

PARISH NEWS

Deanery Confirmation Mass

We would love to have a group of singers and musicians from across the Deanery for the Deanery Confirmation on Sunday 18th June 3pm (arrive 2pm) at Arundel Cathedral. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday 3rd June at 11am in Eastbourne. All who wish to be involved contact Marylou Cockshoot by 27th May, email: marylou.cockshoot@gmail.com

Thank you.

With gratitude

The Knights of St Columba Council 630 wish to thank all who contributed to the three local Parishes Hastings, St Leonards and Bexhill to our fund raising at Easter for the Food Bank. The sum of £400 was gratefully received by Hastings Food Bank. A great result!

Gift Aid Donor Statements 2022-2023

These are now available in the porch of St Mary Magdalene church. They will remain there for two weeks, and then moved to St Marthas. If you would in future prefer to receive via email, which is more sustainable, please contact the parish office to update your records. Thank you.

Gift Aid Envelopes: these are still available for collection from St Martha's.

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.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

The Gospel this Sunday is part of what is known as Our Lord's farewell discourse. It was the night before his death and Our Lord speaks of 'going away' but he promises the disciples that they won't be left alone. He knows that they will need comforting and reassuring and that when he leaves them, they won't know what to do.

One of our greatest fears is being abandoned or left alone and many stories, books and films often use this fear of being abandoned - all alone. But Jesus promises that this won't happen to us. He will send his spirit to be our advocate and he reminds us that if we love him, we will keep his commandments.

Love is not about saying the right thing it is also about doing the right thing. So, if we seek to preach love to others but live our own lives in a way that conveys that we don't really believe what we are preaching then we are wasting our time. 'Anyone who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me'.

'If you love me you will keep my commandments' is not just about keeping rules but about really 'living' our faith. It really means making changes to our lives and working at how we behave and think, helped by the Holy Spirit. Do we allow our society, based upon material wealth, to dominate how we think and behave? Or do we let ourselves be influenced by Our Lord and what he would want us to think and do. We can ask ourselves, 'Do we live in the way that Jesus wants us to by following the Church's teaching?' When we do, Jesus lives within us and it is only then that we are able to take the love of Jesus to others. God bless. Deacon Simon.

Grandparents Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation West Grinstead **Wed 14th June, 11am - 3pm.** With Bishop Richard. Bring a picnic. To book: [Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead \(14-Jun-2023\) . ChurchSuite Events](https://www.churchsuite.com/events/Grandparents_Pilgrimage_to_West_Grinstead_(14-Jun-2023)_.ChurchSuite_Events) See posters.

We pray for those who have died: Michael (Mike) Boakes 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: 21 May, 11, 25 June, 9 July.

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

Parish Pentecost Sunday (Buffet) Lunch (organised by the Catenians): The Catenians invite all parishioners to join them for a buffet lunch at **1pm on Sunday 28th May in St Martha's Hall**. As well as a social occasion, you can meet the Hastings & Bexhill Catenians and find out more about their mission.

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 is 19th May in St Martha's Hall, 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 27th May, 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.

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.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: we have c.40 people receiving Communion at Home. If you were previously commissioned as an EMHC and not currently taking Communion to the housebound, we would love to hear from you. If you are a practicing Catholic (*with no impediment to receiving Holy Communion*) and are willing to take Communion to the housebound please contact Fr Simon or the Office.

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://stmmbxhill.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://stmmbxhill.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. Children Preparing for First Holy Communion this year who attend non-Catholic Schools are invited with an adult to attend a Preparation Session at St Martha's Hall. Bring your "I Belong" Book. Please email the Office with your choice of date: Sat 20th May or Sat 27th May 9.30am - 11 am. **Confirmation:** Next session: 5pm on Sun. 21st May (Presbytery)

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

Hastings & Rother Interfaith Forum next meeting: Tuesday 16th May, 7pm – 9pm, Hastings Unitarian Church, 8 South Terrace, Hastings TN34 1SA. Oliver Carpenter-Beale, President, Hastings Spiritualist Brotherhood Church, will be "Introducing my Faith". See posters.

Three Churches in Little Common next meeting: St Martha's Church Hall on Wednesday 17th May at 11am. We shall be looking at the life of St Paul followed by a chat and refreshments. All are welcome.

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.

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.

Mass Intentions: These get booked up six months in advance. To make an offering, our contact & bank details are on the back page, please remember to reference Mass Intention. You may request certain dates, but these are only indicative because of funerals, diocesan requirements, and other unforeseen events. We can only accept one intention per Mass, so for multiple intentions, you can also send your intentions to the Missions.

Faith Enrichment programme in conjunction with the Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Circle: John de Waal will be speaking on the life of Cardinal Manning who was a 19th century contemporary of St John Henry Newman, on 22nd May, 7.30pm to 9pm, at Our Lady of Ransom church hall, Eastbourne.

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.

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 13th May	Feast	Saturday in 5th Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	No morning Adoration or Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Deceased Members of Di Mascio Family RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, A

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18 & Jn 14:15-21

Sunday 14th May	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	Mick Hanson RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's	11.00am	Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: The Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese

Monday 15th May	Ferial	Monday of the 6th Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Joseph Thomas RIP
Tuesday 16th May	Ferial	Tuesday of the 6th Week of Easter
St Richard's (students only)	8.45am	Year 9 Mass
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Martin Malone RIP
Wed 17th May	Ferial	Wednesday of 6th Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene		No Mass
Thursday 18th May		The Ascension of the Lord
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Vocations to the Priesthood in Arundel & Brighton Diocese
Holy Mass of the Ascension	2.00pm	Primary School Mass of the Ascension.
Primary School (by invite)	6.30pm	Joseph Thomas RIP
St Mary Magdalene		
Friday 19th May	Ferial	Friday of 6th Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene		No Mass
Saturday 20th May	Ferial	Saturday of 6th Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Edward Newman RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.30am	Convalidation of Elizabeth & Dean Fox
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Deceased members the Antonelli Family RIP

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, A

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16 & Jn 17:1-11

Sunday 21st May	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Fred Herring RIP
St Martha's	11.00am	Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: World Communications Sunday

Parish Offertory: With the 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. (Please add a reference).