

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

The Parish Office is closed to casual callers (**access by appointment only**). Please do not come to the presbytery unless you have an appointment. Instead, please email: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk and the office will respond. Alternatively, you can ring 01424 210 263 opt 4 between 09:15 and 4:45pm but you may need to leave a voicemail. Many thanks. Fr Simon.

**Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God,
how great you are.**

‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you’.

A sign of a fruitful parish is Adult Baptism. On 1st Sunday of Advent, we accepted 8 Catechumens for Baptism and 5 Candidates for Reception at Easter. We still have a steady number of Infant baptism and Canon Law exhorts parents to present their children for baptism preparation without undue delay. This prompts us to look at the fourth area of conversation suggested by the Pastoral Support Group – *‘the spiritual life of children & young people’*. The Church recognizes the dignity of parents as the first and best teachers of children in the ways of faith and morals. Our parish should support parents in this process by providing volunteer catechists and youth leaders. I invite all existing parish groups and ministries to consider how they involve children and young people in their aspect of parish life so that the fruitfulness of the parish may be maintained. The Parish Priest remains the Lead Catechist but takes a high-level view because he cannot work on his own. The lay catechist is a well-established service in the Church but there is a greater need for them to be well formed in the faith; we will hear more from the Diocesan Formation team in 2022. For children who can engage with the bible, parishes offer a ‘Liturgy of the Word for Children’ (*after First Holy Communion the children stay with the community for the whole Mass*). Parishioners have asked when this might resume? It relies on volunteers who are prepared to plan and run it, taking responsibility for the safeguarding and COVID risk assessments. An appropriate safeguarding awareness must be at the heart of every ministry, even for those that think they work behind the scenes, as we never know when these protocols may be necessary in dealing with vulnerable parishioners who trust the whole Church to form them in Christ and then commission them as His missionary disciples. God bless. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Patrick Devitt, Janie Butcher, Simon Palmer, Fr Desmond Baker RIP

We pray for the sick: Jim Green, 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

Synod: we have until 4th February 2022 to submit Synod questionnaire responses. It seems that the four areas that the *Pastoral Support Group* recommended for local consideration (*Welcome, Unity, Communication and Children & Young People*) tie in quite well with the Synod's focus of *Communion, Participation & Mission*. Our local conversations leave us well placed to engage with the Synod Questionnaire, which can be completed by existing parish groups (or individuals if COVID has made it difficult for people to get together). The diocesan website has the F.A.Q.s, downloadable questionnaire, and the response form for this first stage in the synodal process: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

Christmas Collection in support of the Clergy: thank you for your generous offertory in support of the parish clergy. Thank you also for your prayers and support of our parish clergy.

Fr Desmond Baker RIP: of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Desmond who died on Monday 20th December. Fr Desmond's funeral arrangements are still pending.

CAFOD & D.E.C. Afghanistan appeal: 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>

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.

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.

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.

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

The Sacraments

On the Feast Day of the Baptism of the Lord, we remind you of how to apply for Baptism:

Adult Baptism (Aged 18+): new applications can be submitted from September 2022 for Baptism at Easter 2023. Prospective applicants can book an initial appointment to see Fr Simon from Easter 2022.

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): applications submitted via the website: <https://stmbexhill.co.uk/baptism/>

Children of Catechetical (Aged 7-12): Children aged 7+ have reached the age of reason and need to be prepared individually. These applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis and an initial interview with Fr Simon may be necessary before accepting your application. Applications can be submitted via the website: <https://stmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/> (*Please also use this form for children baptized in the Anglican Communion now seeking to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church*).

Young Adults (Aged 13-17): Please book an appointment to see Fr Simon to discuss your needs. It is likely that we will prepare you using the Confirmation Course which begins in the autumn of 2022.

First Holy Communion: Applications are now **closed** for First Communion 2022. Children should now be working on the 1st Chapter of I Belong ahead of their 1st Confession during the first half of Lent.

Marriage: those getting married in 2023 should see Fr Simon soon, as 12 months' notice is required.

Appointments: email the parish office: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Sacrament of the Sick: Please plan ahead. COVID protocols make 'out of hours' visits undesirable. '*Last Rites do not mean Last Minute*'. A priest should be requested in good time *to hear the person's confession, to anoint them, and give Holy Communion*. 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. Due to the condition of the presbytery, we are not always on-site, so please do not rely on answerphones, please use both email addresses listed on the back page of this newsletter.

One-off, non-urgent pastoral visits: <https://stmbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/>

A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: Online applications for all those who do not require any assistance in Lourdes or on the journey can be found on our website: www.lourdes.abdiocese.org.uk

or you can visit: <https://www.my-holiday-booking.co.uk/.../index/i/17/eid/13>

Paper applications for those who require assistance will be posted out in the new year. If you would like to receive an Assisted Pilgrim Application Form, please email the Lourdes Office with your name and postal address: office@ablourdes.org

The Church crib scenes stay up until 2nd February 2022, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). You might like to do the same with your house crib scenes.

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.

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Recommended Capacities: 112 in St Martha's and 150 in St Mary Mags.

www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 8th January

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

Ferial

10.00am
10.30am
11.30am
12.30pm
5.15pm
6.00pm

Mass of 8th January

Public Mass: Pearl Lucy RIP
Confessions & Adoration
Last Chance for Primary School Forms
Baptism of Zoe Beale
Confessions & Adoration
Public Mass: Christine Morgan RIP

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Ad Libitum Readings Year C: Is 40:1-5. 9-11, Titus 2:11-14. 3:4-7, Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Sunday 9th January

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

Sunday

9.00am
11.00am
6.00pm
[11.00am]

3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)

Cyril Hanson RIP
Gary & David McNamara GE & Family
People of the Parish
[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC)**Monday 10th January**

Facebook Live Mass

Ferial

10.00am

Monday in 1st Week in OT

Herbert Whitehead RIP

Tuesday 11th January

St Martha's (& Facebook)

Funeral

11.30am

Attendance by Invitation Only

Requiem Mass: Patrick Devitt RIP

Wed. 12th January

Camden & Islington Cemetery

Ferial**Wednesday in 1st Week in OT**

N/A Funeral of Edward O'Dwyer RIP

Thursday 13th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

6.30pm

Thursday in 1st Week in OT

Public Mass: Holy Souls

Friday 14th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

Friday in 1st Week in OT

Public Mass: Joseph Thomas RIP

Saturday 15th January

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem.**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**

St Mary Magdalene

10.00am

Public Mass: Jim Gordon RIP

St Martha's

10.30am

Confessions & Adoration

St Mary Magdalene

12.30pm

Baptism of Maise Munroe

St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm

Confessions & Adoration

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm

Public Mass: Cesidio Capaldi RIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Is. 62:1-5, 1 Cor. 12:4-11 & Jn 2:1-11

Sunday 16th January

St Martha's

Sunday**3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)**

St Mary Magdalene

9.00am

People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene

11.00am

Joseph & Thomas Families RIP

[St Martha's]

Elsa Rogers GE

[11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Pax Christi

Fr Simon & Fr Rajesh are covering Masses for the Parish of Battle & Northiam on 15th & 16th January. This means one priest is celebrating the 9am at St Martha's and then moving onto the 11am at St Mary Magdalene. Therefore, on 16th January we need a volunteer to open St Mary Magdalene at 10.15am as that priest will not get back in time.