

# PARISH NEWS

## Heating Update

### Weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The heating manufacturer reports a global shortage of raw materials to make new parts. Although the weather has been milder, the Church has retained the cold, and is still too cold. Thus, our Vigil Mass is at St Martha's and the 11am Mass at St Mary Magdalene will not be celebrated.

## St Martha's Car Park

The car park at St Martha's is for those attending services or events in the Church and / or Hall. Those wishing to use the public amenities in the village are directed to the public car park. The gates to the car park will be locked and secured after services and / or events. Parking outside of these times risks the vehicle being locked in. **Please do not 'double park' down the middle of the car park, and respect any area coned off.** We must allow access for emergency vehicles & ensure safe passage of parishioners who are on foot moving around the site.

**Bexhill Foodbank:** Lent collection, please see poster or deliver items to 19/20 Station Road, Bexhill, TN40 1RE Or Upper Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Upper Lake, Battle, TN33 0AN. For more info: [nfo@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:nfo@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk)

The **Parish Office** is open by appointment only (closed to casual callers). Please contact the parish office by email: [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk) or on 01424 210263 (opt 4) Office hours: Mon – Fri 9.15am to 4.45pm.

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

## The age-old question, do Sundays count in Lent?

Our Lord enters the desert for '*forty days and forty nights*', and with Sundays it would be forty-six days. Every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection, so are always Feast Days. And yet, notice the changes: the purple reflecting a penitential character, and we '*fast*' from the Gloria and the "A" word and in keeping with this '*desert*' experience we make more space for the Lord by recognizing the need for silence in our lives.

St John Paul II said, "*we need silence if we are to accept in our hearts the full resonance of the voice of the Holy Spirit and to unite our personal prayer more closely to the Word of God and the public voice of the Church*". Our Bishops said '*silence helps us get in touch with our real selves and opens the path for us to hear the still, small voice of God. Silence is indeed golden*'. The Mass is where our silent prayer and reflection leads us but also where it is experienced and nurtured. The Second Vatican Council taught that silence '*is one of the languages of the liturgy: words, and music, gestures and silence, movement, liturgical colours*'. Silence, then, is not a separate part of the celebration but integral to it.

It is, then, acceptable to lighten our penances on Sundays if we take them seriously the rest of the week. Sundays allow a respite but not a license to '*binge*'; indeed, if you've given up something to help break a habit, '*taking a break*' may be detrimental. Above all Lent allows us to follow Jesus to Calvary and acquire strength in our struggle over sin and evil.

God bless, Fr Simon.

## Parish Census

Please complete and return your parish census forms:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/02/parish-2023-census-form-pdf-version.pdf>

Please place your completed census forms in the boxes provided or by email: [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

**We pray for those who have died:** Peter Coast RIP

**We pray for the sick:** Mary McElligott, Tommy Lake, 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:** is held during the 9am Mass on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar, 19<sup>th</sup> Mar and 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr. As you arrive at Mass, collect your child's name stick, and they should bring it with them to the hall. This liturgy is aimed at children in school years R, 1 & 2, who have pre-registered.

**Short Lent Talks:** Following 10am Mass on Sat. 4th March & Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> March, Fr Simon offers two short talks: 1) 'The Transfiguration: we let our light be seen' & 2) 'we have the light of the world to see by'.

**10am Good Friday (St Martha's), Stations of the Cross (led by the CWL):** The stations are provided by the Prison Charity 'PACT' with whom the CWL have a 3-year initiative, providing prisoners with a pack on release as well as making a 'Cross in my Pocket' for all Catholic/Orthodox prisoners.

**Triduum Music Group (Singers & Instrumentalists):** All are invited to join the Parish Music group for the Triduum. Rehearsals are: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 7pm to 8.30pm (for Maundy Thursday & Good Friday); and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> (after 6.30pm mass) preparing for the Easter Vigil. Venue: St Mary Magdalene's Church (hopefully the boilers will be fixed but if not, we will update you on the venue) Please contact the Parish Office by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March to confirm your attendance so that we can organise the music.

### **Social & Pastoral**

**SVP Tea @ 3pm:** The next 'Tea @ 3' is 3pm on Monday 13th March. Everyone is welcome and do bring a friend. For more info, please email the SVP: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

**Bereavement Support Group:** If you require Bereavement Support, we can offer 6 one-hour sessions on a 1-2-1 basis with one of our Bereavement Team. Contact Lauren: 07880 662341, David: 07771 757367 or you can speak with a member of the SVP: 07783 598238 or by email: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

**Monthly Bereavement Group:** begins on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm - 8.30pm in St Martha's Hall. An opportunity to meet informally with other bereaved people. It does not matter when your loss occurred, but you may benefit by exploring your feelings with others going through a bereavement. The grieving process can be complex, but having the chance to speak about your feelings and how your life has changed can be helpful and a vital part of acceptance and recovery. The sessions are led by an experienced facilitator.

**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 Outing: "In the footsteps of St Augustine" (Part 1: Ramsgate and Minster).** Our Parish, in partnership with St Augustine's Bexhill, is visiting Ramsgate on Thurs. 13th July 2023, 8am to 8pm. More details please see the flyer / booking form: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/02/in-the-footsteps-of-st-augustine-pilgrimage-13th-july-2023.doc> Return forms to the Parish Office, please.

**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 accepted as the Elect of God for Baptism or as Candidates for Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. They are: Carly North, Shantel Orkoz, Jessica Richards, Lee Watts, Emma Bastin, Emma Cooksey, Chloe Field, Stacey Ingamells and Rebecca Waters.

**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:** First Holy Communion, children should be on Chapter Three or Four of the '*I Belong*' Course Book as they journey towards 1st Confessions on Mondays 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm in St Mary Magdalene Church (The session on 27th Feb. is cancelled due to a diocesan meeting). No need to book. Confirmation: next session is 5pm on Sun. 26th March in the Presbytery.

**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 March 2024 is advised to book an appointment to see Fr Simon soon to begin the paperwork and preparation.

## Other Notices

**CAFOD:** The Earthquake Appeal: £734. Thank you!!! **Lent Big Walk Challenge:** <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

**Fairtrade Fortnight: 27th Feb. to 12th March:** Fairtrade producers depend on us for survival; we buy their produce with dignity (trade, not aid). Pope Francis urges us to '*listen to the cry of the poor*'. As a Fairtrade Parish we are ethical in our shopping, looking for the Fairtrade logo when buying tea, coffee, bananas, etc. Fairtrade breakfast after 9am Mass on 5<sup>th</sup> March; meet our guest, Dep. Mayor Clare Baldry. Please let us know numbers and drop off (*allergy labelled*) cakes and raffle prizes before Mass. At 3pm on 5<sup>th</sup> March, free film at the DLWP, '*Walking on Thin Ice*'. Contact: Jack Doherty: [jackdoherty@sky.com](mailto:jackdoherty@sky.com)

**Three Churches in Little Common: World Day of Prayer.** The 3 Churches in Little Common take turns to celebrate this day with a joint service. The 2023 service has been compiled by women in Taiwan and is celebrated in Little Common Methodist Church on Friday 3rd March at 10.30am. All welcome. ***Our parish Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am so as not to compete and allow people to attend both services.***

**Visitation of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue (NPVS) of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco to Our Lady Queen of Peace, Adur Valley.** 4-5 March: St Peter's Church, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sat 4th March, 10am -5pm & Sun 5th March 9am, Christ the King, Steyning 11am. See poster. More info: [ardurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ardurvalley@abdiocese.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 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**

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### **Parish Mass Diary and Intentions**

<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	<b>No Mass</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	<b>No Confessions or Adoration</b>
<i>Arundel Cathedral</i>	2.30pm	<i>RCIA Rite of Election</i>
St Martha's	5.15pm	<b>No Confessions</b>
St Martha's	6.00pm	David McGurk & Louis Rosenau RIP

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, A**

*Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Roms. 5:12-19 & Mt 4:1-11*

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's	9.00am	Gladys Elma Rowe RIP
<b>Cancelled</b>	11.00am	<b>No Mass</b>
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

#### **Second Collection: The Passage London (Homeless Charity)**

<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Monday in 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	James Spittal RIP
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Tuesday in 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>
Presbytery	11.00am	Jim Gordon RIP
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St David, Bishop</b>
St Mary Magdalene		<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Thursday in 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>
Presbytery	6.30pm	Fr James
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Friday in 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>
Presbytery	9.30am	Henry Epsom GE
<i>Little Common Methodist Church</i>	10.30am	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>
Presbytery	7.15pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	Richard Epsom GE
Presbytery	10.30am	Adoration & Lent Talk 1
Presbytery	11.00am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene**	6.00pm	Margaret Mulligan RIP

*\*\*Mass may be moved to St Martha's if the weather remains cold and no parts have arrived for the boiler. Please check the next newsletter on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March..*

### **SECOND (TRANSFIGURATION) SUNDAY OF LENT, A**

*Gen. 12:1-4, 2 Tim. 1:8-10 & Mt 17:1-9*

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene***	11.00am	Sheila Dray RIP
<i>St Martha's</i>	11.00am	<i>Syro Malabar Mass</i>

#### **Second Collection: CAFOD LENT FAST DAY**

Or donate online at: <https://cafod.org.uk/>

*\*\*\*Mass may be cancelled if the weather remains cold and no parts have arrived for the boiler. Please check newsletter on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March..*

#### **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)