

PARISH NEWS

THIS SUNDAY

Churches Together in Bexhill (CTiB)

To mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January) you are invited to a **United Service today, Sunday 22 January at 4 pm in St Mark's Church, Little Common** led by Rev. Jonathan Frais, Chair of CTiB.

Church Heating

St Mary Magdalene's Church

closed due to heating failure.

Weekend of 21st / 22nd January 2023

Unfortunately, the heating system is still not working although parts have been ordered and are awaited from Germany. This weekend Masses will be celebrated:

Saturday 21st January

6pm Vigil Mass at St Martha's

Sunday 22nd January

9am Mass at St Martha's

Decisions for 28th and 29th January will be made on Friday 27th Jan. Please check the online newsletter & the Facebook page:

[Catholic Parish Of Bexhill](https://catholicparishofbexhill.org.uk)

[stmmbehill.co.uk](http://stmmbexhill.co.uk)

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

The Lord is my light and my help.

'The Sunday of the Word of God'

Pope Francis invites us to dedicate this Sunday to the Word of God. As Catholics, we are often criticised for not knowing our scriptures, but if we were to set ourselves the challenge of reading the bible cover to cover, we might be tempted to give up when we hit the Book of Leviticus, a rule book of laws and regulations (yawn). Perhaps, this is not the best way to deepen our understanding of Holy Scripture. As Catholics, we are fortunate that the Mass is punctuated with scriptural references, and the '*Liturgy of the Word*' provides us considerable access to the bible, dedicated to proclaiming God's Word to us in 3-year cycles. Additionally, if we sung more of the proper antiphons rather than hymns (which we enjoy) at Mass, we would enhance our scriptural appreciation. The challenge would be to grow our parish choirs as these chants need a robust range of voices. Perhaps, this is an area of parish life where members could '*let their light shine*'. The Liturgy of the Hours (*the Divine Office*) is another way in which parishioners can deepen their appreciation of scripture. It is the '*Prayer of the Church*', belonging to all not just the clergy and the religious. Not only does it take us through the Psalms, the '*Office of Readings*' also gives us access to the Saints, Doctors and Fathers of the Church who help us appreciate the meaning of the scriptures, for the bible without Tradition is an impoverished understanding of God's Revelation. Bishop Richard also encourages us to read the scriptures using the spiritual exercise of '*Lectio Divina*', taking a small chapter from one book, especially the gospel and '*ruminating*' (his word – meaning to chew) on it all day. Both '*Lectio Divina*' or the '*Liturgy of the Hours*' would be a good exercise for 10am on a Wednesday, when there is no Parish Mass. It just needs a co-ordinator(s), another opportunity for an individual(s) to '*let their light*' shine in service of the parish. God bless. 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.

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 Tea at 3pm: 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.

Fairtrade Fortnight - 27th February to 12th March: Fairtrade Parish and Fairtrade Schools / College celebrate. Annual Fairtrade breakfast 5th March after 9am Mass at St Martha's with Fairtrade stall.

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)

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 (Candlemas), 2nd February 2023.

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://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 working on Chapter Two 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 12th February.

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 February 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/fwepegrq> 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.

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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St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Confessions or Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	No Confessions or Adoration
St Martha's	6.00pm	Kathleen & Camillus Ewins RIP

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**Sunday**

St Martha's	9.00am	Gladys & John Carvalho RIP
Cancelled	11.00am	No Mass
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC)**Monday 23rd January****Ferial****Monday in 3rd Week in OT**

St Mary Magdalene

10.00am

No Mass

Tuesday 24th January**Memorial****St Francis de Sales, Bishop**

St Mary Magdalene

11.00am

No Mass

Wed 25th January**Feast****The Conversion of St Paul**

St Mary Magdalene

No Mass

Thursday 26th January**Ferial****St Timothy & St Titus, Bishops**

St Mary Magdalene

6.30pm

No Mass

Friday 27th January**Ferial****Friday in 3rd Week in OT**

St Mary Magdalene

10.00am

No Mass

St Mary Magdalene

10.30am

No Adoration

St Mary Magdalene

7.15pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 28th January**Memorial****St Thomas Aquinas, Priest**

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

Thomas & Margaret McGowan RIP

***Mass may be moved to St Martha's if the weather turns colder
please check the next newsletter on Friday 27th Jan.*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

Zeph. 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Cor. 1:26-31 & Mt 5:1-12

Sunday 29th January**Sunday**

St Martha's

9.00am

Dennis Driscoll RIP

St Mary Magdalene***

11.00am

People of the Parish

St Martha's

11.00am

Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: St Vincent de Paul (SVP Bexhill)

****Mass may be cancelled if the weather turns colder and the parts for the heating have not arrived. Please check newsletter on Friday 27th 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/>