

PARISH NEWS

Heating Update

Weekend of 4th / 5th February 2023

The heating manufacturer has reported that the boiler parts are not available in Germany, estimating they may not be obtainable before the end of February. This means **St Mary Magdalene Church** will only open when the temperature in the Church is at least 12⁰C. For now, weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Presbytery in our temporary chapel. This weekend, we remain in **contingency mode**. Decisions for 11th & 12th February will be made on Friday 10th Feb. Please check the online newsletter & Facebook.

Impending Closure of HSBC Bexhill

With the planned closure of HSBC Bexhill, the offertory will be paid in at the Post Office. This is an appeal for people (*where possible*) to move their offertory online to a standing order to minimise cash handling.

Advantages of a standing order:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/weekly-offertory-standing-orders-a-move-away-from-cash-on-the-day.pdf>

Please '**gift aid**', which increases your offertory by 25% at no extra cost to you:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/gift-aid-make-your-offertory-go-further.pdf>

If you require more offertory envelopes, please contact the parish office.

'*Gift Aid Myths*:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/gift-aid-myths.pdf>

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

Parish Census: "I am here!" (Is 58:8)

When the parish computer was upgraded to Windows 10, it did not go without incident, and one casualty was the parish database which did not survive the migration. In any event, an update to the parish census was due because personal data expires, either because people move or because under data protection laws, we are not meant to keep people's personal data without good reason or without their presumed continuing permission. The parish census also provides an opportunity to refresh and extend all aspects of parish life. Today's gospel records Jesus saying, '*you are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden*', inviting us to '*let our light shine*'. Here in the parish, the census is a step in fulfilling this invitation. We want to know who everyone is, and what skills, talents, and gifts they have to offer the parish.

Here you will find a link to a simple 2-page parish census:

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

There is also a Word version in the newsletter section of the parish website: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/newsletters/>

Please download it, fill it in, and return it to Mass throughout February. There will be boxes at the back of each Church, or you can email them back to the parish office (bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk). For those who do not have access to the internet, we have printed a limited number of census forms for you to complete, and you will find them with the printed newsletters, again intended for those who do not have access to the internet. Please do take part in the census, for it will help the *Parish Pastoral Support Group* advise me where best to focus our spiritual, liturgical, and pastoral resources here in the parish, '*so that seeing your good works [people] may give the praise to your Father in heaven*'.

God bless, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Mark Taylor, David Storrs, Sheila Axson 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 is held during the 9am Mass on 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.

St Richard's Catholic College, Pilgrimage to Rome: Each year (*disrupted during the COVID restrictions*) students from St Richard's have a pilgrimage to Rome during the February half term. It is customary that one of the Deanery Clergy accompany them. This year, Fr Simon is travelling with them, so there will be no weekday Masses in the parish while he is on pilgrimage with them (13th – 17th February).

Lent is just two weeks away: If anyone is planning a Lenten prayer group, please let the parish office know if you wish it advertised in the newsletter. During Lent, we invite all parishioners to pray a decade a day of the Rosary for the intentions of the parish. On Saturday 4th March, Fr Simon will offer Mass at 10am followed by a reflection '*The Transfiguration: we let our light be seen*', followed by Confessions at 11am, and on Saturday 25th March, following the same format, '*we have the light of the world to see by*'.

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

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.

CWL: Coffee & Cake Sale: after 9am Mass at St Martha's Church on Sunday 19th February.

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.

(Save the Date) - Parish Outing: "In the footsteps of St Augustine" (Part 1: Ramsgate and Minster). Our Parish, in partnership with St Augustine's Bexhill, is organizing a day pilgrimage (by coach) to Ramsgate on Thurs. 8th June 2023, 8am to 8pm. More info and details of how to book will follow soon.

Three Churches in Little Common: The next meeting of this informal group will be at St Martha's Church Hall on Wednesday 15th February at 11.00am. All are welcome.

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://stmmmbexhill.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://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

First Holy Communion & Confirmation: For *First Holy Communion*, children should be on Chapter Two / Three 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. *Confirmation:* After the meeting with the Bishop on Friday 3rd February, the next Confirmation Session is 5pm on Sunday 12th February.

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

Racial Justice Sunday - 5th February 2023: Our theme "*All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together*". The Bishops' Conference has produced video reflections: Walking together; Praying together; Working together. A discussion paper is also available. Visit: www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday

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

Humanitarian Aid (Ukraine): A huge thank you and well done to those who bought and donated goods, gave money, time, effort and goodwill to the successful tabletop sale, which raised £743. This will be shared between *Médecins sans Frontières* and UNICEF. Our efforts were appreciated by the local community and if you did not make this occasion, we hope to see you at the next.

Hastings & Rother Interfaith Forum: Zoom meeting with guest speaker Rabbi Danny Rich on 'Faith and Politics' (7 to 8 pm on Tuesday 14th February). More details on the poster at the back of Church.

Join the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8792772112?pwd=d0Z5aFRXNWl1bGE3TWIJZTNxdkItdz09>

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

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 4th February

	Votive	Papal Requiem Mass
Presbytery	10.00am	Pope Benedict XVI RIP
Presbytery	10.00am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions (on request)
St Martha's	6.00pm	Bill & Vi Hayes RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

Is. 58:7-10, 1 Cor. 2:1-5 & Mt 5:13-16

Sunday 5th February

	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	Allana Margaret McNamara GE
Cancelled	11.00am	No Mass
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Lara Mae Gaymer

Second Collection: Racial Justice Sunday

Monday 6th February

	Memorial	St Paul Miki & Companions
Presbytery	10.00am	Marion Cox RIP

Tuesday 7th February

	Ferial	Tuesday in 5th Week in OT
Presbytery	11.00am	Noreen Corness RIP

Wednesday 8th February

	Opt Mem	St Cuthman of Steyning, Hermit & No Mass
St Mary Magdalene		

Thursday 9th February

	Ferial	Thursday in 5th Week in OT
Eastbourne Crematorium	11.30pm	Funeral of Sheila Axson RIP
Presbytery	6.30pm	Margaret Hanson RIP

Friday 10th February

	Memorial	St Scholastica, Virgin
Presbytery	10.00am	Mary Theresa Maria Oliver RIP & Pat Roberts RIP
Presbytery	10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Presbytery

7.15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 11th February

	Memorial	Our Lady of Lourdes
Presbytery	10.00am	Edward Newman RIP
Presbytery	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene**	6.00pm	Mary Molloy 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 10th Feb.*

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

Eccl. 15:15-20, 1 Cor. 2:6-10 & Mt 5:17-37

Sunday 12th February

	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene***	11.00am	Roy Strickson RIP
St Martha's	11.00am	Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (Gift Aid)

****Mass may be cancelled if the weather remains cold and no parts have arrived for the boiler. Please check newsletter on Friday 10th Feb.*

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)