

PARISH NEWS

Heating Update

Weekend of 4th / 5th March

Progress! The parts arrived in the UK this weekend, and the engineer is booked in for 9th March, so hopefully, this will be last weekend of disruption, but do keep checking the newsletter to make sure. This weekend the Vigil Mass is at St Martha's and the 11am Mass at St Mary Magdalene will not be celebrated.

St Martha's Car Park

While we have taken back control of our Car Park, the reality is we will never have enough spaces for every car. Therefore, 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. A reminder that the gates will be closed and locked after services. Parking outside of these times risks the vehicle being locked in.

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

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

Our Baptismal Promises

The Transfiguration is a '*sacrament of our regeneration*', which is twofold. Firstly, we experienced a regeneration when we were baptized, when we died with Christ and rose with him to new life, becoming a new creation, made in the image and likeness of God, especially in our souls. Our second regeneration is yet to come, our resurrection, when we get our bodies back, after the pattern of Christ's own glorious body, taking our place in the new heavens and new earth. In 5 weeks, we renew our baptismal promises, and during Lent and Eastertide, we profess our faith using the '**Apostles Creed**', which is the foundation of the baptismal promises. There are three key elements to our baptismal promises: *A renunciation of sin, a profession of faith, and the living out of our baptismal dignity.* In the post-baptismal anointing, we are granted a share in the three-fold office of Christ, '*who is priest, prophet, and king*'. As priests, we take part in the sacred liturgy, offering our lives as a thanksgiving sacrifice of praise. As prophets, we have God's Word on our lips, announcing the gospel of the Lord and telling people about our joy in knowing God has called us '*out of darkness into his wonderful light*'. As Kings, we lead people into the Kingdom, especially by the way we live our lives, which are marked out by truth and virtue.

God Bless. Fr Simon

Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene:

Maundy Thursday: 8pm Mass, with Compline at 10.45pm.

Good Friday: 3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion.

Easter Vigil: 8.15pm (30 mins after sunset, to ensure darkness)

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

We pray for those who have died: Peter Coast RIP, Thomas "Tommy" Lake RIP, Shelagh Roland RIP.

We pray for the sick: Mary McElligott, 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, Margaret Doherty Smythe. **Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to receive Holy Communion at home.**

Liturgy & Prayer

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9am Mass at St Martha's: is held during the 9am Mass on 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.

Short Lent Talk: The 2nd talk is after 10am Mass on 25th March: '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 14th March 7pm to 8.30pm (for Maundy Thursday & Good Friday); and Thursday 30th (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 9th 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

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

Monthly Bereavement Group: begins on Thursday 16th 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.

Also, see the poster about tickets for the Lent Lunch: 12.30pm on Friday 24th March at St Martha's Hall: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/02/cwl-lenten-lunch-poster.pdf>

Parish Outing: Our Parish, in partnership with St Augustine's Bexhill, is visiting Ramsgate on Thurs. 13th July 2023, 8am to 8pm. More details: <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



Social & Pastoral Continued

The Bexhill SVP Visit to Holy Cross Priory (12th April, 1.20pm to 5.30pm): Fr Simon will celebrate Mass in the Priory Chapel, followed by afternoon tea in the Priory Lounge. Cost is £10 per person. More information, please see the booking form online and at the back of St Martha's Church and in Presbytery: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/02/olr-parish-svp-visit-to-holy-cross-priory.pdf>

Sacraments

Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations 2023: Please pray for the Elect of God from our parish and the Candidates for Reception into Full Communion who enter their final weeks of preparation and scrutiny. 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 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th March at 4pm in St Mary Magdalene Church. 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, Lent Big Walk Challenge: Several parishioners have signed up for the 'B/G LENT WALK'. Each person will complete 200km during the 40 days of Lent, fundraising for CAFOD. Our OLR Bexhill team would welcome more members, so please sign up at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk>, and join team OLR Bexhill. Please consider sponsoring us online at: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/olr-bexhill>

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 5th 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 5th March, free film at the DLWP, 'Walking on Thin Ice'. Contact: Jack Doherty: jackdoherty@sky.com

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 March

	Ferial	Saturday in 1 st Week of Lent
Presbytery	10.00am	Richard Epsom GE
Presbytery	10.30am	Adoration & Lent Talk 1
Presbytery	11.00am	Confessions
St Martha's	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Martha's	6.00pm	Margaret Mulligan RIP

SECOND (TRANSFIGURATION) SUNDAY OF LENT, A

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

Sunday 5th March

	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	People of the Parish
Cancelled	11.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Pearl Cornish
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Monday 6th March

	Ferial	Monday in 2 nd Week of Lent
St Martha's	10.00am	Requiem Mass for Peter Coast RIP

Tuesday 7th March

	Ferial	Tuesday in 2 nd Week of Lent
Presbytery	11.00am	Harry & Peggy Parish RIP

Wed 8th March

	Ferial	Wednesday in 2 nd Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene		No Mass

Thursday 9th March

	Ferial	Thursday in 2 nd Week of Lent
Presbytery	6.30pm	Aleyamma Joseph RIP
Presbytery	7.05pm	Lent Confessions

Friday 10th March

	Ferial	Friday in 2 nd Week of Lent
Presbytery	10.00am	Ernest & Lily Whitehead RIP
Presbytery	10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Presbytery	7.15pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 11th March

	Ferial	Saturday in 2 nd Week of Lent
Presbytery	10.00am	Gerardo Di Mascio RIP
Presbytery	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Amelia Poppy Russell
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene**	6.00pm	Patrick Cunningham 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 March.*

THIRD (1st SCRUTNY) SUNDAY OF LENT, A

Ex. 17:3-7, Roms 5: 1-2, 5-8 & Jn 4:5-42

Sunday 12th March

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

Second Collection: Parish Lourdes Fund

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 10th March..*

Online Offertory via Diocesan Website

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

For Mass intentions & other payments: BACs: Name: RCD St Mary Magdalene, Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20. (Please add a reference)