

21st March 2021

PARISH NEWS

HOLY WEEK, TRIDIUM & EASTER SUNDAY

Having read the guidance, we are able to offer the following schedule for Holy Week.

Bookings are Required for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday
(Bookings open: Tuesday 9th March)

Palm Sunday: Facebook Only Masses at 9am & 6pm. Public Masses: 11am & 6pm at St Mary Magdalene only.

Holy Thursday: 8pm Public Mass of the Lord's Supper (+Facebook) in St Mary Magdalene Church.

Good Friday:

- 1) 3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion in St Mary Magdalene Church (+Facebook).
- 2) 6pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion in St Martha's Church.

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night:

9pm Vigil and 1st Mass of Easter in St Mary Magdalene Church (+Facebook).

Easter Sunday Public Masses:

- 1) 9am at St Martha's (+ Facebook)
- 2) 11am at St Mary Magdalene.
- 3) 6pm at St Mary Magdalene.

Capacities remain at: St Mary Mags. 47+ people and St Martha's 36+ people. Shorter versions of liturgical options are preferred, and some elements of the rites are omitted or deferred until later in Easter or at Pentecost.

A pure heart create for me, O God.

National Day of Reflection (Prayer) for COVID 19

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

The Prime Minister has asked for a National Day of Reflection to ponder the anniversary of the first national lockdown. The Bishops Conference has issued a statement welcoming the day, but rightly reframing this day so that it becomes for us a day of prayer. You can read the statement here: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/bishops-conference-statement-on-national-day-of-reflection-23rd-march-2021.pdf>

So that you may pray in the Church as well as throughout your working day both St Mary Magdalene and St Martha's Church will be open for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament either before the Tabernacle or in Exposition:

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

- 11am to 12noon at St Mary Magdalene, .
- 6pm to 7pm at St Mary Magdalene,
- 6pm to 7pm at St Martha's,

All the usual COVID security remains in place, so many thanks to the stewards who have agreed to facilitate this.

Passiontide

This weekend begins the Passiontide part of Lent, when we would usually cover the various holy images, the statues and crucifixes waiting for the revealing of the reality of the Cross on Good Friday. While COVID means we cannot go up ladders to cover the images, perhaps, at home you could veil some of your statues, crucifixes, and images ready to unveil them on Good Friday. With every blessing, Fr Simon.

NB: Lockdown Rules remain in force so if you need a lift to Mass, this can only be provided by a member of your own household or support bubble. This advice will still be valid for Holy Week & Easter Sunday.

We pray for those who have died: Margaret Mary Fox RIP, John Merlin RIP (**NB: it is taking about a month to arrange funerals at the moment, and they remain restricted to 30 close family and friends, names provided for track and trace purposes in advance**).

We pray for the sick: Roy Cox, Margaret Pink, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Martin Murphy, Samuel Barden, Baby Hope Leahy.

Church Capacities: 36+ people at St Martha's Church and **47+** people at St Mary Magdalene Church. Due to some damage to the windows in STMM Church, some further benches have been roped off.

Easter Collection in Support of the Clergy

In the Easter Collection, we invite you to support the income of the priests, who do not receive a salary but rely on your offerings throughout the year. The Easter collection makes up 25% of their annual income and so your generosity is appreciated. At the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses, single use and COVID-secure green envelopes will be available, and the offertory box can be found by the exit door. As places at Mass remain limited and many remain cautious, you can also give online. If you currently have an online standing order or direct debit this is your parish offertory and cannot be transferred over to the Easter collection, so please make a separate BACs transfer with an explicit reference of "Easter".

Holy Week in the Syro-Malar Rite: St Thomas More, Mission

We have agreed with Fr Jose that there may be Holy Week Liturgies at St Martha's in the 'Syro-Malabar Rite' as follows: Palm Sunday 28th March: 3pm, Holy Monday-Wednesday: 4:30pm, Maundy Thursday: 3pm, Good Friday: 12pm-2pm, Holy Saturday 3rd April: 7pm, Easter Sunday: 11:30am. All COVID assurances on capacity, stewarding, social distancing, and cleanliness have been given. All booking enquires should be made direct to the Syro-Malabar team and not to the Parish Office.

CAFOD: Christian Lucey's 10,000 steps a day for 40 days of Lent.

Christina Lucy is walking 10,000 steps a day for the CAFOD Lent challenge and has a Just Giving page for you to sponsor her: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/Christina-Lucey> Remember, you can adjust the additional Just Giving contribution; use the drop down menu to adjust the amount from 15% as desired, even to 0%. Regardless, all your actual donation goes to CAFOD. Christina is grateful to all those who have supported her and invites you to spur her on, she has already achieved 300,000 steps!

PETITION: That the Government Does Not Reduce Overseas Aid

There are suggestions that the Government is planning to reduce its commitment to giving 0.7% of GDP as overseas aid. We want to keep this foreign aid and help the world's poor. Please sign the petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/561068> At 10,000 signatures the Government will respond to the petition. At 100,000 the petition will be considered for debate. Thank you.

Last Orders for Palm Sunday Bookings: 3pm on Fri 26th March (subject to remaining availability)

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

First Holy Communion

2020 Pending Celebrations: Having reviewed the Roadmap for Unlocking, celebrations of First Holy Communion will be no earlier than 17th May, and to allow for a proper celebration we have provisionally allocated 12noon on Saturdays 26th June and 3rd July at St Martha's to complete the 2020 celebrations. ***Bookings will open after Easter (after 12th April), as stewards and musicians will need to be arranged first and we need to be sure that the government roadmap is still on schedule.***

2021 Preparation: Thank you to those who have applied for the 2021 preparation. You should now be working through your 'I Belong' book. After completing the 1st four chapters, **and no earlier than 17th May**, you may begin to make an appointment with Fr Simon or Fr Rajesh to discuss your progress and make your **First Confession**. Dates for 2021 Holy Communion celebrations will not be released before 17th May.

Baptism applications can still be submitted: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/ and you will then be directed to the online preparation. Due to current restrictions, celebrations cannot happen before 17th May.

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 to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

Parish Office in Lockdown 3: Please use the email: stmm@btconnect.com to contact the Parish Office. Please do not call personally at the office door, as this does not constitute an essential journey. **Mass Intentions:** can be booked via stmm@btconnect.com , there is availability for **March**.

Faith Companion: along with the Magazine, they also have an online Catholic gift shop. Visit: www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk More info: thefaithcompanion@gmail.com or 01403 754808

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group: This charity, which provides emotional and practical support to asylum seekers and other migrants held in immigration detention are looking for a qualified accountant Treasurer. More information, please contact: George Fitzsimons: gfitz62246@aol.com

ONLINE RETREATS: The Open Cloister at Worth Abbey: 26th-28th March (Palm Sunday weekend):
The Holy Shroud: Gospel beyond Words - What the Shroud Tells Us. Book your place on line at <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats> Further information available from E: toc@worth.co.uk

Last Orders for Triduum & Easter Sunday Bookings:
3pm on Holy Wednesday 31st March (subject to remaining availability)

Parish Office
Remains closed to casual callers.
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.

Office hours
stmm@btconnect.com
01424 210 263 opt 4

out of hours
simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

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

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.

Please do not wait until the end, as the priests may be otherwise engaged.

PARISH NEWS

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 20th March

St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
Facebook Live Only

Ferial

10.00am
10.30am
6.00pm

Saturday: Lent Week 4

Public Mass: Paddy Pearson RIP
Confessions & Adoration
People of the Parish

5th Sunday of Lent B (Passiontide)

Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9 & Jn 12:20-33

Public Mass or Facebook Only Mass

Sunday 21st March

Facebook Live Only Mass
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

9:00am
11:00am
6.00pm

2 Public Masses at St Mary Magdalene

Peter Ernest Vail RIP
Halse and Green Families RIP
Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: Lenten Alms

Monday 22nd March

Facebook Live Only Mass

Ferial

10.00am

Monday: Lent Week 5

Maureen Grace RIP

Tuesday 23rd March

Facebook (Fr Simon)

St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
St Martha's

Ferial

10.00am
11.00am
6.00pm
6.00pm

Tuesday: Lent Week 5

Ann & Fred Green GE
National Day of Prayer: One Hour
National Day of Prayer: One Hour
National Day of Prayer: One Hour

Wed. 24th March

Presbytery
Thursday 25th March
Facebook Live Only Mass
St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am
10.00am
6.30pm

Wednesday: Lent Week 5

Joan Watts RIP
The Annunciation of the Lord
People of the Parish
Public Mass: Mary Bird RIP

Friday 26th March

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

Friday: Lent Week 5

Public Mass: Mark Pomroy RIP

Saturday 27th March

St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
Facebook Live Only Mass

Ferial

10.00am
10.30am
6.00pm

Saturday: Lent Week 5

Public Mass: John Carvalho RIP
Confessions & Adoration
For Dominic & Italia Capaldi

***** Pre-booking required for Holy Week*****

Palm Sunday

Jn 12:12-16 and Is 50:4-7, Phl 2:6-11 & Mk 15:1-39

Sunday 28th March

Facebook Live Only Mass
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
[St Martha's]

2 Public Masses: by pre-booking only

People of the Parish
Robert Stevens RIP
Jo Driscoll RIP
[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Lepra (Leprosy Charity): <https://www.lepra.org.uk/>

Parish Offertory: A simple way to donate (+gift aid) online via Diocesan Website:
<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

For Mass offerings & other payments: BACs: Name: St Mary Magdalene, Acct

No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20.

Please indicate what the payment is for in the reference.