

PARISH NEWS

Christmas Masses

***** AMMENDED *****

Christmas Eve: Sat. 24th December

Confessions: 9.30am

No 10am Morning Mass

Mass: 4pm at St Martha's

Mass: 6pm at **St Martha's**

Christmas Day: Sun. 25th December

Mass: 9am at St Martha's

No Mass at St Mary Magdalene

From the Finance Committee:

Christmas Collection

in support of the Clergy

The Christmas collection supports our parish priest's income, who does not receive a salary from the parish or diocese but relies on the offerings the people give in Mass offerings and stole fees. The Christmas collection equates to about 25% of his 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 Fr Simon. Many thanks for your support.

Parish Office: open by appointment only.

Please contact by phone / email: 01424

210 263 opt 4, bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

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

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Heating Failure: Continued and Update

On Monday a second local engineer looked at the St Mary Magdalene boilers and was unable to restart them because they are a specialist commercial installation. On Wednesday, we found a commercial installer who was able to connect to the computer unit to diagnose what might be wrong, and he has now ordered parts to get them going again. However, ***we will have a further weekend of disruption***, and it is 'touch and go' for Christmas. As such, with only a week to go until Christmas Day, we must decide about Christmas Masses to give you certainty. To this end, we will have 3 Christmas Masses, ***and all 3 of them will be celebrated in St Martha's Church*** – see side panel and back page for times. Apologies for the inconvenience this causes, but '*it is what it is*'. In the New Year, we will explore the replacement of these boilers, which were put in in 2014, but are already out of warranty!

The Annunciation to St Joseph

This Sunday, we hear the Annunciation through the lens of St Joseph. Here St Matthew affirms Isaiah's prophecy that in Christ, our God is Emmanuel, that being He is '*God-with-us*'. He is present when two or three gather in his name, in the Church, and especially in the Mass. St Joseph is a just man, dedicated and obedient to the Law of Moses, but he can understand that '*love is the fullness of the law*' (Rosminian Motto), and so does not follow through with divorcing Mary, instead takes her into his home. Therefore, this weekend, we understand that an authentic Catholic home always makes room for Our Lady. For now, we wait patiently for Jesus's birth, a name which means 'God saves'. God bless. Fr Simon.

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: Nimmya Mathews 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, Margaret McNamara, Keith Bourne. **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: Children's Liturgy of the Word resumes in January, and the next session is: 8th January 2023, and runs every two weeks. It is for children in school years R, 1 & 2, those able to engage with the Word.

Further Formation for Readers of the Word: A day for ministers of the Word, led by Bishop Richard on Saturday 21st January 2023 between 11am and 4pm at St Bernadette's Church, Tilgate. The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, preparing to read, using microphones, Lectio Divina and Mass. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/xeuuphqw>

Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Join Bishop Richard on Saturday 18th February 2023 between 11am and 4pm at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge for theological and practical talks, Adoration, and the Mass. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/pq5yv05c>

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>

Catechism in a Year: Looking for a New Year's Resolution. Sign up for Fr Michael Smitz's 'Catechism in a Year' so that we can know our faith better: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

Social & Pastoral

SVP Monthly "Tea at 3": Due to the ice and snow, the Christmas Buffet that was postponed from 12th December, will now be held on 9th January 2023. More information please contact the SVP on 07783 598238 or 01424 602914.

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 In need of support? Contact Lauren: 07880 662341, David: 07771 757367 or SVP: 07783 598238 or by email: popsy57@outlook.com

Holy Communion for Housebound Parishioners: If you are housebound 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: Congratulations to our RCIA group who were recently admitted to the Catechumenate. Please pray for them as they journey to Easter 2023.

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmbxhill.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://stmmbxhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

First Holy Communion & Confirmation: These are now closed to new applications. For First Holy Communion, the children should now have begun the '*I Belong*' Course Book.

Need a non-urgent pastoral visit? Please use the online form: <https://stmmbxhill.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 January 2024 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

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.friendsoflossielong.org

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

Christingle: Thank you for the Pastoral Support Group, Parish Musicians, Nativity Organisers and Players, Confirmandi and our two schools for making the Christingle Advent Service a great parish event. Thanks also to those who prepared the refreshments afterwards and thank you for your understanding as this had to be cut short due to the sudden onset of adverse weather. Thank you to Tesco for providing the oranges for the Christingles.

Volunteers Needed for a Tabletop Sale! Volunteers to help organise a Tabletop Sale on 28th January 2023 in St Martha's Hall. Any Profits from table rental will be donated to Ukrainian Humanitarian Charities. Please contact Bridget Grant 01424 845015 /07749 482 033

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)

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 0300 131 5307 or 5308 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.

PARISH NEWS**Page 4****Parish Mass Diary and Intentions**

Saturday 17th December	17th Dec	O Sapientia / O Wisdom
Mass in presbytery	10.00am	Edna Herring RIP
In presbytery	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
In presbytery	12.30pm	Baptism of Olive Slatter
St Martha's	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Martha's & Facebook	6.00pm	Robert & Vera Stevens RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, A

Is. 7:10-14, Rom. 1:1-7 & Mt 1:18-24

Sunday 18th December	Sunday	
St Martha's & Facebook	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Church Closed, No Mass, No Heating
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Christmas Flowers

Monday 19th December	19th Dec	O Radix Jesse / O Root of Jesse
Mass in presbytery	10.00am	Walter Lada RIP
Tuesday 20th December	20th Dec	O Clavis David / O Key of David
Mass in presbytery	10.00am	Noreen Corness RIP
Wed 21st December	21st Dec	O Oriens / O Dayspring
St Mary Magdalene		No Mass
Thursday 22nd December	22nd Dec	O Rex Gentium / O King of Nations
Mass in presbytery	6.30pm	Mary Chapman RIP
Friday 23rd December	23rd Dec	O Emmanuel / O God with us
Mass in presbytery	10.00am	Noreen Corness RIP
Mass in presbytery	10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St Mary Magdalene	7.15pm	No Adoration, resumes in January

CHRISTMAS EVE

Mass of Christmas Night: Is. 9:1-7, Titus 2:11-14 & Lk 2: 1-14

Saturday 24th December	24th Dec	Christmas Eve
In presbytery	09.30am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No 10am Mass
St Martha's & Facebook	4.00pm	People of the Parish
St Martha's	6.00pm	Sick & Housebound of the Parish (SVP)
St Martha's	8.30pm	Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Dawn Mass: Mass of the Shepherds, Is 62:11-12, Titus 3:4-7, Lk 2:15-20

Sunday 25th December	Sunday	Christmas Mass
St Martha's & Facebook	9.00am	Sick & Housebound of the Parish (SVP)

[11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Christmas Collection in Support of the Parish Priest

(Please use the Green Envelopes provided

or make a Bacs transfer with the reference 'Christmas'

Other Sunday Masses available during the disruption:

9am Holy Redeemer, Hollington; 10.15am at OL Ransom, Eastbourne; 10.45am at Our Lady's, Battle; 11am at St Thomas of Canterbury, St Leonard's.