

PARISH NEWS

Tuesdays

Fr Simon regularly celebrates Mass or leads Services for St Richard's Students on Tuesday mornings. Therefore, from 20th September, the Parish Mass will now be celebrated at 11am. Masses on other weekdays as scheduled on page 4.

Wednesdays

As there will no longer be a 10am Mass on Wednesdays, parishioners might like to consider what **lay-led and organised** devotional activity that might replace it, which could be in either St Mary Magdalene or St Martha's Church. Good possibilities include:

- ✓ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- ✓ Rosary
- ✓ Stations of the Cross (in Lent)
- ✓ Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours)

But current liturgical law does not permit:
✗ Services of Word & Holy Communion (sometimes erroneously called Eucharistic Services). These happen only on Sundays in the unexpected absence of the priest.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9am Mass at St Martha's

For those who have completed the Parental Consent Form, Children's Liturgy of the Word resumes for School aged Children (R-3) on 4th September (every two weeks). Contact: Liz Fox on 07790 894718. Dates: **4/9, 18/9, 2/10, 16/10, 30/10, 13/11, 27/11, 11/12 and 18/12**.

This is now FULL - with 20 children, but there is a waiting list, if you wish to join.

23rd: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

24th: I will leave this place and go to my Father.

One-Priest Parish

We are now a one-priest parish, and this necessarily means that requests for a priest to attend events and meetings will be triaged accordingly. As Bishop Richard wrote in 2019 in the Pastoral Plan, '**The Word who is Life**', '*currently, we are at a time when the number of priests is a new experience for us. Most of us have been born in a time when there have been many vocations to the Priesthood, notably after the Second World War. We are now in a situation where the ratio of priests to people is much closer to that of the beginning of the 20th Century, when the world was a very different place, with different demands on clergy and on those whom they served. We are now at a moment when adjustments will be necessary, together with fervent prayer that many will answer the call to Priesthood. This is not a time for despondency. It is a time of renewal and while the path ahead may be rocky at times we need not fear if we keep our minds and hearts fixed firmly on the Word who is Life. It is He who leads us*''. And his concluding remarks are an encouragement to us, '*the interesting and perhaps challenging times in which we carry out the Mission given us by Christ present many and varied opportunities, both for the life of our parishes, deaneries, and diocese and for our outreach and evangelisation. This will demand a real openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and a certain agility in the exercise of Mission*'.

God Bless. I will see you on 17th September. Fr Simon.

Parish Office:

open by appointment only. Please contact by phone / email:

01424 210 263, bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9.15am to 4.45pm

However, closed for Staff Holiday: **7th - 9th September**

We pray for those who have died: Abbott Laurence O'Keefe OSB, Lucy Flanagan RIP.

We pray for the sick: Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, Veronica Phillips, Winifred Broughton, Cecila Weathers, Margaret Carley, Jackie & Laurence Keep, Fr Andrew Pinsent, David Meyer and Stephen Doyle, Winifrede Yeo, Ron Harbin. **Perhaps, you might wish Holy Communion at home? Please see below.**

Liturgy & Prayer

11am Choir: There are plenty of good singers and talented musicians in the congregation, and all are welcome to join the choir whatever your age. Other than Mass, the only commitment is a fortnightly choir practice. To join or to chat, please contact Margaret Smart on 07815 182189.

Marriage Anniversaries Mass: If you are celebrating a significant anniversary, please join Bishop Richard for Mass in Arundel Cathedral at 11.30am on Saturday 8 October. Booking via the Diocesan Website is essential, here: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/qkxpqupi>

To find out about Diocesan Events: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

Fr Rajesh Farewell: Fr Rajesh returns to celebrate a Mass in St Martha's Church at 6pm on Thursday 13th October (Feast of Our Lady of Fatima), followed by a reception in the hall afterwards organised by the SVP & CWL. **The second collection on 4th / 5th September is your offertory gift to Fr Rajesh.**

St Bernadette's Relic Tour: St Bernadette's relics will tour the UK and comes to our Diocese: St Dunstan's in Woking (21-22 October), Arundel Cathedral (22-23 October), Worth Abbey (23-24 October). Visitors should register in advance (free of charge) and choose a dedicated time slot for their chosen Church by visiting the relic tour website: <https://stbernadette.org.uk/registration/>

Social & Pastoral

SVP Monthly "Tea at 3": Next Tea, Monday 19th September from 3pm to 4.30pm in St Martha's Hall.

More information: 07783 598238 / popsy57@outlook.com

Holy Communion for Housebound Parishioners: If you are housebound (even temporarily) and would like an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to visit you with Holy Communion, please let the parish office know. The coordinator of the sick and housebound list can then allocate you with a regular visitor.

Catholic Women's League (CWL): a group for women in the parish meets 7.30pm on the 1st Monday of each month in St Martha's Hall. Contact: 211717 or 221803 for further information. Mon 5th September, 7.30pm we are having a Line Dancing demonstration and participation by members and visitors, plus refreshments.

Bexhill & Hastings Global Justice, Walk of Witness on International 'Loss and Damage Day': On Thurs. 22nd Sept. starting at 11am from Sackville Road Methodist Church, ending at Bexhill Town Hall c.12.30pm, stopping at various Churches in Bexhill for statements on injustice around Climate Change. Do come and walk with us. To find out more contact: bjechlin@btinternet.com

Eastbourne & Bexhill Newman Association: Talk by Fr Keving Dring: "*The Poor in the Heart of God and the Church's Response*". Thurs. 29 Sept. 7.30pm. Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Eastbourne. All Welcome. For more information call 01424 219788.

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

Sacraments

Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations 2023: Those who have seen Fr Simon will receive a welcome letter shortly before the course begins in the Autumn. Check here nearer the time.

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

Children of Catechetical Age (7+): These children must be individually prepared, and we will assess your needs on a case-by-case basis. Applications: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

First Holy Communion: You may now submit applications for 2023. **Deadline: 30th September.** For more information and to access the application form: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/>

Confirmation: applications for Confirmation 2023 are now open. **Deadline: 31st October.** For more information and to access the application form: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/confirmation/>

Need a non-urgent clergy home visit? Please use the online form: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone the parish office on 01424 210 263 opt 4

Marriage: 12 months' notice is required for weddings, so anyone thinking of getting married in the autumn of 2023 is advised to book an appointment to see Fr Simon soon to begin the paperwork and preparation.

Other Notices

Call for Volunteers - Cleaning of our Churches: St Mary Magdalene: 10am-12noon on Mon 5th & Tues 6th Sept & Mon 12th and Tues 13th Sept. St Martha's: 10am-12noon on Thurs 8th and Thurs 15th Sept.

Repository: at present the repository shop is only open at the Saturday Vigil Mass. A volunteer(s) is/are sought to open the repository for 11am Mass. Please contact the parish office if you can help.

Warming up the Homeless & SVP: The SVP are organizing a food collection for '*Warming up the Homeless*' (Bexhill) over the weekend of 24th & 25th September. They are always in need of items and in particular the following: UHT milk (full fat please), Tinned meat, Squash, Packets of instant mash, Tinned fruit, Packets of rice, pasta and pasta sauce. Crisps and packets of biscuits. Male and Female deodorants, toothpaste, wet wipes and tissues. Many thanks for your support. If you are unable to bring your donations to church, please contact Chris Jones on 07783 598238 and we will be happy to collect from you.

St Richards Catholic College Roadshow at St Mary Magdalene Primary School: Miss Cronin will be at the school on Thursday 22nd September 2022 at 6.30pm. If your child is approaching the period of transfer from primary to secondary schooling, serious consideration must be given to decisions involved in the process of transition. You and your child are, therefore, invited to attend the Roadshow presented by the St Richard's Leadership & Management Team, Pastoral Leader of year Seven & SENCo.

Fr Simon will sign SRCC school forms: 7pm on Fridays: 7th, 14th, and 21st October at the presbytery.

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**: ask the ward to contact the Parish Office 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 Fr Simon may be otherwise engaged.

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 3rd September
St Mary Magdalene

Vigil 23rd Sunday in OT C
6.00pm People of the Parish

Thank you to Fr Chris Benyon who will supply our parish Masses this weekend
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Wis 9:13-18, 1 Phil 9-10. 12-17, Lk 14:25-33

Sunday 4th September
St Martha's
St Mary Magdalene

Sunday
9.00am Priest's Intentions
11.00am Charles & Teresa Pinsent RIP

NB: We no longer have a 6pm Sunday Evening Mass in our parish
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Personal Gift to Fr Rajesh Minz
If giving by BACs, please use the reference "Rajesh"

Monday 5th September to Friday 9th September

No weekday Masses 31st August to 17th September
Friday: 7.15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 10th September
St Mary Magdalene

Vigil 24th Sunday in OT C
6.00pm John De Freitas RIP

Thank you to Fr Paul Jennings who will supply our parish Masses this weekend
TWENTY FORTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Ex. 32:7-11, 1 Tim. 1:12-17 & Lk 15:1-32

Sunday 11th September
St Martha's
St Mary Magdalene

Sunday
9.00am Elizabeth O'Brien RIP
11.00am People of the Parish

NB: We no longer have a 6pm Sunday Evening Mass in our parish
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Catholic Education Sunday

Monday 12th September to Friday 16th September
No weekday Masses 31st August to 17th September
Friday: 7.15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 17th September
St Mary Magdalene

Vigil 25th Sunday in OT C
6.00pm People of the Parish

Fr Simon returns for the Vigil Mass of Sunday

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Amos 8:4-7, 1 Tim. 2:1-8 & Lk 16:1-13

Sunday 18th September
St Martha's
St Mary Magdalene

Sunday
9.00am William (Bill) Austin RIP
11.00am Sebastian Stewart GE

NB: We no longer have a 6pm Sunday Evening Mass in our parish
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: England & Wales Mission Sunday

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 suitable reference)

Foundation Governor for St Richard's Catholic College: The Governing body is looking to recruit a Catholic Foundation Governor, a person who is keen to support Catholic education. More info on governance: abdiocese.org.uk/educationservice/governance and/or strichardscc.com or Alison Horan, Chair on ahoran@strichardscc.com