

PARISH NEWS

Crib Offering

The Crib offering is for the '**Crisis Fund of the Catholic Children's Society**' and will be collected at the cribs in both Churches up until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas), 2nd February 2023.

Church Heating

St Mary Magdalene's heating remains broken. Parts have been ordered but must come from Germany and this will take time. This weekend the mild weather is set to end, and the temperatures are forecast to drop on Sunday and the week ahead. This weekend both *6pm Vigil Mass (14th January) and 11am Mass (15th January)* in St Mary Magdalene Church will be celebrated as 'low Mass' (i.e. *without music*) to ensure brevity in the celebration. If you choose to come, please wrap up warm! The 9am Mass at St Martha's in Little Common will be celebrated as normal. Decisions for 21st and 22nd January will be made on Friday, so please check the online newsletter and the parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Parish Office

The parish office is open by appointment only (closed to casual callers).

The best way to contact the parish office is by email: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Or you can ring 01424 210263

and select option 4

for the parish office / answerphone.

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9.15am to 4.45pm

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

In Memorium: Pope Benedict XVI

As the nine days of mourning for Pope Benedict XVI have ended, I would like to share my thoughts on him. In 2005, I was sitting at work in London watching for the 'white smoke' and was concerned with the announcement of Joseph Ratzinger as the new Pope. Like many, I had bought into the media narrative of 'God's Rottweiler', and I was concerned that he would be bad news for the Church. This was also before I began my formation for the priesthood and did not know my faith well enough. His papacy has been a two-fold lesson for me in prejudice, in not allowing a preconception of an individual to cloud my judgement of them, and not to let ignorance of my faith dominate my understanding of it. Much has come to light recently of how he and his family were opposed to the Nazi rule in Germany and that more than anyone in the Church, Pope Benedict spent his Friday penance actively removing rotten priests from ministry. Like many, I was won over by his papal visit to the UK. He was like a 'grandfather' coming to visit his children and this came across clearly when the Seminarians of England and Wales met with him at Oscott Seminary. I was amused that while at tea with the Queen, he drank his beloved Fanta! In 2013, I was one of 41 priests ordained, a (relatively speaking) bumper year, called the '**Benedict Bounce**', men who had been inspired by him, many in part of being with him at World Youth Day where he reminded us that we were there not to meet him but have an encounter with Christ. As such, we have also accepted his invitation to make Christ the centre of the liturgy and since 2013, I have often searched for his homilies and writings in support of my own '*ars celebrandi*', as well as to inform my preaching, and I think his 3-volume work on '*Jesus of Nazareth*' will be a resource that will last the Church for centuries. I do not think it a stretch to think he will at some future date be declared a '*doctor of the Church*'. Fr Simon

We pray for those who have died: Anna Grahame, Mark Taylor 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

Annual Leave: Fr Simon is away 19th – 27th January, back for the Vigil Mass on 28th January. Fr Chris Benyon supplies Sunday Masses on 21st & 22nd Jan, but there are no weekday Masses during this time. .

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9am Mass at St Martha's: Children's Liturgy of the Word is held during the 9am Mass on 22nd Jan, 5th Feb, 19th Feb, 5th Mar, 19th Mar and 2nd Apr. As you arrive at Mass, please collect a name stick with your child's name on it. Children need to bring this with them to the liturgy session in the hall. This is to help us take the register more efficiently. This liturgy is for children in school years R, 1 & 2, those able to engage with the Word and who have pre-registered.

Further Formation for Readers of the Word: Final call to sign up for this day with Bishop Richard on Saturday 21st January 2023 between 11am and 4pm at St Bernadette's Church, Tilgate.

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>

Social & Pastoral

SVP Post Christmas & New Year Buffet: The next 'Tea at 3' is at 3pm on Monday 13th February. Everyone is welcome and do bring a friend. More info: the SVP on 07783 598238 or 01424 602914.

Bereavement Support Group: 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.

Eastbourne & Bexhill Newman Circle Talk: Dr Lesley Dawson speaks on the work of 'Matthew 25', a local charity that supports homeless, unemployed and otherwise vulnerable people in Eastbourne. The talk is at 7.30pm on Monday 30th Jan at Christ the King parish rooms, Langley, Eastbourne. All Welcome.

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)

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 RCIA group who continue their preparation ahead of the Rite of Election at the beginning of Lent, as part of their journey to Easter.

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

First Holy Communion & Confirmation: These are now closed to new applications. For First Holy Communion, the children should be working on Chapter One of the '*I Belong*' Course Book as they journey towards their 1st Confession on Mondays 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th March at 4pm in St Mary Magdalene Church (The session on 27th February is cancelled due to a diocesan meeting). No need to book. First-come, first-forgiven. The next Confirmation Session is 5pm on Sunday 15th January.

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

CAFOD: Your support in 2022 has been life-changing and very much appreciated. Thank you for praying, campaigning, donating, or volunteering to support people and communities in their struggles against poverty. Thank you for helping to support people and communities like this throughout the world. UK Parish Harvest Fast Day: £702,949, and overall, for the East Africa Food Crisis Appeal: £1.4million raised.

(Updated): Tabletop Sale: 'Recoup a financial reward for a New Year Clear-out! Rent a Table (£10) at the Tabletop Sale in St Martha's Hall Saturday 28th January 10am-12.30pm. To Book a Table please Contact Bridget Grant ASAP on: 01424 845015 / 07749 482033 / bridget.grant@talk21.com Donation of items for Ukraine Stall appreciated, proceeds to Ukrainian Humanitarian Needs (same contact as above)'

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)

'Volunteers Manager' Foodbank: A vacancy has arisen at the Bexhill and Battle Foodbank (21 hours, £22,425 pro rata). More info: E: manager@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk or call Michelle 07866 570468.

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 14th January

St Mary Magdalene	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
	10.00am	Sylvia Devlin RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Cesidio & Maria Capaldi RIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

Is. 49:3, 5-6, 1 Cor. 1:1-3 & Jn 1:29-34

Sunday 15th January

St Martha's & Facebook	Sunday	
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	Jo Rabbett RIP
[St Martha's]	11.00am	People of the Parish
	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Pax Christi (Peace Sunday)

Monday 16th January

St Mary Magdalene*	Ferial	Monday in 2nd Week in OT
	10.00am	Martin Styles RIP

Tuesday 17th January

St Mary Magdalene*	Memorial	St Antony, Abbott
	11.00am	Adam Clark & Dawn Adams RIP

**Mass may be moved to the Presbytery, as the forecast is for colder weather*

Wednesday 18th January

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Wednesday in 2nd Week in OT
		No Mass

Thursday 19th January

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Thursday in 2nd Week in OT
	6.30pm	No Mass

Friday 20th January

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Friday in 2nd Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	No Adoration
	7.15pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 21st January

St Mary Magdalene	Memorial	St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	No Confessions or Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	No Confessions or Adoration
St Mary Magdalene**	6.00pm	Kathleen & Camillus Ewins RIP

***Mass may be moved to St Martha's if the weather turns colder
please check the next newsletter on Friday 20th Jan.*

THIRD SUNDAY (of the Word of God) IN O.T. A

Is. 8:23-9:3, 1 Cor. 1:10-13, 17 & Mt 4:12-23

Sunday 22nd January

St Martha's	Sunday	
St Mary Magdalene***	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's	11.00am	Gladys & John Carvalho RIP
	11.00am	Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (White Flower)

****Mass may be cancelled if the weather turns colder and the parts for the heating have not arrived. Please check newsletter on Friday 20th Jan.*

Information on Mass & Confession Times in other parishes:

O.L. Ransom, Eastbourne: <http://ourladyofransom.org.uk/newsletter/>

Good Shepherd Parish: <https://parishofthegoodshepherd.net/newsletters/>

CTK, Eastbourne: <http://christthekingeastbourne.org/newsletter/>