

PARISH NEWS

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve: Sat. 24th December

Confessions: 9.30am

No 10am Morning Mass

Mass: 4pm at St Martha's

Mass: 6pm at St Mary Magdalene

Christmas Day: Sun. 25th December

Mass: 9am at St Martha's

Mass: 11am 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

Come, Lord, and save us.

No Heating at St Mary Magdalene Church

Due to the failure of the heating system at St Mary Magdalene, ***there will be no Masses this weekend in St Mary Magdalene.*** Please check page 4 of the newsletter for Mass times, which may include change of venue, time, or cancellation. Please help those without internet to know about the changes. An engineer has been called but we do not know the extent of the failure. Please always check the newsletter for changes to Mass times.

"Go back and tell John what you hear and see"

This Sunday at 2.30pm in St Martha's Church we celebrate our Christingle Advent Service, followed by refreshments in the hall. This is a celebration of our baptismal dignity of being 'priests, prophets, and kings', helping us "***Let your Light Shine***" in service of the gospel. It is our **mission** 'to celebrate, share, and hand on the Catholic and Apostolic Faith, through our pronouncement of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in both word and deed, all for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls'. As Jesus said to John's disciples, 'go and tell people what you see and hear', a **vision** of 'a community filled with God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit'. Please God, people will see 'a caring community where people express the love of Christ in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy' and people who are prepared 'to know the Lord Jesus more clearly, to love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly, day by day'. Over the past three weeks we have focused on Christ's Second Coming, but from 17th December, we can intensify our preparation to celebrate Christmas together with 'solemn worship and glad rejoicing'. 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: 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, 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: For those pre-registered, the next session is 11th December 2022. It is for children in school years R, 1 & 2, those able to engage with the Word. Then, resumes after the school holidays on Sundays: dates to follow.

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": 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.

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 (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: Congratulations to our RCIA 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://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 now have begun the '*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 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

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

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

Christmas Fayre: A total of £960.46 was raised for Foodbank. Thank you to everyone who contributed goods, helped on the day, and supported the event. A great combined effort from the various Parish groups and St Mary Magdalene's school.

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.

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 10th December	Opt Mem	Our Lady of Loreto
Mass in presbytery	10.00am	Margaret & Jimmy Hilder, Tom Friary & Mick Farrell RIP
In presbytery	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
In presbytery	12.30pm	Baptism of Chiara Maria Nieddu
St Martha's	5.15pm	Confessions
St Martha's	6.00pm	People of the Parish

THIRD (Gaudete) SUNDAY OF ADVENT, A

Is.35: 1-6, 10, Jas. 5:7-10 & Mt 11:2-11

Sunday 11th December	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	Hanson & Driscoll Families RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	No Mass – No Heating in Church
Facebook Live only	11.00am	Mary Bunyan RIP
St Martha's	2.30pm	Christingle Advent Service
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Parish Maintenance

Monday 12th December	Opt. Mem	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Mass in presbytery	10.00am	Elizabeth Francis RIP
St Martha's Hall	1.00pm	SVP Christmas Buffet
Tuesday 13th December	Memorial	St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Mass in the presbytery	9.00am	All lost souls
St Thomas of Canterbury	11.00am	December Deanery Meeting
Wed 14th December	Memorial	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor
St Mary Magdalene		No Mass
Thursday 15th December	Ferial	Thursday in 3rd Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	9.30am	Christmas Church Clean (tbc)
Mass in presbytery	6.30pm	Mel Doidge RIP
Friday 16th December	Ferial	Friday in 3rd Week of Advent
Mass in presbytery	10.00am	Nancy & Don Simmons RIP & June, Lionel, Lawrence Keep.
In presbytery	10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St Mary Magdalene	7.15pm	No Adoration until the New Year
Saturday 17th December	17th Dec	O Sapientia / O Wisdom
To be confirmed	10.00am	Edna Herring RIP
To be confirmed	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
To be confirmed	12.30pm	Baptism of Olive Slatter
To be confirmed	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
To be confirmed	6.00pm	People of the Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, A

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

Sunday 18th December	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
To be confirmed	11.00am	Robert & Vera Stevens RIP
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Christmas Flowers

Sunday Mass times in Battle
6pm Vigil (Sat), 10.45am
Sunday Mass times in St Leonards
6pm Vigil (Sat), 11am
Sunday Mass time in Hollington
9am