



4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd / Vocations Sunday
3rd May 2020



Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill on Sea
St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

From the desk of the Parish Priest (updated)

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full"

Vocations Sunday: this Sunday we consider once again the universal call to holiness, the personal vocation of every Christian. In addition, we pray especially for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life, making an annual check that we are creating, fostering and nurturing a culture of vocations in our homes and schools. We resist the secular mantra that you can do / be anything you want to be, and instead spend time praying '*what does God want me to be?*' Jesus, the Good Shepherd declares, '*I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full*', and this is never truer for one who has discerned the call of the Lord in their life. As Pope Francis says, "*The Lord points out our destination on the opposite shore and he grants us the courage to board the boat. In calling us, he becomes our helmsman; he accompanies and guides us; he prevents us from running aground on the shoals of indecision and even enables us to walk on surging waters*". Pope Francis' "*Words of Vocation*" can be read here:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/papa-francesco_20200308_57-messaggio-giornata-mondiale-vocazioni.html

May, the Month of Mary: Pope Francis encourages us in this month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary to renew our love for the Most Holy Rosary, a prayer which is a journey through the Gospel, meditating on the key events in the life, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Pope Francis has written two new prayers to accompany the Rosary and these can be found here:

<https://www.dabnet.org/News/View/328>

With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Simon.

Due to COVID-19 all public liturgies remain suspended
Holy Mass is being celebrated privately by Fr Simon & Fr Rajesh

Date	Mass 1	Mass 2	
Sunday 3rd May 4 th Sunday of Easter	Florence Raey RIP	Mary Durkin RIP	Some of these Masses will be Live Streamed over Facebook, usually 10am but check the Parish Page for times which may be affected by other pastoral needs.
Monday 4th May English Martyrs	Pat Joe Berry RIP		
Tuesday 5th May Tuesday Easter Week 4	Joseph & Mini GE (wedding anniversary)	Holy Souls	
Wed. 6th May Wed. Easter Week 4	Neil Jenkins RIP	Kathleen Randall RIP	
Thursday 7th May Thursday Easter Week 4	Holy Souls	Joe Moore RIP	
Friday 8th May Friday Easter Week 4	Maureen Dawson RIP	People of the Parish	
Saturday 9th May Saturday Easter Week 4	Deceased of the Antonelli Family	Margaret McCabe	

Some of these Masses will be “*Live Streamed*” from St Mary Magdalene Presbytery on our Parish Facebook Page: *Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill: St Mary Magdalene & St Martha’s*, which can be found at:

www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

and uploaded afterwards to **You Tube Channel**:
 Search: *Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill on Sea.*



For those unable to join the Bexhill Parish Mass through Facebook Live:

Alternatively, you can “stream” Mass live at:

Eastbourne: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyByhHViFgDkDpZlr_H5bZw

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

Caterham:

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

Guildford Parish: <https://www.cpg.church/live.html>

Arundel Cathedral: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7I-pXF8v-VZfzO01zrnerQ>

New Notices



Diocesan Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few:

Lord, grant to our Diocese the gift of priests filled with zeal for your Word, and with dedication in the service of your people, that your Church may be nourished through the Sacraments and strengthened for the Mission to which you have called us. For you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Pope's Intention for May: 'For Deacons: we pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church'. [therefore, please keep our Deacon Simon Kirkdale and his family in your prayers]

Diocesan Resources for Mental Health and well-being:

<https://www.dabnet.org/news/view/314>

CAFOD Appeal: Video: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising>

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

**Regina Caeli Laetare, alleluia,
Quia quem merusiti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia,
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.**

*(Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia, Pray for us to God, alleluia)*

Updated Notices

BACS payments: Some Parishioners have reported trouble setting up BACs payments because of our long account name, but we have discovered that if you simply use “**St Mary Magdalene**” and ditch the rest, it all works fine!

- Account name: St Mary Magdalene
- Account number: 21077139
- Sort Code: 40-05-20

You can set up a direct debit or if you wish to offer week by week, use the reference: *off day/month*.

Otherwise please use the Diocesan Just Giving Page:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory

remembering to add the comment: “**for St Mary Magdalene, Bexhill**”.

You can also choose, in the dropdown box, the additional % donation you wish to give to JustGiving, from 0% to 15%, whatever you choose the parish does not lose out!

Thank you to parishioners who continue to support the parish through standing orders, BACs payments or the Just Giving Page. **We have received £591.00 through the Just Giving page (from donations up to 13th April) and some Gift Aid on these payments is currently being applied for.** Without your support the parish finances will suffer. If you do not have online banking, perhaps use a ‘piggybank’ and save up your weekly offering, returning it once the COVID-19 precautions are over.

Mass Intentions: You can still book Mass intentions via email to: stmm@btconnect.com Please make your offering, if possible, by bank transfer, as we do not have facility to take cash. In your email please state the following:

- *Name of the Person for whom the Mass is offered*
 - (adding Good Estate or RIP).
- Your name, email address and tel. number.
- Date desired (but no guarantee can be made).

Your donation can be sent by BACs transfer (**see above**). If you can't transfer money electronically, please put the donation aside and pop it into the office once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Reminders

Confirmation Update: Bishop Richard has written to say that all the Confirmation Masses for this academic year have been cancelled. The programme of Masses across the diocese was due to begin this weekend. This means that our St Leonard's Deanery celebration due for Trinity Sunday, 7th June 2020 will no longer happen. He has said that it will not be possible to re-schedule 25 Confirmation Masses this year into his diary. Once public Masses have been given clearance to resume, we will schedule a parish celebration of Confirmation, the faculty to administer the sacrament having now been delegated by the bishop to Parish Priests.

First Holy Communion: The current strict restrictions on public gatherings will be reviewed on Thursday 7th May. We are all hopeful that they will not be extended again, but we must be realistic. I think it quite possible that we will still not be able to have public gatherings in our Churches by the dates of our three celebrations currently scheduled for 30th May, 6th June or 13th June. For the time being we should assume that the dates are suspended, but I think we will know more on 7th May.

Baptisms: All baptisms scheduled for the month of May are hereby suspended. They can be rearranged when restrictions on public Masses and services have been lifted.

Sacrament of the Sick

For urgent requests do not ring the parish office as our administrators are now unavailable. Instead:

For people at home: email stmm@btconnect.com or simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk and we will check what is the most appropriate option or speak directly with Fr Simon (opt 3) or Fr Rajesh (opt 2) on 01424 210 263; you may need to leave a voicemail.

For people in Care, Residential & Nursing Homes: Please first check with the care home to see if visits are possible / advisable and then ask the care home to ring the priests direct: Fr Simon opt 3 or Fr Rajesh opt 2 on 01424 210 263 – they may need to leave a voicemail message. We will discuss with them what is most appropriate.

For those in Eastbourne DGH or Conquest Hospital: You must ring the Conquest Hospital Chaplaincy on 01424 757088 who are co-ordinating emergency response for both hospitals (or ask the Ward to contact the on-call Catholic Chaplain who will determine what is appropriate).

For Bexhill Hospital: ask the ward to phone Fr Rajesh on 01424 210 263 (opt 2) and he will discuss with them what is appropriate.

It may be that visits are not appropriate, especially if the person is self-isolating to protect themselves. The most appropriate support might be via the telephone.

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have posted an extensive article on the ministry to the sick on their website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/covid-19-and-the-ministry-to-the-sick-interim-guidance/>

Rother: Bexhill Emergency Action Team (BEAT):

Providing assistance for those in isolation due to Coronavirus:

Caring Community: 01424 215116, E: info@bexhillcaringcommunity.org

Rother Voluntary Action: 01424 327259, E: office@rva.uk.com

Rother Neighbourhood Watch: 07983 619622, E: chairman@rothernhw.co.uk

BEAT Facebook page: “Bexhill Emergency Action Team (Beat)”

https://www.facebook.com/groups/199886864601614/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Advice around COVID-19 visit: www.rother.gov.uk/coronavirus

Bexhill Food Bank: How to donate.

<https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

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. And, *While we cannot 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*”.

Support and assistance: 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: *Contact: Ron Brazier 844177 or Chris Jones 602914*