

# PARISH NEWS

## Christmas Collection in support of the Clergy

In the offertory collection at Easter and Christmas, you are invited to support the income of the priests, *who do not receive a salary from the parish or diocese* but rely on the offerings you give throughout the year in Mass offerings and stole fees. The Christmas collection makes up 25% of their annual income and so your generosity is much appreciated. As places at Mass remain limited at the moment, with the authority of the diocese, **the offertory collection for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Octave Masses (25 Dec-1Jan) will be for the clergy.** Single use and COVID-secure green envelopes will be available at all Christmas Masses. If you currently have an online standing order or direct debit this is your parish offertory and cannot be transferred over to the Christmas collection. Please either utilize the green envelope and physical collection when you come to Mass at Christmas or throughout the octave, or make a separate BACs transfer with an explicit reference of "Christmas" so the administrators know you intend it to be paid to the priests. Many thanks for your support.

**Please book a place for Mass on  
Christmas Eve or Christmas Day!  
01424 210 263 opt 4 Parish Office  
between 10am & 4pm or  
[stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com)**

## *My soul rejoices in my God.*

### **Gaudete in Domino Semper!**

### **Rejoice in the Lord always.**

By now we often find our religious observance of Advent clashes with our secular preparations for Christmas, and rather than expectantly waiting we are counting the number of work and club Christmas meals we have already had! Maybe things are different this year, and while it is hard on the hospitality sector, perhaps our minds are more focused on the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent reminds us that 'The Lord is near', and we lessen the penitential purple with 'the light of Christ', giving us a shade of rose. Joy is the disposition of the redeemed because we have hope that our salvation is near at hand. We are not fearful of the future because we know that God proclaims a 'year of favour' to his Holy People. As St Paul says, '*may the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*' Best wishes and prayers, Fr Simon.

### **Please remember to book a Mass for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Christmas Eve:**

4pm St Mary Mags. (FULLY BOOKED)  
4pm Hall (45% booked)  
6pm St Mary Mags. (FULLY BOOKED)  
6pm Hall (FULLY BOOKED)  
8pm St Martha's (85% booked)  
8pm Hall (0% booked)

### **Christmas Day:**

9am St Martha's (65% booked)  
11am St Mary Mags (32% booked)

(\*% correct as of 9am Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.)

**We pray for those who have died:** Eileen Mary Furnell RIP, Tom Lowry RIP, Brian Maher RIP, Ellen Louisa Searle RIP, Jean Pearce RIP.

**We pray for the sick:** Roy Cox, Margaret Pink, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Lem Murphy, Martin Murphy, Linda Scully, Janie Butcher, Samuel Barden.

**Advent Confessions at St Mary Magdalene Church**

**10.30am – 11am on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec & Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

**10.30am – 11am on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec & Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.**

**Evening Confession session: 7.30pm to 8pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

*No Confessions on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec because of a Funeral*

*No Confessions before Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day*

**Church Capacities**

**Mass:** 55+ people at St Mary Magdalene & 36+ people at St Martha's, Little Common. [the “+” allows the stewards (*at their discretion*) to count coupes & families as singles providing there is appropriate space]

**Baptism outside of Mass:** 6 people including the one being baptised. **Funerals:** 30 people maximum – names in advance and limited to family and close friends only. **Weddings:** 15 people maximum.

**Mass Intentions:** booked by emailing [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) where the administrators can let you know what is possible and how to make the customary donation. **Adoration:** after Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings & Thursday evening.

**Sunday Gospel for those with Special Needs:** <http://www.kairosforum.org/space/weekly-gospel/>

**CAFOD World Gifts:** a wide range of virtual gifts, which make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. Even with COVID-19 we can still be good neighbours by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family & friends, e.g. The Keen Clean Gift at £6 or the Vegetable Garden at £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves:

[www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts) **Advent with CAFOD:** we all need the hope, peace, comfort, and joy of Advent. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online and prepare for the Lord's arrival. Visit [www.cafod.org.uk/parisges](http://www.cafod.org.uk/parisges)

**Advent appeal:** help share comfort and joy around the world to families like Saba's, who with her three children fled Myanmar to escape horrific persecution. They were targeted because of their ethnicity. Thanks to your support, Saba was given essential materials to build a shelter, so finally her children have a safe place to call home. **Donate:** [www.cafod.org.uk/advent](http://www.cafod.org.uk/advent)

**Volunteer Interpreters:** Arabic, Farsi, Tigrinya or Kurdish Sorani speakers required to help the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group who support asylum seekers and other migrants held in detention. These Detention Centres hold men who have crossed the channel; they arrive traumatized and are then detained. The Group seeks to help them, but many do not speak English. If you can help: contact [josie@gdwg.org.uk](mailto:josie@gdwg.org.uk) References, interview and DBS checks will be required of all volunteers.

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

**Bexhill Foodbank: How to donate:** [www.bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/](http://www.bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/)

**Non-Urgent Pastoral Visits to the Housebound:** If you need the Sacraments please contact the Parish Office on 01424 210263 or email [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation:** we have been told that the bishop will not administer Confirmations in 2021 until the autumn rather than in early summer which is customary. We had our 1<sup>st</sup> session on 22<sup>nd</sup> November but with only 4 Confirmation (25% of normal numbers). Therefore, we have pushed back the next session until January which also allows for more young people to join the programme. Application forms can be found at [www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/confirmation](http://www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/confirmation) Please return them by the end of December.

**For FHC:** applications will open on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.

**RCIA:** There will be no formal course but if any adults are considering Baptism or Reception into Full Communion they should make contact with Fr Simon directly by emailing: [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com)

**CCIA (aka WJT):** Details for this course are still being worked out, so please do not apply yet.

**Baptism:** new applications via the website: [www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/](http://www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/) . These celebrations are restricted by the 'rule of 6'.

**The Friends of Lossie Long**, in partnership with **St Stephen's Church Bexhill**, are offering a Christmas Day Lunch Delivery to those who might be spending Christmas Day on their own this year. No charge but donations are welcome. To reserve a delivery, contact Tim on 01424 213456 or [infofol2020@gmail.com](mailto:infofol2020@gmail.com) You can also contact Tim if you wish to make a donation or volunteer as a driver.

**Missio Advent Reflections:** 2 remaining Friday Reflections at 10.30am on 18 & 25 December. To register please email: [rebox@missio.org.uk](mailto:rebox@missio.org.uk) or call 020 7821 9755.

**Justice and Peace Zoom Webinar: How should the diocese respond to the Food Poverty Crisis?** Food poverty has increased since COVID. Join the Diocese's Free Webinar to find out what parishes can do to help. Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 10am to 12.30pm. To book: E: [rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk)

**A new simple way to give your weekly offertory (+gift aid) online via Diocesan Website:** <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

**For Mass offerings & other payments: BACs:**

**Name: St Mary Magdalene, Account No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20**

**Parish Office will be closed 24<sup>th</sup> Dec to 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan inclusive**

Please conclude any business, emails, calls and deliveries by 12noon on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Parish Office**  
Remains closed to  
casual callers.  
All enquiries:  
[stmm@btconnect.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill](http://www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill)**

#### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary Magdalene	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>
Confessions	10.00am	Public Mass: Joseph Thomas RIP
St Martha's	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration.
	6.00pm	<b>Vigil of Sunday</b> Public Mass: Amalia Young RIP

**Second Collection: Friends of the Holy Land**

#### **Third Sunday of Advent B**

*Is 61:1-2, 10-11, 1 Thess 5:16-24 & Jn 1:6-8, 19-28*

#### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

St Martha's	9.00am	<b>Public Masses</b>
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Florence Raey RIP
Presbytery	6.00pm	Robert Stevens RIP
		Pro Populo

#### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Facebook Live Mass

#### **Memorial** **St John of the Cross, Priest**

Rose-Maria, in thanksgiving.

#### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary Magdalene

#### **Ferial** **Tuesday Advent Week 3**

Public Mass: Margaret & Jimmy Hilder & Tom Friary and Families

#### **Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary Magdalene

#### **Ferial** **Advent: Wednesday Week Two**

Public Mass: Hanson Driscoll Families living & deceased  
Funeral Service of Mr John Trevor Abbott RIP

#### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary Magdalene

#### **Advent II** **17<sup>th</sup> Dec: O Sapienta (O Wisdom)**

Public Mass: Denis, Mary & Joan O'Sullivan RIP

#### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary Magdalene  
Eastbourne Crematorium

#### **Advent II** **18<sup>th</sup> Dec: O Adonai (O Lord)**

Public Mass: Margaret Keep & Family  
Funeral Service of Ellen Louisa Searle RIP

#### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary Magdalene

#### **Advent II** **19<sup>th</sup> Dec: O Radix Jesse (O Root)**

Public Mass: Edith Durrant RIP  
Confessions & Adoration until 11am.  
**Vigil of Sunday**

Public Mass: Gerard N. McNamara RIP

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent B**

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Rom 16:25-27 & Lk 1:26-38*

#### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

St Martha's	9.00am	<b>Public Masses</b>
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Pamela & Keith Bourne GE
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Noreen Corness RIP
		People of the Parish

**Second Collection: Apostleship of the Sea**

#### **Advance Notice: Holy Family Sunday (27<sup>th</sup> December)**

*First come-first serve for Masses (Halls still available if necessary)*

**9am at St Martha's & 11am at St Mary Magdalene**

*No Saturday Vigil Mass or Sunday Evening Mass*