

# PARISH NEWS

## Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh: The Presbytery and Parish Office

Our priests have now moved to their temporary accommodation after the Bishop suggested that they should move while a significant project is put in place to upgrade the presbytery and parish office which does not currently meet an appropriate standard for living. The flats they have moved into have been purchased and are owned by the diocese and not the parish, although we will need to look after the day to day running costs. The priests will continue to work in the presbytery which continues to house the parish office and meetings rooms. The parish office, however, remains closed to casual callers with access only to those with pre-booked appointments. Any business that can be conducted via email or telephone should continue in this way.

[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4

The next steps are to carry out the quinquennial building survey which is due this summer. This will provide a detailed examination of the parish estate and provide a report on the maintenance issues for the next five years. As you would imagine, 18 months of a pandemic and 18 months without a parish priest in the last five years will have impacted the progress of the last report and some tasks will have been carried over. Your continued financial support is appreciated.

## The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

### 13<sup>th</sup> May: The Ascension of the Lord into Heaven

Thursday marks forty days since Easter. At the end of his earthly mission, Jesus returns to His Father. The Second Person of the Trinity does not discard his humanity but takes it with him, placing it at the right hand of the Father, a seat of honour, power, and judgement. Jesus shows us our destiny is to take our place in heaven but as a person is a unity of Body and Soul our Easter Redemption will not be completed until we get our bodies back; we too will share in the Resurrection.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> May: The Extended Vigil of Pentecost

The 6pm Facebook Live Vigil Mass of Pentecost broadcast from St Mary Magdalene will be celebrated in its extended form, the 50<sup>th</sup> Day a mirror to the Easter Vigil. It would be good to celebrate this Vigil publicly but to do so we need at least two stewards to volunteer. Please let the office know.

### Please follow the instructions of the stewards

For those returning to Mass who may not be fully aware of the requirement of stewarding, please be aware that they have been given specific instructions surrounding capacity and seating. This means you may not be able to sit in your preferred seat (**not that we have ever had allocated seating!**). As Church capacities are limited due to social distancing, they often need to seat you in such a way that allows individuals, couples, and families to be accommodated safely. As per the COVID risk assessment **the toilets are locked and out of general use**, but if you have an urgent need, please ask a steward who will open it and then sanitize it after you have used it. The stewards are there primarily for your safety, please direct questions about admin, the estate or finance to the parish office. Please treat the stewards with courtesy for without them, there would be no public Mass.

With my gratitude for your co-operation, Fr Simon.

**We pray for those who have died:** no pending funerals (NB: it is taking about three weeks to arrange funerals at the moment, and although the 30 limit on funerals is being lifted from 17<sup>th</sup> May, we understand the COVID capacities apply (see below). Other COVID precautions still apply.

**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.

**Government Roadmap: 2: 12<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May:** the current routines of social distancing, stewarding, and cleaning remain unless further guidance is received to the contrary from the Bishops of E&W.

**Syro-Malabar Rite:** 11.30am on Sundays, and 5pm on Wednesdays and Fridays at St Martha's.

**Parish Halls:** With a growing confidence in the community, there have been enquiries about our parish halls. At present they remain closed to pastoral activity as the cleaning requirements of the Insurers make hiring ill-advised. We hope restrictions will be lifted in line with the "Roadmap" but until we receive further guidance, they remain closed. We have no date for reopening as we do not know what the ongoing requirements will be.

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

**Gift Aid Offertory Envelopes:** we have not ordered any new gift aid offertory envelopes this year as they are expensive and most (*due to the pandemic*) lay uncollected last year. If you need envelopes, please contact the parish office who will see if your envelopes from last year are still available or put together a pack for you. Alternatively, you could buy a pack of envelopes from any good shop and simply write your gift aid number and date on it. Better still, why not move your offertory online by setting up a standing order. If you need help doing so, contact your bank or the parish office.

**Clergy Ongoing Formation:** the bishop has restarted on-going formation for the clergy, grouping the priests into age groups. Fr Simon is part of the clergy youth (*nicknamed 'yoof'*) group, those who will be under 65 in 2030, and we will gather at Arundel Cathedral on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May for Mass before examining our formation needs. He will carry the parish Mass intention with him to Arundel and offer it in the Mother Church of the Diocese as he con-celebrates Mass with his brother priests.

**From CAFOD:** As coronavirus devastates India, CAFOD is working with the local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give). Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

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

**First Reconciliation (Confession) for the 2021 First Holy Communion Children**

Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh will be available to hear 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliations (Confessions) for Children on 2021 First Holy Communion Programme during the Saturday morning Confession Slot at St Mary Magdalene Church at 10.30am on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> June, and 19<sup>th</sup> June. Children should bring their 'I Belong' books to show the priests their progress with their home learning. We encourage Catholic parents to set a good example and also make a good confession. A Confession help sheet can be found here:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/fhc-reconciliation-children-and-parents.pdf>

If possible, please print it and bring it with you to your 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation.

**Dates for the Celebration of First Holy Communion for 2021 Children**

Once you have made your First Reconciliation, you will be able to book in for one of our First Holy Communion Masses, which will be on: 12noon on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October at St Martha's.

**Please do not book in for a Mass until your child has made their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation (Confession).**

**Other Sacraments:**

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

**Confirmation:** Bishop Richard will celebrate the Confirmation Mass at 7pm in St Mary Magdalene on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021. We are very fortunate to have our own parish celebration. Our next Zoom Preparation session is this Sunday at 4pm.

**Last Rights (Extreme Unction) v. The Sacrament of the Sick and Regular Use of the Sacraments**

The Sacraments are for the living. They should be requested, as necessary but we should be making good and frequent use of the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist throughout our lives. When someone becomes in danger of death by virtue of illness, injury or age, the time for the Sacrament of the Sick has come but the '*Last Rites do not mean Last Minute*'. It is better that the sacraments are requested at the start of the serious illness rather than at the last moment so to strengthen the individual: '*Through this Holy Anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit*,' as well as prepare the soul for its transition to eternal life: '*may the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up*'. It is advantageous that the sacraments are given when the person is still conscious and communicative so they may make their Confession, receive Holy Communion, and be anointed. It is less stressful for them, their family, and the priest if we allow ourselves time and space to prepare for these final hours, especially with COVID protocols to consider. Once unconscious, we anoint only on the presumption the individual would have requested the sacrament themselves. The last rites for the deceased are the funeral rites.

**Parish Office**  
Remains closed to casual callers.  
All enquiries:  
[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

### 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  
[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4

out of hours  
[simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill)**

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene Facebook Live Mass	<b>Eastertide</b> 10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	<b>Saturday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b> <b>Public Mass:</b> David William Gibson RIP Confessions <b>No Vigil Mass today</b>
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## **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B**

*Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48, 1 John 4:7-10 & Jn 15:9-17*

<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Martha's (Fr Desmond) St Mary Mags. (& Facebook) St Mary Magdalene [St Martha's]	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>6.00pm</b> <b>[11.30am]</b>	<b>3 Public Masses: (first-come, first served)</b> Priest's Intention Family of the late David Gibson People of the Parish <b>[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]</b> <b>Second Collection: The Missionary Endeavor of the Diocese (Gift Aid)</b>
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<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b> Facebook Live Mass	<b>Eastertide</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>Monday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b> The People of India
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<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b> @ Arundel Cathedral	<b>Eastertide</b> <b>N/A</b>	<b>Tuesday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b> Mick Hanson RIP
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<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> Presbytery (Said Privately)	<b>Opt. Mem</b> <b>N/A</b>	<b>St Pancras, Martyr</b> Joseph Thomas RIP
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<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b> <u><b>The Holy Day obligation to attend Mass today is suspended</b></u>	<b>Solemnity</b>	<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>
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Facebook Live Mass	<b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish
STMM Primary	<b>2.00pm</b>	Mass for the Primary School Children
St Mary Magdalene	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Public Mass:</b> Robert Stevens RIP

<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Mary Magdalene	<b>Feast</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>St Matthias, Apostle</b> <b>Public Mass:</b> Priest's Intentions
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<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene Facebook Live Mass	<b>Eastertide</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Saturday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b> <b>Public Mass:</b> Priest's Intentions Confessions and Adoration <b>No Vigil Mass</b>
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## **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B**

*Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, 1 John 4:11-16 & Jn 17:11-19*

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Martha's (& Facebook) St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)</b> Priest's Intentions Private Intention People of the Parish
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[St Martha's]	<b>[11.30am]</b>	<b>Second Collection: The Catholic Communications Network</b> <b>[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]</b>
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**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.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May is the Feast of Pentecost**

**Mass Intentions:** can be booked via [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)