Benzie RIP. **Sunday 22nd March:** People of the Parish, Peter Vail RIP and Jim Turner RIP. **Monday 23rd March:** Dr R James.

Tuesday 24th March: Jim Turner RIP. **Wednesday 25th March:** Sr Imelda for services to the parish GE. **Thursday 26th March:** Sonu Joseph RIP. **Friday 27th March:** Jean Durrant RIP.

Saturday 28th March: Elizabeth Francis RIP & Denis, Mary and Joan O'Sullivan RIP.

Sunday 29th March: People of the Parish, Jo Driscoll RIP and Nellie Wilson RIP.

Note from Fr Simon: These are unprecedented times for the Church worldwide, but we must be socially responsible. Please consider setting up a small altar or prayer space in your homes and continue to celebrate a 'Liturgy of the Word' in your homes, making spiritual communions personal acts of contrition, pray the Rosary and other worthy devotions. This is a changing picture; please continue to check the parish website and parish Facebook page. *Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us, St Mary Magdalene, Pray for us, St Martha, Pray for us.*

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