

PARISH NEWS



Message for Bexhill Parish Feast Day of St. Martha 2020 80th Anniversary of the Church

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, the Feast of St. Martha, is the appropriate day to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of St. Martha's Church. In more straightforward times, I am sure, there would have been great jubilation today and although the restrictions arising from Covid-19 might reduce possibilities, I do encourage you to celebrate with a little extra festivity, both in the church and at home. St. Martha is an example for us. She busied herself with care for Jesus in the welcome she offered in her home. We must welcome Jesus in the home that is our heart, opening the doors of our lives to the wonders of his love for us. Her encounters with the Lord brought out in her a deep faith. At the death of her brother she says: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God he will grant you." She believes in Jesus: "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world." The deep conviction of Martha's faith in the person of Jesus is surely an encouragement for us all. For a community that has Martha as its patron, look to the future with confidence in the person of Jesus and in the wonder of all that he shares with us in the life of the Church and may you be blessed in all that lies ahead.

+Richard

Face Coverings

Unless you have a very good reason not to wear one, the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales strongly recommends that Face Coverings should be worn at public liturgies.

***I will bless the Lord at all time
or
Taste and see that the Lord is good***

Feast of St Martha (29th July, Transferred)

As is common, we transfer local patronal feasts to the Sunday to make it the central focus of our week and to provide more Masses to allow parishioners access to the Sacred Mysteries of our Redemption. All Masses this Sunday will be the Mass of St Martha, and we especially wish the community in Little Common a happy and holy Feast Day.

On 2nd August 1939, the foundation stone for St Martha's Church was laid, and the building was completed in 1940. Even though it would take a couple of years before regular Masses were celebrated in the Church, 2020 marks the Church's 80th or Oak Anniversary. It is fitting, therefore, that we can celebrate Mass in St Martha's Church this weekend, and we are grateful to the stewards for making this possible. It looks likely that Mass at 9am on Sunday mornings at St Martha's is viable going forward with a capacity of 36 people. It would be good to continue with a 6pm evening Mass, but we need 2 or 3 more stewards to make this a reality going forward.

It used to be that if all other ministries were absent we could, providing we had a priest, celebrate Holy Mass, but now to celebrate a Public Mass we must have stewards on duty (*who are under 70 and free from underlying health conditions, either personally or in their household. It is desirable if the steward comes from our existing pool of DBS volunteers, but I do have some discretion regarding this, so if you can help please contact me.*) I am sorry to say that the requirements of social distancing and cleansing remain with us for the foreseeable future and so, for Public Masses to continue we do need more stewards.

With every blessing, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Josette Jones RIP

Requiem Masses: Josette Jones RIP on Wednesday 12th August. These Masses have a capacity of 30 people and all places are given over to the family.

We pray for the sick especially: Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner and Deirde Edwards

Church Capacities: St Mary Magdalene 55+ and St Martha's 36+. The "+" means that as households may still together, a couple of extra spaces might be available at the steward's discretion. Please follow the directions of the stewards and do all you can to be on-time for Mass so that they can seat you without disrupting the Sacred Liturgy. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Public Mass Times: **Sundays:** 6pm (Sat)* & 9am at St Martha's and 11am & 6pm at St Mary Magdalene. **Weekdays:** 9.45am Mass on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays and 6.45pm Mass on Wednesday. [**Public Mass Times are reviewed weekly, are dependent on stewards being available, and like the Railways, the timetable is subject to short notice cancellations and amendments.*] **Facebook Live Mass:** 10am on Mondays and 12noon on Thursdays, and when Fr Simon can stream his Public Mass: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: after Mass on Tuesdays, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays. **Confessions:** after Mass on Saturday morning.

Mass Intentions: these may still be booked by emailing stmm@btconnect.com where Fr Simon can let you know what is possible and how to make the customary donation.

Sacraments

Baptism: new applications may be made via the website: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/. You will then be directed to the online preparation. **First Holy Communion & Confirmation:** The Sacramental Masses for 2020 continue to be delayed, and regrettably we are not yet able to announce a new date. **2021 applications?** We are not accepting applications at this time, as we do not yet know how these programmes will be run. You continued patience is much appreciated.

For those unable to attend a Public Mass and also unable to join the Bexhill Parish Mass through Facebook Live, you can "stream" Mass live at:

Eastbourne: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyByhHVfQDkDpZlr_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>

Parish Clergy: Fr Simon Dray, Fr Rajesh Minz, Deacon Simon Kirkdale
Administrators: Bonita Osmond-Maher & Lisa Young
Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins

Charity and Mission

CAFOD: Summer of Hope Fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: www.cafod.org.uk/summerofhope .

CAFOD in partnership DEC to help alleviate those in poorer communities significantly affected by Coronavirus: www.cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal .

CAFOD latest news: www.cafod.org.uk/News/Latest-news

CAFOD Prayer Resources: www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Coronavirus-prayers

Bexhill Homeless Unity Group (H.U.G.): Summer fundraiser to prepare for a possible increase in Homelessness: www.bexhillhug.org.uk/donating-with-hug

Bexhill Foodbank: How to donate: www.bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

Non-Urgent Pastoral Visits to the Housebound: The priests can make one-off visits to bring the sacraments to those who genuinely cannot attend one of the restored parish Masses or Confessions times. Please contact Fr Rajesh on 01424 210263 opt 2 or email stmm@btconnect.com to make an appointment for a priest to visit. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should email or speak to Fr Simon before resuming any visits, so that he can also provide you with the latest guidance.

Bereavement / Ministry of Consolation: If you have experienced the loss of a loved one during this pandemic the diocese has trained bereavement support listeners (trained by Cruse, the bereavement support charity). If you need support please contact the parish at stmm@btconnect.com and we can pass your name and contact number onto our Deanery Co-ordinator who will get in touch with you.

The Transfiguration of the Lord (6th August)

Thursday is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Although, not a Holy Day, it is an important Feast of the Lord and worthy of our consideration. The Transfiguration is presented as an event to strengthen the disciples for his Passion and the Scandal that the cross will cause. It is an affirmation that the Christian life is one of service, the laying down of one's life for the sake of the Gospel. In the Transfiguration, Our Lord shows the reality of who He is. Yes, he is Jesus of Nazareth but above all He is God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who has set aside the glory and majesty that is His by right so that he may take on our human nature in order to raise it up to its true dignity of being made in the image and likeness of God. The Transfiguration of the Lord gives us a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven, showing us that the sufferings of this life are nothing compared to the glory that is to be revealed to us. The Transfiguration will be experienced in us in three ways: Baptism was our first transfiguration as it is a sacrament of regeneration, when the old creation was washed away and a new creation sprung up to the new life of grace. The second Transfiguration will be our Resurrection from the dead on the last day, when God will transform our lowly body after the pattern of Christ's glorious body, finally completing our redemption, body and soul. We also experience a mini-Transfiguration every time we go to Confession and receive the Eucharist as we are restored to the life of grace and gain a glimpse of heaven in the Mass and receive our God in Holy Communion.

Parish Office

Remains closed until further notice. All enquiries:

stmm@btconnect.com

Sacrament of the Sick**Urgent Requests****Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!**

As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come.

stmm@btconnect.com

01424210263

opt. 3 Fr Simon

opt. 2 Fr Rajesh

(back up your call with an email message)

Hospital Visits

For **DGH Eastbourne & Conquest Hastings** you must contact the Conquest Chaplaincy on 01424 757088 who co-ordinate all visits to both hospitals (out of hours ask the Ward to call the on-call Catholic chaplain).

For **Bexhill Hospital**: contact Fr Rajesh on 01424 210263 opt 2.

Care Home Visits

You must first clear the visit with the Home before contacting us to arrange a visit. We will discuss with you / the home as to what is most appropriate.

Home Visits

Please contact us above to discuss the most appropriate response. A member of the family bubble should be present when a priest visits, stepping out of the room for Confession.

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The Sunday Obligation remains suspended

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions**Saturday 1st August**

St Mary Magdalene
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Memorial Sat Mem. of the BVM

9:45am Public Mass: Irene Hulewicz RIP
10:30am Adoration until 11am
10:30am Confessions until 11am
12.30pm **Baptism: Oliver & Harrison Blackmore**

St Martha**Sunday 2nd August**

St Martha

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Feast of St Martha

1 John 4:7-16 & John 11:19-27

6:00pm Public Mass: Pro Populo
Public Masses:

9:00am Ernest & Lily Whitehead RIP
11:00am Roy & Peggy Fisher RIP
12:30pm **Baptism of Matei Zane**
6:00pm Priests Intentions

Monday 3rd August

St Mary Magdalene

Tuesday 4th August

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Presbytery

Ferial Monday 18th Week

10:00am Facebook only: Ouseph Joseph RIP

Memorial St John Vianney (Cure of Ars)

9.45am Public Mass: Brian Keavney RIP
10.30am Adoration until 11.30am
Private Priests of the Parish

Wednesday 5th August

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem Dedication of St Mary Major

9.45am Public Mass: Clare Simon RIP
10.30am Adoration until 11.30am
6.45pm Public Mass: Priest's Intentions
7.30pm Adoration until 8pm

Feast Transfiguration of the Lord

12noon Facebook Only: Mr. R. Grandi RIP
Private Leslie Evans RIP

Opt. Mem 1st Friday of the Sacred Heart

9.45am Public Mass: The Ffrench Family GE
10.30am Adoration until 11.30am

Memorial St Dominic

9:45am Public Mass: Buckle Family RIP
10:30am Adoration until 11am
10:30am Confessions until 11am
2.00pm **Baptism of Mia & Finlay Ashby**

19th Sunday in OT A

1 Kings 19:9,11-13, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-33

St Martha (to be confirmed)

6:00pm Public Mass: Pro Populo

Sunday 9th August

9:00am Public Mass: Pamela Bourne GE
11:00am Public Mass: Bill Low RIP
2.00pm **Baptism of Ralph Bradbury**
6:00pm Public Mass: Frank Ratcliffe RIP

Parish Finance

Please try and give your offertory online and it can be gift aided:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory

Otherwise please use the collection box by St Anthony's Statue available at every Sunday & Weekday Mass