



6th Sunday of Easter

17th 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)

"They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit"

The 1st Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*6th Sunday of Easter*) gives a clear reference to the Sacrament of Confirmation. After the people of Samaria accepted the Word of God preached by Deacon Philip, they were baptised. When the Church in Jerusalem heard of this, they sent the Apostles Peter and John to them; and as they laid on hands upon the newly baptised, they received the Holy Spirit. Confirmation is a Sacrament that completes our baptism and makes it stronger.

The Bishops are the successors to the apostles and so, we send our young people to the Bishop so that he may confirm their baptism, impart the gifts of the Holy Spirit and make their union with Christ and his Church stronger. Ordinarily then the Sacrament of Confirmation is reserved to the bishop, but the Law of the Church allows priests to Confirm in extraordinary circumstances. The Bishop has sent me, as Parish Priest, a faculty to administer the sacrament to our '***Confirmandi*** **once the current restrictions on public gatherings have been lifted or eased to such as extent to do so safely and reverently.** If it becomes pastorally prudent, I am permitted to sub-delegate this faculty to Fr Rajesh, as the parish's assistant priest.

Thursday 21st May is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven, and it has been restored to its proper day, to the Thursday, forty days after Easter Sunday. Ordinarily it is a Holy Day of Obligation but for the avoidance of any doubt **the obligation is hereby suspended for this year.** There will, however, be a Facebook Live Streamed Vigil Mass at 5pm on Wednesday 20th May, and a Facebook Live Stream Mass of the Day at 10am on Thursday 21st May. From the Ascension, our sights are set on the Feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit: '*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.*'

With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Simon.

From Gov.uk

Extract from the Government's Roadmap: 4.3 Step Three

The next step will also take place when the assessment of risk warrants further adjustments to the remaining measures. The Government's current planning assumption is that this step will be **no earlier than 4 July**, subject to the five tests justifying some or all of the measures below, and further detailed scientific advice, provided closer to the time, on how far we can go.

The ambition at this step is to open at least some of the remaining businesses and premises that have been required to close, including personal care (such as hairdressers and beauty salons) hospitality (such as food service providers, pubs and accommodation), public places (**such as places of worship**) and leisure facilities (like cinemas). They should also meet the COVID-19 Secure guidelines. Some venues which are, by design, crowded and where it may prove difficult to enact distancing may still not be able to re-open safely at this point, or may be able to open safely only in part. Nevertheless the Government will wish to open as many businesses and public places as the data and information at the time allows.

In order to facilitate the fastest possible re-opening of these types of higher-risk businesses and public places, the Government will carefully phase and pilot re-openings to test their ability to adopt the new COVID-19 Secure guidelines. The Government will also monitor carefully the effects of re-opening other similar establishments elsewhere in the world, as this happens. **The Government will establish a series of taskforces to work closely with stakeholders** in these sectors to develop ways in which they can make these businesses and public places COVID-19 Secure.

Continued...

Initial Response from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales **Press Release 11th May 2020**

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has responded to the government's document released today, 11 May, titled '[Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#)'.

Statement

The timing and the manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The Government's document and statements fail to recognise this. The Government's position, established today, includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible: the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with 'stakeholders' in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heeding the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship. In dialogue with the Government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer. The Church is ready to play its full part in the task force, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first safe step towards their use for public worship.

Cardinal Nichols speaking to the BBC Today Programme (Thursday 14th May):

His Eminence Vincent Cardinal Nichols spoke to Justin Webb of the BBC about the reopening of Churches. In it he said: "*Well to begin with, I would like Churches available for people to go and kneel and say their prayers, privately, individually. It would mean a routine of supervision; a routine of social distancing; a routine of cleansing. All of that we believe we can do*" and also "*We've got plans; we've got preparation and we know the depth of peoples' feeling and their need, so that they can live their faith well and safely...*". The full interview available:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-on-safely-re-opening-churches-for-private-prayer/>

As a parish we look forward to receiving and reviewing those plans. To comply with the routine of supervision and the routine of cleansing, it will involve the effort of the parish. As we find out more on what is required, we will update you accordingly.

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 17th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	Debora Mosca RIP	Divina Stephens GE	Some of these Masses will be Live Streamed over Facebook, usually 10am but check the Parish Facebook Page for times which may be affected by other pastoral needs.
Monday 18th May Monday Easter Week 6	Noreen Corness RIP	-	
Tuesday 19th May Tuesday Easter Week 6	Denis, Mary & Joan O'Sullivan RIP	Holy Souls	
Wed. 20th May Wed. Easter Week 6	Holy Souls	-	
Thursday 21st May Ascension of the Lord	Fred Herring RIP	Pat Billingham	
Friday 22nd May Friday Easter Week 6	Requiem Robert Ffrench RIP	Robert Stevens RIP	
Saturday 23rd May Saturday Easter Week 6	Susan Eyre GE	People of the Parish	

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

improved: now filmed in Landscape

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

Those who have died: Of your charity please continue to pray for the repose of the souls of Robert Ffrench and Margaret Malone whose funerals are pending. Due to social distancing requirements we are not publishing the committal details as only close family are able to attend. You may have seen the very sad news of the death of **Baby Tula Bea Mceniry** in the Bexhill Observer:

<https://www.bexhillobserver.net/news/people/bexhill-couples-heartache-baby-daughter-dies-after-11-days-2853673> . Of your charity please pray for her parents Jamie and Faye Mceniry (parishioners) and their other children Sienna and Luna. Fr Simon has spoken with Faye and assured her of the prayers of the whole parish.

'Laudato Si' Week (16th – 24th May)

To honour the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, during the coming week, we are invited to pray and reflect on how we can build a better world in order to create a more just and sustainable future. For more information please visit: www.laudatosiweek.org At this website there is a video message from Pope Francis. The website also has online training and workshops to assist us in creating a better future together. At 12noon local time on 24th May, we are invited to pray in our homes to create a global wave of prayer around the world. You can sign up and receive your prayer card here: www.laudatosiweek.org/prayer/

Resources from the Global Catholic Climate Movement at:

www.catholicclimatemovement.global/laudatosi/

Mass Intentions for the Month of June

Because of the Government Roadmap and Bishops' statements, it seems clear that Fr Simon & Fr Rajesh will continue to celebrate Mass privately (**some of which will be live streamed on Facebook**) throughout June. On a positive note this means that they have additional time available to celebrate more Masses and so we have about a dozen spare intention slots available for the month of June. This is in addition to the Masses already booked for June. If you'd like to have a Mass said for a particular intention send Fr Simon an email on stmm@btconnect.com and he'll discuss availability with you and advise you how to make an offering. Requiem Masses continue to take precedence.

Updated Notices

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

First Holy Communion: The continuing restrictions on public gatherings mean the First Holy Communion Masses cannot be celebrated on 30th May, 6th June or 13th June and are therefore suspended until further notice. Please continue to work through your 'I Belong' books so you are ready when the embargo on public gatherings is lifted.

Reminders

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 .

CAFOD Prayer Resources:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Coronavirus-prayers>

Diocesan Resources for Mental Health and well-being:

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

Bexhill Food Bank: How to donate.

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

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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

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*

Parish Finances

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. 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.

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