

# PARISH NEWS

## Heating Update

### Weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

We are still waiting for parts, and the ambient temperature in the Church remains low. **St Mary Magdalene Church** will only open when the temperature in the Church is at least 12°C. This means we remain in **contingency mode**. Decisions for 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February will be made on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Please check online and the newsletter.

## St Martha's Car Park

The car park at St Martha's has been increasingly abused by commercial vehicles, nearby residents, shoppers, and others having no business with the Church and Hall. We have been slowly increasing the signage and gently challenging car drivers but to little avail. And so, gates have now been installed in the car park which from **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023** will be closed and locked after services and other events. **Parking outside of these times increases the risk of the vehicle being locked in.** The advice from the diocese is that our parish sites should be secure, especially where they are largely unsupervised. We will all have to adapt our use of the car park, but in time, we shall see the benefits of a clearer car park.

**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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk) or on 01424 210263 (opt 4)

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9.15am to 4.45pm.

## They are happy who follow God's law!

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – An Own Goal?

Tuesday is the Feast of St Cyril and St Methodius, the Apostles to the Slavs, whose princes had requested missionaries. To bring the gospel to the people they translated it into the native language, upsetting the Germans who were concerned about the growing influence of the Slavic culture. While it is true that the traditional languages of the Mass are Latin, Greek and Hebrew, the Pope saw the political advantages of their mission and gave his blessing for the vernacular to be used. Although this is, of course, interesting I wonder if celebrating them on 14<sup>th</sup> February is an 'own goal' by the Church. In old money, Tuesday is **St Valentine's Day**, the day for love. Today, the Church should be preaching 'agape' as the fullest expression of love, '*that greater love hath no man, that he lay down his life for his friend*'. It is the love of the Eucharist, where Jesus declares, '*this is my body which is given up for you*'. For a Catholic, this is the same love found in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, where the man and the woman bring their love before the Altar of God and take one another '*for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part*'.

God bless all of us, especially those in love! Fr Simon.

## Parish Census

Throughout February, we invite all parishioners to complete the update to the parish census, so that we know who everyone is and have an opportunity to refresh and extend all aspects of parish life. Here is a link to the 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://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/newsletters/>  
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:**

**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 19th Feb, 5th Mar, 19th Mar and 2nd 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.

**St Richard's CC Pilgrimage to Rome:** There are no Weekday Masses this week (13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.), as Fr Simon is travelling as the Deanery Clergy representative with the College on their Pilgrimage to Rome.

**Ash Wednesday:** 2 parish Masses: 10am at St Martha's & 7pm at St Mary Magdalene or Presbytery.

**Lent plans?** 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 13 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](mailto: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.

**(Date Change): Parish Outing: "In the footsteps of St Augustine" (Part 1: Ramsgate and Minster).** After being informed by the CWL of their outing to Arundel for Corpus Christi, we have been able to agree a new date for Ramsgate with the Shrine and Coach company. So, our Parish, in partnership with St Augustine's Bexhill, is organizing a day pilgrimage to Ramsgate on **Thurs. 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**, 8am to 8pm. As well as Mass at the shrine, we can have a tour of the Church and Museum, lunch or pack lunch in Ramsgate, prayer at the Saxon Cross erected by St Augustine in Pegwell Bay, before moving on to the Benedictine Sisters at Minster. See the flyer / booking form:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/02/in-the-footsteps-of-st-augustine-pilgrimage-13th-july-2023.doc>

Please return completed booking forms and payment to the parish office.

**NB: Part Two of 'In the footsteps of St Augustine', will be Canterbury in 2024.**

**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://stmmbexhill.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://stmmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

**First Holy Communion & Confirmation:** First Holy Communion, children should be on Chapter Three 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 February is cancelled due to a diocesan meeting). No need to book. First-come, first-forgiven. Confirmation: is 5pm on Sunday 12th February.

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

**Newman Association: Reflections of a Hospital Chaplain:** John Kimberley will be sharing with us his experiences as a hospital chaplain at **7.30pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February** at a meeting arranged by Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Circle at the Parish Room, Christ the King, Princes Road, Eastbourne BN23 6HT. Open to all parishioners and friends.

**Fairtrade Fortnight – 27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Our Fairtrade producers depend on us for survival by using and buying their produce with dignity (trade, not aid). Pope Francis urges us to '*listen to the cry of the poor*'. **Fairtrade breakfast in St Martha's Hall 10am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March.** We need to know numbers - please let us know during next 2 weeks (now) how many to cater for. Any prizes for the raffle? 'As long as you did it to the least of ....you did it to Me'. Also please attempt the Fairtrade story writing challenge. Jack Doherty: [jackdoherty@sky.com](mailto:jackdoherty@sky.com)

**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. **Also, World Day of Prayer.** Each year the 3 Churches in Little Common take turns to celebrate this day with a joint service. This year the service has been compiled by women in Taiwan and is celebrated in Little Common Methodist Church on **Friday 3rd March at 10.30am**. Everyone is welcome. Please Come! '

**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>

**Battle Parish - Holy Hour for Ukraine:** 7pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February in OL Immaculate, Battle.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	Edward Newman RIP
Presbytery	10.00am	Confessions & Adoration
<b>St Martha's</b>	5.15pm	Confessions (on request)
<b>St Martha's</b>	6.00pm	Mary Molloy RIP

### **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A**

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

<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's	9.00am	Roy Strickson RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	<b>No Mass</b>
[ <i>St Martha's</i> ]	[11.00am]	[ <i>Syro-Malabar Rite Mass</i> ]

#### **Second Collection: Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (Gift Aid)**

<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Monday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week in OT</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St Cyril &amp; Methodius, Bishops</b>
Presbytery	11.00am	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Wednesday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week in OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene		<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Thursday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week in OT</b>
Presbytery	6.30pm	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Friday in 6<sup>th</sup> Week in OT</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	<b>No Mass</b>
Presbytery	10.30am	<b>No Adoration</b>
Presbytery	7.15pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
Presbytery	10.00am	Mrs Pat Calton
Presbytery	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism & FHC Tobias, Amelia Baichoo
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene**	6.00pm	Burton & Pearson Families GE

*\*\*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 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.*

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A**

*Lev. 19:1-2, 17-18, 1 Cor. 3:16-23 & Mt 5:38-48*

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene***	11.00am	Luigi Di Paolo GE
St Martha's	11.00am	Syro Malabar Mass

#### **Second Collection: CAFOD Aid Relief for Turkey & Syria Earthquake**

*\*\*\*Mass may be cancelled if the weather remains cold and no parts have arrived for the boiler. Please check newsletter on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.*

#### **Online Offertory via Diocesan Website**

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

For Mass intentions & other payments: BACs: Name: St Mary Magdalene,  
(or RCD A & B St Mary Magdalene – depending on your bank)  
Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20. (Please add a suitable reference)