

# PARISH NEWS

## Formation Morning for Readers

10am Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene Church

A morning of formation for current and prospective Readers, followed by refreshments. Although aimed at Readers, it is suitable for all parishioners.

## Christmas Fayre & Foodbank Collection

(Sunday 4th December

after 9am Mass at St Martha's):

A collection of items for the Foodbank. Stalls to include coffee, hotdogs, mince pies, raffles, tombolas, cakes, books, toys etc. (cash only please).

Offers to help set up on Saturday from 2pm & afterwards on Sunday.

Fr Christmas arrives at 10.30am and children can bring their letters to him.

Cakes (*labelled with any allergy advice*) can be brought to the hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec from 2pm or before 9am on the day.

## Christingle Service in St Martha's

2.30pm on Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> December

A celebration of our baptismal dignity of being 'priests, prophets, and kings', helping us "**Let your Light Shine**" in service of the gospel. This is a great opportunity to come together as a parish and explore ways in which we support and are supported in many different ways.

**Parish Office:** open by appointment only.

Please contact by phone / email: 01424 210

263 opt 4, [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

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

**Closed 30<sup>th</sup> Nov to 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
due to Staff Annual Leave.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's house'.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: In his days justice shall flourish,  
and peace till the moon fails.

## Advent

The Sundays of Advent have distinctive themes: The Second Coming (1st), John the Baptist (2nd & 3rd), and the preparation for the Nativity (4th). The first readings are prophecies about the Messiah, with Isaiah a key feature, and in the Epistles, the Apostles speak of day light (1st), hope (2nd) patience (3rd) and mission (4th). Yes, we are preparing for Christmas, but we are reminded of the double sense of Advent, not just the Nativity but the Second Coming when Christ comes again in glory, to judge the living and the dead. And there is also a Third Advent, the celebration of the Eucharist, as Our Lord comes to us *'in word and sacrament, to strengthen us and make us holy'*. The psalmist sings, *'I rejoiced when I heard them say, "let us go to God's house"*, making 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent an appropriate time to welcome the Adults on the RCIA course into the catechumenate. **On 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**, the gospel announces the sudden coming of Christ, at an unknown hour, urging us to be vigilant and alert and not be caught unawares. The celebration of the Eucharist is essential preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity, as it enables us to keep 'Christ' and the 'Mass' in 'Christmas'. **On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**, St John the Baptist appears, a 'voice crying in the wilderness' to a society distant from God, exhorting us to *'prepare a way for the Lord'*, to *'make his paths straight'*. The Church continues to herald the coming of the Lord in our midst, which is a repentance, making Confession an important preparation for Christmas.

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)

**We pray for those who have died:** Elizabeth Ratcliffe RIP (*Funeral: Wealden Crematorium, 12noon on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Parishioners are welcome to attend*). Fr Michael Creech RIP

**We pray for the sick:** Margaret Hitchman, 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, Stephen Doyle, Winifrede Yeo, Ron Harbin, Jean Clifford, Juliet Duffey, Roy Mitchell. **Perhaps, you might wish Holy Communion at home? Please see below.**

### **Liturgy & Prayer**

**Children's Liturgy of the Word 9am Mass at St Martha's:** For those pre-registered, the next session is 27th November 2022. It is for children in school years R, 1 & 2, those able to engage with the Word.

**Deanery Advent Reconciliation Service:** 7pm at St Thomas', St Leonard's on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Nativity Play at the Christingle Advent Service (11th December):** Calling players for the Nativity Play within the Advent Christingle Service. Sign up after 9am Mass at St Martha's on Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov., after 11am Mass at St Mary Magdalene's on Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov., or after Vigil Mass at St Mary Magdalene's on Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. Two rehearsals, both essential, at St Martha's after 9am Sun. Mass: 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. and 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. (in costume). Performance: meet at 2pm for 2.30pm start. Enquiries: Sarah Surman: 07926 514784.

**New Testament in a Year:** Here you will find a reading plan to read the New Testament in a Year:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2022/11/new-testament-in-a-year.pdf> Starts: December.

**Bible in a Year (Podcast):** Here you can sign up for Fr Michael Smitz's 'Bible in a Year' Podcast, starting January 2023: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

**Fr Rajesh's Induction Masses:** 6pm on Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. at St Edmund, King & Martyr, 19 Croft Road, Godalming, GU7 1DB & 11am Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. at OL Lourdes, Derby Road, Haslemere, GU271BS.

### **Social & Pastoral**

**SVP Monthly "Tea at 3":** The next event will be on 12th December, starting at the earlier time of 1pm. You are invited to a Christmas buffet with entertainment, and a chance to meet up with friends, old and new. More information please contact the SVP on 07783 598238 or 01424 602914.

**Parish Car Drivers Register:** The SVP are creating a register of drivers who can give occasional lifts to housebound parishioners, for special parish events, in recognition of how important it is for people to remain connected. Contact: Ron Brazier 844177 [ronbrazier26@gmail.com](mailto:ronbrazier26@gmail.com) )

**Bereavement Support Group (A&B Ministry of Consolation):** Training to become a Bereavement Supporter takes place between January & March 2023 via Zoom. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Chris Jones on 07783 598238 / [popsy57@outlook.com](mailto:popsy57@outlook.com) **In need of support?** Contact Lauren: 07880 662341, David: 07771 757367 or SVP: 07783 598238 or by email: [popsy57@outlook.com](mailto:popsy57@outlook.com)

**Holy Communion for Housebound Parishioners:** If you are housebound (even temporarily) and would like Holy Communion at home, please let the parish office know, so a home visitor can be arranged.

**Catholic Women's League (CWL):** a group for women who meet at 7.30pm on 1st Monday of the month, to share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community. More info: 211717 or 221803.

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

### **Sacraments**

**Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations 2023:** Please pray for our candidates who will be admitted to the Catechumenate during the 11am Mass on 1st Sunday of Advent, 27th November.

**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 & Confirmation:** These are now closed to new applications. For First Holy Communion, the children should be about ready to start Chapter 1 of 'I Belong' course book.

**Need a non-urgent pastoral 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 to arrange a home visit.

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

### **Other**

**Notices World Youth Day Lisbon:** 31st July to 7th August 2023: Expressions of interest via the Diocese: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/fwepegrg> More info: [Lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Supplementary Information Forms for St Mary Magdalene Primary School:** Fr Simon will sign Supplementary Information Forms for St Mary Magdalene Primary school at 7pm at the presbytery on Friday 9th December. No booking is required. He will open the door at 7pm and sign forms on a first-come, first-served basis and will remain until the queue has ended. If you attend the 11am Syro Malabar Mass at St Martha's please ask Fr Jose to sign your form. If you need new copies of Baptismal certificates, please contact parish office in advance. £10 fee for replacements.

**Christmas Day Lunch:** 25th December at 12.30pm: At St Stephen's Church Hall, Woodsgate Park, Bexhill, TN39 4DL. There is no charge for lunch, however, donations are welcome. More info or to reserve a place: contact 01424 213456 / 07480 646 273 or website: [www.friendsofflossielong.org](http://www.friendsofflossielong.org)

**Christmas Masses:** Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, so our Mass times will follow the usual Sunday Schedule but with an additional Christmas Eve Mass at St Martha's at 4pm, so that there is one Mass in each Church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There will not be Mass at Midnight.

**Church cleaning:** Volunteers are requested to take part in a Christmas clean of St Mary Magdalene from 9.30am on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The community at St Martha's are invited to arrange their own date.

**Colder Weather:** even with the heating on, please wear warmer clothing, to stay warm. If you have any cold or flu symptoms, please act prudently, do not come to church, live stream until well again.

**CAFOD:** resources: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising> Gifts: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

## 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**: 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 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Opt Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Alice & Albert Whatling RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions or Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of the Abu Children
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Beltane Alton RIP
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent A
St Martha's	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Michael Halse RIP & RCIA Service of Acceptance
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]
Second Collection: Christians Against Poverty (CAP)		
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Ferial	Monday in 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Bartolomeo Visconti RIP
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Ferial	Tuesday in 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Advent
OL's Altar	10.30am	Rosary before Mass
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Daphne Paton RIP
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Feast	St Andrew, Apostle
St Mary Magdalene	11.30am	Mass in the Extraordinary Form
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Ferial	Thursday in 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	11.30am	Mass in the Extraordinary Form
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Mrs Edie Smith
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Ferial	Friday in 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Emily & Luigi RIP & Di Paolo Family GE
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St Mary Magdalene	7.15pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Memorial	St Francis Xavier, Priest No Mass or Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Burial of Ashes of Elizabeth Ratcliffe RIP
Memorial Garden	12.30pm	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	People of the Parish
St Mary Mags (Fr Chris B)	6.00pm	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent A
St Martha's (Fr Chris B)	9.00am	Mick Hanson RIP
St Mary Mags (Fr Chris B)	11.00am	John de Freitas RIP
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]
Second Collection: Friends of the Holy Land		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Ferial	Monday in 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Deceased Joseph & Thomas Families
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Opt. Mem.	St Nicholas, Bishop
OL's Altar	10.30am	Rosary before Mass
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Arthur & Bernard Holland RIP & Fr Fenning RIP
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Memorial	St Ambrose, Bishop No Mass
St Mary Magdalene		
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Solemnity	Immaculate Conception of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Holy souls
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Opt. Mem.	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	May Theresa Oliver & Pat Roberts RIP
Memorial Garden	10.45am	Burial of Ashes of Doris Lawrie RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St Mary Magdalene	7.15pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Opt. Mem	Our Lady of Loreto
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Margaret & Jimmy Hilder, Tom Friary, Mick Farrell RIP