

# PARISH NEWS

## First Reconciliation for the 2021 First Holy Communion Children:

Our priests will hear 1st Reconciliations (Confessions) for the 2021 Children during the Saturday morning Confession Slot at St Mary Magdalene Church at 10.30am on 22nd May, 29th May, 5th June, 12th June, and 19th June. No need to book, just turn up at 10.30am. If there is a small queue, this can help refresh your examination of conscience. Children should bring their 'I Belong' books to show the priests their progress with their home learning. You should have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> Four Chapters before your 1<sup>st</sup> Confession.

We encourage Catholic parents to set a good example and 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 1st Reconciliation.

## Dates for the 2021 First Holy Masses:

After your First Reconciliation, you can book in for a First Holy Communion Masses, at 12noon either on 25th September or on 2nd October at St Martha's. The FHC Masses scheduled for 26/ 6 & 3/7 are for the 2020 children who have waited patiently since last year. As an aside, please do not ask about First Holy Communions for 2022 as this might just tip Fr Simon over the edge!

**The Lord has set his sway in heaven.**

**"We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit."**

With the Ascension now moved back to the Thursday 40 days after Easter, we celebrate 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and throughout this week, we wait with the Church for the coming of the Holy Spirit. **"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen."** The Holy Spirit leads sustains us in our apostolic endeavours, and a key part of this is our consecration in the truth. As St John writes, 'we ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as Saviour of the world'. Hence why our principal celebration is called the Mass, from the Latin 'Missa', meaning Mission. *Ite Missa Est*: 'Go, you are sent'; sent to announce the gospel of the Lord.

With the assurance of my prayers for your apostolic endeavours. Fr Simon.

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

**6pm in St Mary Magdalene Church**

To complement the 3 public Masses on Pentecost Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> May), we will also have a public Mass at 6pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in St Mary Magdalene for the **Vigil of Pentecost** which will be celebrated in its Extended Form, as a mirror to the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. Not only will this give Pentecost the solemnity it deserves but also provide some extra capacity to those wishing to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Apostolic Church. Thank you to the Stewards and Musicians for making this possible. It will also be Live Streamed on Facebook.

**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 (updated): 3: 17<sup>th</sup> May:** had it not been for the exemption to open in Lockdown 3, Churches would only just be opening on 17<sup>th</sup> May, as such we do not anticipate any changes to capacity restrictions until 21<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest. As such stewards are still required to manage entry and sanitize afterwards. **A reminder:** although we are permitted to provide music for the Mass, congregational singing is still prohibited, so please do not join in with the cantor.

**Parish Halls (updated):** after checking with the Property Department at the Diocese, it is clear our halls cannot reopen until we can return to normal routines of cleaning. At present, they must be sanitized after every booking and the insurers say that this cannot be left to the hirer. Hopefully, from 21<sup>st</sup> June such restrictions will be lifted but as such we do not have a date for reopening. In addition, on Holy Thursday, there was a flood discovered under St Mary Magdalene Hall. This has caused significant damage to a large portion of the hall floor. Although it was safe to walk on, now that the Election has been completed, the Hall Floor needs, with the approval of the Insurer's Loss Adjustor, to be taken up and replaced.

**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.

**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.

**This week from donations received in the Parish, £900 has been sent off to CAFOD. Deo Gratias!**

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

**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.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) & Christian Initiation of Children of Catechetical Age (CICCA):** these courses are not due to begin until October and November respectively, and we will update you on plans later in the summer, once we have more certainty with the unlocking.

**2021: A year of opportunity: An online talk with Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD:** 26th May at 7.30 pm, Cost £5. This year the UK will host two major international gatherings: the G7 and the Climate Conference (COP26). Christine Allen will explore ways in which these events could make a difference to our world, especially to the lives of people who live in poverty. She will reflect on the impact of COVID-19 and draw lessons for the future for our interdependence with one another and with our natural world as we seek to recover and heal after the pandemic. You can book online:

<https://tickets.haslemerehall.co.uk/sales/genres/events/talk-2021---a-year-of-opportun/streaming-ticket>  
or T: 01428 642161

**Mass Intentions:** there is availability through May, June, and July to have a Mass celebrated for the repose of the soul of one who has died or for the good estate of the living. These can be booked via [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

### **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.**

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# **Parish Mass Diary and Intentions**

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

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May**  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene  
Facebook Live Mass

**Eastertide** **Saturday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**  
10.00am **Public Mass:** Priest's Intentions  
10.30am Confessions  
6.00pm **No Vigil Mass today**

## **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B**

*Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, 1 Jn 4:11-16 & Jn 14:18*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**  
St Martha's (& Facebook)  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene  
[St Martha's]

**3 Public Masses: (first-come, first served)**  
Priest's Intention  
Private Intention  
People of the Parish  
[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

**Second Collection: The Catholic Communications Network**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
Facebook Live Mass

**Eastertide** **Monday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**  
10.00am Priest's Intentions

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
Facebook Live Mass

**Eastertide** **Tuesday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**  
10.00am Priest's Intentions

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**  
Presbytery (Said Privately)

**Eastertide** **Wednesday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**  
N/A Priest's Intentions

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
St Mary Magdalene

**Eastertide** **Thursday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**  
6.30pm **Public Mass:** Mrs Pat Billingham RIP

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May**  
St Mary Magdalene

**Eastertide** **Friday in 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**  
10.00am **Public Mass:** Noreen Corness RIP

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene

**Eastertide** **Saturday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**  
10.00am **Public Mass:** Priest's Intentions  
10.30am Confessions and Adoration *including 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliations (Confessions)*

## **PENTECOST**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May: The Extended Vigil of Pentecost:  
6pm Public Mass in St Mary Magdalene Church (& Facebook Live)**

*Vigil: Gen 11:1-9, Ex 19:3-8, 16-20, Ez 37:1-14 & Joel 3:1-5 & Mass: Rom 8:22-27 & Jn 7:37-39*

**Sunday 23rd May: Mass of the Day**

*Acts 2: 1-11, Gal 5:16-25, Sequence & Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
St Martha's  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene

**3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)**  
Joy Scothern RIP  
Fred Herring RIP  
Sacraments for Ann & Alice Craddock  
Priest's Intentions

**Second Collection: The Catholic Communications Network**

[St Martha's] [11.30am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

**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.**