

PARISH NEWS

The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea

Comprising St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

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 1st Four Chapters before your 1st 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 Mass, 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!

**Send forth your spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

As we come out of the restrictions and start supporting the hospitality sector, St Paul provides a warning about moderation: *'if you are guided by the spirit, you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit'*. Such indulgence is a sin frequently confessed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; we enjoy many 'goods', but often to excess, and *'it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions'*. This Pentecost, instead, let the Holy Spirit refresh you and make you fit for the Kingdom, He who brings you: *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, truthfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* As we have been taught from a young age, *'you cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.'* We also know that part of the answer to this is a life of service: to God, His Church and His Holy People. In the weeks ahead, your parish will be calling upon you to help rebuild the liturgical, pastoral, and spiritual life of the parish. *'Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.'*

With every blessing, Fr Simon.

1st Service: Church Cleaning, now and moving forward.

Prior to lockdown, the parish paid a contractor on average £160 a week to clean our Churches, halls, and office. Prior to the lockdown, the diocese encouraged us to let go of this 'service' and **hand it back to parishioners** as a cost saving. After lockdown, with the COVID restrictions, the stewards sanitized the Church. Now the stage 3 guidance allows us to gradually move away from stewarding, however, even though we do not now need to sanitize after every single activity, we must perform a thorough daily clean when open. Therefore, we either continue with stewards for now or set up dedicated Church cleaning teams, which will be needed going forward.

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 17th May, we understand the COVID capacities apply (see below). Other COVID precautions may 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 (updated): 43 units of people (up to a max of 60 individuals) at St Martha's and 60 units of people (max 80 individuals) at St Mary Magdalene. See note below "Government Roadmap".

Pastoral Letter for Pentecost from the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/pastoral-letter-for-pentecost-from-the-catholic-bishops-of-england-and-wales.pdf>

Government Roadmap (updated): 3: 17th May: new guidance was received on 16th May. Fr Simon has released a separate note in the newsletter section of the parish website, detailing what impact it will have on our parish moving forward: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/covid-guidance-for-collective-worship-stage-3.pdf>

Parish Halls (updated): There is a requirement that the parish must ensure (*either by paying a contractor or training a parish volunteer team*) that the hall is sanitized after every booking, and that we cannot leave it to the hall hirer. This is what is currently preventing us from re-opening St Martha's hall. Hopefully, this requirement will be relaxed when all restrictions are lifted on 21st June, until then, at the earliest, we do not have a date for re-opening. St Mary Magdalene Hall is currently undergoing, via an insurance claim, extensive repairs following the flood at Easter. Further investigations this week, suggested the damage may have been more significant and a further survey may be needed. Initial conversations with our heating engineer also suggest the boiler in St Mary Magdalene Hall has reached the end of its life and needs replacing. The second collections this weekend and next will support ongoing maintenance costs.

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. 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**

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.

Confirmation: Bishop Richard will celebrate the Confirmation Mass at 7pm in St Mary Magdalene on Friday 8th 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: T: 01428 642161 or <https://tickets.haslemerehall.co.uk/sales/genres/events/talk-2021---a-year-of-opportun/streaming-ticket>

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

Mass Intentions: availability throughout the summer months: requests to: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

NB: Syro-Malabar Mass on Sundays moves to 11am as Fr Jose has another Mass in Littlehampton

An Invitation from the Catholic Women's League: The Catholic Women's League (CWL) is a National and International Organization, and the only one for all women in the parish. We share our faith, our skills and our friendship. We support the local community, we keep the parish, and the church in the world and in our hearts and we invite speakers to enrich and entertain us. We also go on pilgrimages and outings, plus we have a good laugh, drink tea and wine!

Come & Join Us (when the restrictions allow, and the parish halls reopen):

1st Monday of the Month at 7.30pm St Martha's.

And please join us for our fundraising events

- 8th July: Sponsored walk for the Medaille Trust
- 15th August: Summer Garden Party & Fair at St Martha's

[Please also see note about the halls on page 2 of this newsletter]



Parish Office
Remains closed to
casual callers.
All enquiries:
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
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 22nd May

St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

Eastertide

10.00am
10.30am
12noon

Saturday in 7th Week of Easter

Public Mass: Cheryl Osmond RIP
Confessions and (including 1st Reconciliations for 2021 children)
Baptism of Vienna Rexha

PENTECOST

Saturday 22nd 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
Day Mass: Acts 2: 1-11, Gal 5:16-25 (Yr B), Seq, Gospel: Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15*

Sunday 23rd May

St Martha's
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

Pentecost

9.00am
11.00am
12.30pm
6.00pm

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

Second Collection: Maintenance Fund

[St Martha's]

[11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Monday 24th May

Facebook Live Mass
St Mary Mags. Primary

Memorial

10.00am
2.00pm

Mary, Mother of the Church
Priest's Intentions
Mass for Pentecost for the Children.

Tuesday 25th May

Facebook Live Mass

Memorial

10.00am

St Bede the Venerable, Priest
Priest's Intentions

Wednesday 26th May

Presbytery (Said Privately)

Memorial

N/A

St Philip Neri, Priest
Priest's Intentions

Thursday 27th May

St Mary Magdalene

FEAST

6.30pm

O. L. Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
Public Mass: Cosen Family GE, incl. sacraments for Stanley & Jude Cosen

Friday 28th May

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

10.00am

Blessed Margaret Pole, Martyr
Public Mass: Edna Herring RIP

Saturday 29th May

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

10.00am
10.30am
6.00pm

Saturday Memorial of the BVM
Public Mass: Int. of Peter French
Confessions and Adoration *including 1st Reconciliations (Confessions)*
Vigil Mass of Trinity Sunday:

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY B

Deut 4:35-34, 39-40, Rom 8:14-17 & Mt 28:16-20

Sunday 30th May

St Martha's
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)

9.00am
11.00am
6.00pm

Priest's Intentions
John Wimsey & Ellen Ripley RIP
Denis Lucey RIP

Second Collection: Maintenance Fund

[St Martha's]

[11.00am] [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.