

PARISH NEWS

“Government Plan B”

With the advent of Plan B, we are already acting in a cautious way at Public Liturgies. **Face coverings** are already mandatory, and we sign-in on arrival.



Clergy and Musicians will celebrate with reverence and joy, but with simplicity and brevity in mind. We continue to ventilate the Churches, so even with the heating on, it can be chilly, so wear warmer clothing:



Cleaning

Despite new guidance relaxing the need for sanitizing, the Church still needs cleaning, so please continue as normal.

Parish Office

In ‘Plan B’, access to the presbytery is strictly by appointment only. If you do not have an appointment, please do not come to the office. Please, instead email:

bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk or telephone:

01424 210 263 opt 4. **The Parish Office is closed 24th Dec to 3rd Jan (inclusive)**, so please complete any business with the office by midday on 23rd Dec to allow for an efficient Christmas shut down.

**God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

May we press forward to the celebration of the Nativity

Continuing the conversation proposed by the ‘*Pastoral Support Group*’, I offer an initial reflection on ‘*the oneness of our parish*’. Following the departure of the Rosminians, the Parish of Bexhill was brought under the oversight of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. On 7th October 2019, (*the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary*), the current ‘*episkopos*’ (‘overseer’), Bishop Richard placed the Parish under the patronage of Our Lady under the title of this feast. He did so for two reasons, to preserve something of what had gone before but also to emphasize the unity of the parish. We are **one parish with two Churches**, and even with multiple Masses, **we remain one worshipping community** who gather to celebrate the Eucharist. Taking up the conversation of welcome from last week, we should feel at home at St Mary Magdalene and St Martha’s regardless of which Mass might suit us best. We are attentive to the needs of both Churches, and this will be more important than ever in 2022, as we begin to carry out the recommended works of the Quinquennial Report. There is a second community, the Syro-Malabar Catholics who have their own bishop with rites and customs protected by the Vatican. We have facilitated Masses for them for they are not distant from us but are made up of our family and friends. They make a financial contribution and undertake to respect our parish’s policies and procedures. The Church, however, is **One**, meaning that it is a single, united, and global Church, founded by Jesus Christ. Our parish is in communion with Francis, our Pope, Richard, our bishop, and all those who teach and hand on the Catholic and Apostolic Faith, the basis on which we engage in the Synod: (<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>). Every blessing for this last week of Advent. Our Christmas Mass times are on the back page. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: George Kent RIP

We pray for the sick: Roy Cox, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, Veronica Phillips, Stanley Pryke, Winifred Broughton, Vera Stevens, Cecila Weathers, Margaret, Carley, Jackie & Laurence Keep, & Fr Desmond.

Catholic Women's League (CWL): CWL is the only group for women within the Parish who share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community and keeping the parish and world-wide Church in our hearts. Our group invite speakers to enrich and entertain us, we go on pilgrimages and outings. CWL meets: first Monday of each month @ 7-30pm. Contact: 211717 or 221803 for more details.

NB: Sue Petritz (from Crawley Parish) nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk is our Diocese Link for the National Board of Catholic Women. Please feel free to make contact with her.

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP): If you feel you need help or support, please contact our team on 07783 598238, or e-mail popsy57@outlook.com and they will be happy to speak with you.

To a Safer Shore: Justice & Peace Assembly: At 9.30am on 15th Jan ***but now an online Webinar.*** +Richard and other speakers will consider the challenges faced by people who leave their home to seek refuge in other countries. To book: E: Tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

Pastoral Facilities: any parish group wishing to use St Martha's Hall should contact the Parish Office (*before restarting*) to complete their individual risk assessment. St Mary Magdalene Hall remains closed.

CAFOD: Advent appeal: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Advent-appeal>

D.E.C. Afghanistan appeal: At present, much of the population of Afghanistan is facing extreme hunger, with some parts of the country close to famine, the situation deteriorating with the onset of winter. Due to the instability of the country, many are leaving their homes in search of sanctuary elsewhere. CAFOD's partners and sister agencies are already at work in Afghanistan, but the numbers of people seeking aid increases daily: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/DEC-Afghanistan-Crisis-Appeal>

Surviving Christmas, Hastings: if you can help providing items for hampers (food, chocolates, hats, scarves, socks) please contact: Sue Peck on supecck@btinternet.com or 07834 386278 or drop them off at The Salvation Army Hall, St Andrews Square, Hastings.

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.

Online Offertory via Diocesan Website: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

For Mass intentions & other payments: BACs: Name: St Mary Magdalene, Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20. (Please add a reference)

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

Sacramental Programmes

RCIA: This course has now begun, and registration is now closed for 2022.

Christian Initiation (Baptism) of Children of Catechetical Age (7+) (CICCA):

Applications via the website: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together-form/>

Infant Baptism (aged 0-6 years): applications via: [www.stmmrbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/](https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/)

CONFIRMATION: Applications are now closed.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Applications opened on 1st Sun. of Advent (28th Nov. 2021). **Application forms can be found here:** <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/> (**Closing Date:** 4th Jan 2021).

Please carefully read the notes for guidance on page 2 of the form, esp. regarding Mass attendance.

CHRISTMAS PLANNING

A final chance for Christmas Confessions: As well as the two Saturday Confession times of 10.30am * 5.15pm, Fr Simon will hear Confessions at 6pm on Thursday 23rd December in St Mary Magdalene.

St Mary Magdalene Christmas Flowers and Decorations: We need helpers with church flower arrangements and decorations, on Christmas Eve at 10.30am, please call Helga if you can help: 848504

St Martha's Crib Figures: these need some minor repairs (*mainly re-painting*), if you have the necessary skills in this regard, please let the office know.

Church Cleaning: both Churches could do with a good clean before Christmas. Volunteers to clean St Mary Magdalene at 11am on Sat. 18th December & 11am on Tues. 21st December 2021 at St Martha's.

Christmas Mass schedule: [see back page schedule to spread the capacity; no booking required.](#)

NB: No Saturday Vigil Mass of the Sunday on Christmas Day & No Sunday Evening Mass on Boxing Day.

We have offers of lead musicians for the Christmas Eve Masses and 9am Mass at St Martha's. If you are musician or singer, let the office know and we'll put you in contact with each group.

Christmas Collection in support of the Clergy: the Christmas collection supports the priest's income, who do not receive a salary from the parish or diocese but rely on the offerings the people give in Mass offerings and stole fees. The Christmas collection equates to about 25% of their annual income, so your generosity is appreciated. Green envelopes will be available at Christmas Masses. If you currently have an online standing order or direct debit [this is your parish offertory](#) and [cannot](#) be transferred to the Christmas collection. Please either use a green envelope at your Christmas Mass or make a separate BACs transfer with an explicit reference of "Christmas", so it is paid to the priests. Many thanks for your support.

Christmas Day Lunch: 12.30pm at **St Stephen's Church Bexhill**. To book: 01424 213456 or infofoli2020@gmail.com Delivery option available.

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 &
rajesh.minz@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**Page 4****Parish Mass Diary and Intentions**

Saturday 18th December

St Mary Mags (& Facebook)
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

18th Dec

10.00am
10.30am
5.15pm
6.00pm

O Adonai (Lord)

Public Mass: Michael Halse RIP

Adoration & Confessions

Adoration & Confessions

Public Mass: Beltane Alton RIP

No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own bench afterwards

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10 & Lk 1:39-45

Sunday 19th December

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

Sunday

9.00am
11.00am
12.30pm
6.00pm

3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)

Hanson / Driscoll Families RIP & GE

Allana M McNamara GE

Baptism of Iris Reynolds

People of the Parish

Second Collection: Parish Maintenance Fund

[*St Martha's*]

[11.00am] [*Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*]

Please clean your own bench at the end of each Mass.

Monday 20th December

Facebook Live Mass

20th Dec

10.00am

O Clavis David (Key of David)

Noreen Corness RIP

Tuesday 21st December

St Mary Magdalene

21st Dec

10.00am

O Oriens (Radiant Dawn)

Public Mass: Edna Herring RIP

Wednesday 22nd Dec.

St Mary Magdalene

22nd Dec

11.00am

O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations)

Requiem Mass: George Kent RIP

Thursday 23rd December

St Mary Magdalene

23rd Dec

6.00pm

O Emmanuel (God with us)

Last Chance for Christmas Confessions

St Mary Magdalene

6.30pm

Public Mass: Mick Hanson RIP

Capacities: 112 in St Martha's and 150 in St Mary Mags. Please only attend one Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to maximise capacity.

Collection: Christmas Eve to Boxing Day: Christmas Gift to Clergy

Green Envelopes or BACs payment

CHRISTMAS EVE

Readings and Propers of Midnight Mass

Friday 24th December

St Martha's
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)
St Martha's
St Mary Magdalene
[*St Martha's*]

Christmas

6.00pm

4 Public Masses (first-come, first served)

People of the Parish

Sick & Housebound of the Parish

Priest's Intentions

Priest's Intentions

[10.00pm] [*Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*]

CHRISTMAS DAY

9am Dawn Mass & 11am Day Mass of Christmas

Saturday 25th December

St Martha's
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)
[*St Martha's*]

Christmas

9.00am

2 Public Masses (first-come, first served)

The intentions of the SVP

People of the Parish

[*Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*]

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY (BOXING DAY) C

Ad Libitum Readings for Year C: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 & Lk 2:41-52

Sunday 26th December

St Martha's (& Facebook)
St Mary Magdalene
[*St Martha's*]

Sunday

9.00am

3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)

Int of the Young, Bourne Mistry Families

Florence Raey RIP

[*Syro-Malabar Rite Mass*]

NB: No Sat Vigil Mass of the Sunday (25th) and No Sunday evening Mass (26th)