



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sunday 21st June 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)

*“if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men,
I will declare myself in the presence of my Father in heaven”*

We send our prayers and best wishes to our fathers today. Our fathers, as priests of the family, have a divine responsibility to hand on the faith to their children. Abraham is our ‘*father in faith*’, as God assured that from him, his children would become a great nation. St Joseph is an exemplary father, taking Mary to be his wife despite the unusual circumstances of her pregnancy, trusting God was at work through him and in his Holy Family. In the Gospel, Jarius falls at the feet of Jesus pleading with him to save his daughter from death; he a noble official humbling himself before a higher authority. Above all we hear the account of the ‘*Forgiving Father*’ of the ‘*Prodigal Son*’ who is ready and waiting to wrap his arms around his wayward child. God ‘*the Father of Mercies*’ never gives up on his children, always calling them to come home to the Church, the place where we experience the forgiveness of our sins and have access to our promised inheritance. ‘*If anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven*’.

21st June is also a ‘**Day for Life**’. Remember, life begins at conception and is to be protected at every stage and in every condition until natural death. In the UK alone there were over 200,000 abortions last year (9 million since the 1967 Act of Parliament), meaning abortion has become too readily available, not the few compassionate cases the civil law was meant for. We reject the mantra, “*my body, my choice*”, because there are two persons, one with a choice and one without a choice! Additionally, as Eucharistic Christians we are formed on the life-giving principle of ‘*this is my body which is given up for you*’, a call to put ourselves into second place for the sake of the other: “*I have come that they may have life*”, says the Lord, “*and have it in abundance*”. As Catholics, we hold to the Natural Law and are not sold on the secular notion that ‘*it is just a bunch of cells*’ and only a baby if chosen. No, of course, we can easily see through that lie. In every case this is a unique person who will never be again! Hence, the phrase ‘*every life matters*’ because so many lives are lost in the womb, and in some countries, there has been an increase in end of life practices that are or very close to Euthanasia. ‘*We pray the Lord will deliver our souls from the hands of evil men*’. 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 21st June 12th Sun in OT A	Mary Beirne RIP	Robert Stevens RIP	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 22nd June SS John Fisher & Thomas More	Christo (21 st Birthday)	-	
Tuesday 23rd June Tuesday OT Wk 12	Neil Jenkins RIP	Alvyn Luck RIP	
Wed. 24th June Nativity of Saint John the Baptist	Private Intention	Alexander MacDonald RIP	
Thursday 25th June Thursday OT Wk 12	Mary Thomas RIP	Holy Souls	
Friday 26th June Friday OT Wk 12	Jack Oliver Lucy RIP	People of the Parish	
Saturday 27th June Sat Mem. of the BVM	Gloria Coward RIP	Deceased members of the Capaldi Family	

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-VZtzO01zrnerQ>

Church Re-Opening Update:

Bishop's House in Hove have given us the green light to open **St Mary Magdalene** for private prayer. The Church will be open for private prayer only (*no service, sacraments or public devotions are permitted yet*). The Church will be open on:

- Fridays – 09.30am to 11.30am
- Saturdays – 09.30am to 11.30am

Thank you to the volunteers for making this possible.

Remember that this is an advanced provision which was originally only to be allowed as part of the Government's Roadmap from 4th July.

Please practice social distancing, follow the one-way system and the advice of the stewards. Access is limited and restricted, with a capacity of 8 people, so you may be required to queue and wait before being admitted. The more the Church is open (*both in terms of days and access*), the more cleaning is required. **If we get more volunteers, we may be able to make additional sessions available.** There must be at least 2 volunteers on duty at any one time, so we need teams of 4 people to make a shift viable and not to overburden people as the weeks roll on. Volunteers should:

- Already be DBS cleared by the parish (or by a recognisable organisation).
- Be Under 70 years of age
- Be free from any of the health risk groups (personally & in the household).

We are also opening the Memorial Garden for private prayer (no services yet). You will still need to maintain social distancing, and only 6 people are allowed in the garden at any one time. You may wish to carry a personal hand sanitiser to apply before (and / or) after you enter the code into the lock: The code is: **C 3468**. As with flats, do not wedge the gate open, do not hold it open for other people, especially people you do not know, and do not give the code out to anyone in the street.

People ask when we will be returning to Mass? We just do not know. Returning to Sunday Mass as we know it, needs permission for gatherings of 250+ people and no social distancing rules. At present, with a 2-metre social distancing requirement reduces the capacity of St Mary Magdalene to just 36 people! We imagine it will not be much greater than that at St Martha's.

Those who have died: Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of Andrew J Kempson & Jacob Sargeant who died recently.

For the sick: Martin Stiles and David Spooner.

[If you'd like your name added or a name of a loved one (with their consent) added to the newsletter to be prayed for, please email stmm@btconnect.com]

New Notices

Mass Intentions for July: Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh have about a dozen spare Mass intentions slots for the month of July. If you would like to have a Mass said for the repose of a loved one's soul (RIP) or for their "good estate" please email stmm@btconnect.com and Fr Simon will let you know what is possible and how you may make the customary Mass offering.

Day for Life (continued): Bishop John Sherrington writes more about the alarming Abortion Statistics in England & Wales and speaks more about 'Day for Life':
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/abortion-statistics-110620/>

Updated Notices

Sacraments: While our Churches are slowly re-opening for private prayer, we still not have permission for Mass or the celebration of the Sacraments. As soon as the Bishops of England & Wales issue some guidance I will update you, but seeing the '*routines of supervision, cleaning and social distancing*' that we have had to adhere to just to allow people into pray, we will all have to play our part in achieving the same or even stricter routines for Mass and the celebration of sacraments. **What about applications for the 2021 programmes?** We are not yet accepting applications for First Holy Communion or Confirmation as we do not yet know how these courses will be run. **Baptisms:** All baptisms scheduled for the **month of June** are hereby suspended. They can be rearranged (*with the postponed baptisms from March to May*) when restrictions on public Masses and services have been lifted.

Reminders

Cash & Cheques: A polite reminder asking you not to post cash or cheques through the presbytery letter box as Fr Simon has no means of processing them or accounting for them. ***Cheques posted through the door will either be returned or destroyed.*** Where necessary, please make use of the electronic means of transferring payments (*please see the end of the newsletter for the account details*). We received a further £548.22 through the Diocesan Just Giving Scheme on 2nd June 2020. Thank you.

Kairos Forum: Liturgical Resources with those with Special Needs:

Joe Apicella (*from St Martha's*) and his cousin Cris offer liturgical resources with those who have special learning needs: <http://www.kairosforum.org/space/easter-season/>

CAFOD Prayer Resources:

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

CAFOD: Please visit this page for the latest news and appeals:

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Latest-news>

Organ Donation: Presumed Consent: This law changed recently on organ donation to a presumed consent unless you have specifically opted out. The **Bishops' Conference of England and Wales** have issued a statement here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/04/Organ-Donation-Guidelines-Feb-2020.pdf>

And guidance for Catholics here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/organ-donation-guidelines-200520/>

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/>

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.*”

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/>

Continued...

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

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.