

PARISH NEWS

With gratitude

Thank you for your generous offering to Fr Simon, who appreciates your confidence in him. Thanks to those who made the Easter celebrations full of faith. The next events needing a parish-wide team, are the First Holy Communions at St Martha's on 10th & 17th June, and the Confirmations at Arundel Cathedral on 18th June. More details to follow shortly in the newsletter.

Congratulations & Thanks

Cathy Bate, Jackie Knight and Lisa Young, who successfully completed the CAFOD Big Lent Walk / Run 200km in 40 days throughout Lent. A Total distance of 787.3 km was achieved. Thank you to everyone who sponsored and helped successful fundraising of £385.

Mobile Phones

Recently, there has been a spate of mobile phones 'going off' during Mass. Unless you are 'on call' as an emergency worker or are a designated parish steward, please switch your phones off or at least put them on silent / vibrate as we do not need additional musical accompaniment.

The **Parish Office** is open by appointment only. 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.

Electrical Works: Last week we collected £743.17, plus a £550 donation from St MM Keralan community, off-setting, **4.31% of our £30K cost.**

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

St George, Martyr (Patron of England)

(Transferred to 24th April)

Due to 23rd April being a Sunday, the celebration of the Resurrection takes precedence over Saint George, whose feast day is celebrated the next day. With St George, history and legend get confused. We believe he was born in Lydda, Palestine and was a successful and popular Roman soldier. In AD 302, the emperor Diocletian issued an edict that every Christian soldier should be arrested and that all soldiers should make sacrifice to the roman 'gods'. George protested to the emperor, who then tried to buy his silence. Instead, George himself proclaimed his own faith in Jesus Christ. To maintain his authority Diocletian had George tortured and executed. What about St George and the Dragon? This idea was brought back by the crusaders and is, perhaps, best left to legend than truth. As Christians, we see the image of the dragon as any attitude opposed to gospel truth, opposed to Christ and his Church. Shakespeare's depiction (*Henry V, Act III*) of the rallying call of the King to the troops about to storm the breach at Harfleur, perhaps, should be seen, today, as a reminder of our hope that good will triumph over evil, rather than a call to physical battle. Indeed, as a soldier, George recognizes, '*victory and power and empire have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ*'. As a martyr, he rejoices in Christ's resurrection, for the dragon Christ vanquished on the cross, the devil, sin, and death. George himself would happily defer his celebration by a day, lovingly giving way to the 3rd Sunday of the Resurrection. Fr Simon.

LEPRA: UK Leprosy Charity

The retiring collection this weekend is for Lepra. Although Leprosy is curable many people especially in India and Bangladesh suffer isolation from this disease. For £25 Lepra can change a life by providing early treatment. More information can be found here: <https://www.lepra.org.uk/>

We pray for those who have died: Joan Saunders, Fr David Russell, +Chris Budd, Anne Tomlin RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, Mary Nash, 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, Ron Harbin, Jean Clifford, Juliet Duffey, Roy Mitchell, Margaret McNamara, Keith Bourne. **Please contact the Parish Office if you wish Holy Communion at home.**

Liturgy & Prayer

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9am Mass at St Martha's: next sessions: 23 April, 7, 21 May.

Clergy Leave: Fr Simon will be on a post-Easter break from 3rd to 13th May. A supply priest has been arranged to celebrate the Sunday Masses (*including the Vigil*) on 6th and 7th March. For weekday Masses, during this period, please seek out the Eastbourne, Battle, Hastings, or St Leonard's Parishes.

May Procession (7th May): As part of 9am Mass at St Martha's there is the annual May Procession, followed by the very popular CWL "Sausage Sizzle". Cost £3 for coffee/tea and a hot dog!

Ascension (Thursday 18th May): Fr Simon can only celebrate 3 Masses. One will be for the Primary school, the other two, based on his diary commitments will be at St Mary Magdalene at 11am and 6.30pm.

Pentecost: On Saturday 27th May, the 6pm Vigil Mass of Pentecost will be celebrated in its '*Extended Form*', which will take longer than the 45 mins we might expect. Please plan any taxis / lifts as required.

Social & Pastoral

After Mass @ St Martha's: Tea, Coffee & Cake are available in the hall. Thanks to those who provide it.

SVP Tea @ 3pm: The next 'Tea @ 3' is 3pm on Monday 15th May. Everyone is welcome and do bring a friend. For more info, please email the SVP: bexhill@svp.org.uk The next **Friday Pop-In** will be on 19th May in St Martha's Hall from 10am to Noon. No need to book, just come along, meet new friends, and enjoy yourself. Tea, Coffee, have a chat, play board games, and just relax.

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 Support Group: Next meeting: **Saturday 29th April**, 10am - 11.30am in St Mary Magdalene Presbytery. Led by an experienced facilitator, 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 speaking about your feelings and how your life has changed can be helpful and part of acceptance and recovery.

Catholic Women's League (CWL): a group for women who meet at 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, to share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community. Contact: 211717 or 221803.

Parish Outing to St Augustine's Ramsgate and Minster Abbey on 13th July, 8am to 8pm: See: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/03/in-the-footsteps-of-st-augustine-pilgrimage-13th-july-2023.v2-002.pdf> Please return booking form to the parish office.

Off-site Parking: when our Church carparks are full, please ensure you park legally off-site and do not block people's driveways, bus stops or junctions, otherwise you may be liable for a parking ticket.

Parish Clergy: Fr Simon Dray, Deacon Simon Kirkdale
Administrator: Bonita Osmond
Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins



Sacraments

Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations 2023: Fr Simon begins preliminary interviews for adults desiring to receive the Sacraments in 2024. You can book your appointment by emailing the Parish Office.

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: The children are now booked in for their First Holy Communion Mass and each family has received an email update managing expectations for the celebration; please check your junk / spam folder as required. Confirmation: Next session: 5pm on Sun. 23rd April (Presbytery)

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, please contact us if marrying in May 2024.

Other Notices

H.U.G Breakfast Cook Urgently Need: Due to illness, a relief cook is needed for 6 weeks to serve a Full English Breakfast on Monday & Thursday mornings, serving from 10am, serving 23 guests. If you think you can help, please email bexhillhug@gmail.com or call Pauline on 07881642331.

St Mary Magdalene Church Flowers: Help is urgently needed by the flower team – now down to one permanent person. If anyone is interested in joining the team on a permanent basis, and would like further details, please call Helga 01424 848504.

Mass Intentions: With only one priest in the parish, Mass Intentions get booked up six months in advance. To make an offering our contact & bank details are on the back page. While it is possible to request certain dates, this can only ever be indicative because of funerals, diocesan requirements, and other unforeseen events. We can also only accept one intention per Mass, so for multiple intentions, you can also send your intentions to the Missions: e.g., <https://missio.org.uk/mass-offerings/>

A CAFOD word of thanks: Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, supported by CAFOD, she has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "*worry has completely disappeared now.*" Please support CAFOD: in church, via a direct debit, or leaving a gift in their will: <https://cafod.org.uk/give/leave-a-gift-in-your-will>

CAFOD school volunteers required: If you enjoy working with young people, you could help with visits to our Catholic Schools and churches to bring alive their sense of global justice. Training and resources provided. Contact CAFOD A&B office: St Pius X Merrow on 01483 573273 or 07710 094448. Email: arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk Website: www.cafod.org.uk

St Mary Magdalene Church,
Sea Rd, Bexhill. TN40 1RH.

St Martha's Church,
77 Cooden Sea Rd,
Little Common. TN39 4SL.

Parish Office

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.

PARISH NEWS

Page 4

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 22nd April

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Saturday in 2 nd Week of Easter
	10.00am	Mary Herring RIP
St Mary Magdalene		Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Baptism of Michelle Ijebor and
		Confirmation of Vivian Ijebor
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Rowe & Callaghan Families
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	

Ferial

Mary Herring RIP	Saturday in 2 nd Week of Easter
Adoration & Confessions	
Baptism of Michelle Ijebor and	
Confirmation of Vivian Ijebor	
Confessions on Request	
Rowe & Callaghan Families	

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, A

Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1 Peter 1:17-21 & Lk 24:13-35

Sunday 23rd April

St Martha's	Sunday	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	
[St Martha's]	11.00am	Neha Aju GE
	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Sunday

People of the Parish	
Neha Aju GE	
[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]	

Second Collection: Lepra Charity

Monday 24th April

St Mary Magdalene	Solemnity	St George, Martyr (Patron of England)
Primary School (by invite)	10.00am	Mel Doidge RIP
	2.00pm	Class 2 Mass

Solemnity

St George, Martyr (Patron of England)	
Mel Doidge RIP	
Class 2 Mass	

Tuesday 25th April

St Richard's (students only)	Feast	St Mark, Evangelist
St Mary Magdalene	8.45am	Year 8 Mass
	11.00am	June Thompson RIP

Feast

St Mark, Evangelist	
Year 8 Mass	
June Thompson RIP	

Wed 26th April

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Wednesday of 3 rd Week of Easter
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Ferial

Wednesday of 3 rd Week of Easter	
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No Mass

Thursday 27th April

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Thursday of 3 rd Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	1.00pm	Requiem: Anne Tomlin (Nancy) RIP
	6.30pm	Parish Mass: Tommy Lake RIP

Ferial

Thursday of 3 rd Week of Easter	
Requiem: Anne Tomlin (Nancy) RIP	
Parish Mass: Tommy Lake RIP	

Friday 28th April

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Friday of 3 rd Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Parish Mass: Kay & Ray Ford GE
St Thomas of Canterbury	10.30am	Adoration
Hastings Crematorium	12noon	
	1.15pm	Requiem: Fr David Russell RIP
	1.15pm	Funeral Service of Joan Saunders

Ferial

Friday of 3 rd Week of Easter	
Parish Mass: Kay & Ray Ford GE	
Adoration	
Requiem: Fr David Russell RIP	
Funeral Service of Joan Saunders	

Saturday 29th April

St Mary Magdalene	Feast	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Robert Mogridge RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Theodore & Arabella Benton
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Deceased members the Leppard Family

Feast

St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor	
Robert Mogridge RIP	
Adoration & Confessions	
Baptism of Theodore & Arabella Benton	
Confessions on Request	
Deceased members the Leppard Family	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, A (GOOD SHEPHERD & VOCATIONS SUNDAY)

Acts 2:14, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20-25 & Jn 10:1-10

Sunday 30th April

St Martha's Church	Sunday	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	
St Martha's	11.00am	Gary, David McNamara Family GE
	11.00am	Syro Malabar Mass

Sunday

People of the Parish	
Gary, David McNamara Family GE	
Syro Malabar Mass	

Second Collection: Education of Future Priests

Parish Offertory: With the impending closure of HSBC Bexhill, we are now paying the offertory in at the Post Office. **Paying in coins is especially problematic**, so please try to round up your coins and give only notes in the collection baskets or consider setting up a standing order. Thank you.

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.