

# PARISH NEWS

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A.

The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea

Comprising St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

### 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

\*\*\* save the date\*\*\*

Just 12 weeks to go to our celebration of our parish's 130th anniversary. Along with an anniversary Mass, we hope to have other events that highlight the best of our parish and give us some time to explore the next period in the life of our parish in the light of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Hence, we call it an '*ignition*' weekend, as Christians always desire to be on '*fire with the Spirit*'. Members of our Parish Strategy Group will be contacting our parish groups to help firm up our plans.

### Deacon Simon Kirkdale

#### Anniversary of Ordination: 16<sup>th</sup> July

Congratulations to Deacon Simon this Sunday, on the Anniversary of his Ordination to the Diaconate, when he became a Herald of the Gospel and a Minister of Charity. Ad Multos Annos! We thank him for his ministry to the parish.

### Parish Office Closed

#### for Staff Holiday

**11<sup>th</sup> July to 21<sup>st</sup> July (inclusive).**

Urgent message during this period only to:

[Simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk)

Otherwise, the Parish Office is open by appointment only.

Please contact the parish office 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.

**Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.**

### The Bible – The Word of God

St Paul begins his letter to the Hebrews: '*In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son*'. Our Lord is the ultimate and definitive Word of God and the General Instructions of the Roman Missal remind us that '*When the Sacred Scriptures are read in Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel*'. It is for this reason that the Church urges all of us to read the Bible. After all, as St. Jerome reminds us: '*Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ*'. The books of the Bible, inspired by God, teach us the truth.

Pope Benedict XVI said: '*We must not read Sacred Scripture as words of the past but as the Word of God that is also addressed to us, and we must try to understand what it is that the Lord wants to tell us*'. He further advises us to remember that the Word of God has been given to us specifically to build communion and join forces in the truth on our journey towards God. So, as well as being personal is it also something that builds community and the Church. The Bible is the Word of God because it is one of the ways in which God speaks to us and reveals himself to us so that we may come to know him, love him, and serve him. The Gospels are not just a record of what Christ said but they allow us to listen to him speaking to us as individuals now. They have an ageless and personal quality. How often do you read from your copy?

God bless. Deacon Simon Kirkdale.

### St Mary Magdalene Primary School:

We welcome representatives of St Mary Magdalene Primary School for their "**Parish Mass**" at 9am Mass at St Martha's, Little Common this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**We pray for those who have died:** Maria Sylvia Fleming, Krystyna Kwiatkowska, Marion O'Sullivan and Arthur Mackrell RIP.

**We pray for the sick:** Dorothy Smyth, Mary Nash, 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, Leon Barre, Margaret Smythe.

### **Liturgy & Prayer**

**Requiem Masses:** Maria (Sylvia) Fleming at 10am on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July (St Martha's) and Arthur Mackrell at 11.30am on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (St Martha's). Marian O'Sullivan at 11am on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August (St Mary Magdalene), Krystyna Kwiatkowska, date pending. '*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*'. Amen.

**Solemnity of St Mary Magdalene, co-principal patron of the Parish:** We celebrate the patronage of St Mary Magdalene with Holy Mass at 10am on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July in St Mary Magdalene Church.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word 9am Mass at St Martha's:** The '*Liturgy of the Word for Children*' for 2022/23 has now ended. A massive thank you to the team for everything they have offered the children in terms of '*breaking open*' the Word of God. After speaking with the Catechists, we have decided to pause and reflect on the best way forward, and so we have no new dates yet for Children's Liturgy of the Word. As such, we are pausing pre-registration for September until we have decided what to do next. Thank you to those who have submitted registration forms for September. We will keep these on file.

**A&B Lourdes:** Fr Simon will be travelling with the Diocese to Lourdes. There will be no weekday Masses (26<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> Aug.) A supply priest will offer the Sunday Masses on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July. This will also be the annual Missionary Appeal, and he will celebrate the **Mass of St Martha's Feast Day** (Sunday readings).

### **Social & Pastoral**

**SVP Tea @ 3pm:** The next 'Tea @ 3' is 3pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August, St Martha's Hall. For more info, please email the SVP: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk) The next **Friday Pop-In** is 11<sup>th</sup> August 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:** 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 speak with a member of the SVP: 07783 598238 or by email: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

**Parish Grandparent Group:** Are you a mature adult who cares about the spirituality of our young people today? We are thinking of starting a new group for like-minded people who will meet for prayer, discussion, inspiration, support, and fun in others company. Please look out for the yellow flier at the back of the churches. Contact Barbara 01242 217659.

**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. Hastings and Bexhill Catenians: A Catholic Organisation for men and their families who support each other and the Church. With 10,000 members worldwide, Catenians have been active locally for more than 100 years. Visit us at [sussexcatenians.org](http://sussexcatenians.org) and follow us on [www.facebook.com/HasBex](https://www.facebook.com/HasBex)

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



## Sacraments

**Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations 2023:** Fr Simon is interviewing adults desiring to receive the Sacraments in 2024. You can book your appointment by emailing the Parish Office. It is recommended that you have already started attending Mass and share in the life of the community.

**Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6):** Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmbexhill.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://stmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

## First Communion 2024:

Applications are not yet open. They will open on 7<sup>th</sup> August, please do not apply until then.

However, **parents / carers** will need to know about the two preliminary 'Parents Sessions':

- 1) 7pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September **or** 9am on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September (St Martha's Hall) **AND**
- 2) 7pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October **or** 9am on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October (St Martha's Hall).

These two sessions are integral to the First Holy Communion programme and aim to help parents fulfill their promises made at baptism to bring their children up in the Catholic Faith.

**Confirmation 2024.** Applications are not yet open. Please do not apply until invited in the newsletter.

Need a non-urgent pastoral visit? Please use the online form: <https://stmbexhill.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 Summer of 2024.

## Other Notices

**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. You can also send your intentions to the Mission, supporting missionary priests.

**Bexhill Foodbank:** needs tinned ham, biscuits, UHT Milk, long-life juice / squash, rice, pasta and sauce.

**Three Churches in Little Common:** Next meeting will be at The Little Common Methodist Church at 1100 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July (No meeting in August). All welcome.

**Churches Together in Bexhill:** Summer Hymn-Singing at the newly refurbished Bexhill Heritage Bandstand, East Parade on the sea front at 4 pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Full details on the poster at Church.

**All Saints, Sidley 'Flower Festival':** Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July & Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 10am-4pm and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1pm to 4pm. Theme "Reign Supreme", Cost of Entry £1.50

**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****Page 4****Parish Mass Diary and Intentions****Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene

**Memorial**

10.00am  
10.30am  
2.00pm  
5.15pm  
6.00pm

**St Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor**

Edward Newman RIP  
Confessions & Adoration  
Wedding: Bennett & Crawshaw  
Confessions on Request  
Maureen Gibbin RIP

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A**

*Is. 55:10-11, Rom. 8:18-23 & Mt 13:1-23*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

St Martha's  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene  
[St Martha's]

**Sunday**

9.00am  
11.00am  
12.30pm  
[11.00am]

Florence Raey RIP

People of the Parish  
Baptism of Charlotte McEwan  
[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

**Second Collection: SVP (Bexhill Branch)****Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

St Mary Magdalene  
**St Martha's**

**Funeral**

10.00am  
10.00am

**Requiem Mass**

**No Mass**  
Requiem: Maria Sylvia Fleming RIP

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

St Mary Magdalene  
**St Mary Mags Primary**

**Ferial**

11.00am  
2.00pm

**Tuesday in 16<sup>th</sup> Week in OT**

Paddy Ward RIP  
Year 6 Leavers (by invitation)

**Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> July**

St Mary Magdalene

**Ferial**

6.30pm

**Wednesday in 16<sup>th</sup> Week in OT****No Mass****Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

St Mary Magdalene  
**St Mary Mags Primary**

**Ferial**

2.00pm

**Thursday in 16<sup>th</sup> Week in OT**

Tim Phillips GE

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

St Mary Magdalene

**Ferial**

10.00am

**Friday in 16<sup>th</sup> Week in OT**

Betty Elms RIP

**THE SOLEMNITY OF ST MARY MAGDALENE****'The apostle to the Apostles'**

co-principal patron of our Parish

*Song of Songs 3:1-4, 2 Cor. 5:14-17 & Jn 20:1-2, 11-18*

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene

**Solemnity**

10.00am  
11.00am

**St Mary Magdalene**

Hugh Stewart & Francis Steele RIP  
Adoration & Confessions (until 11.30am)

**The 6pm Mass is the Anticipated Mass of 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm

Confessions on Request

6.00pm

Vocations to the Priesthood

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A**

*Wis. 12:13, 16-19, Rom. 8:26-27, & Mt 13:24-43*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

St Martha's Church  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Mary Magdalene  
St Martha's

**Sunday**

9.00am  
11.00am  
12.30pm  
11.00am

Baby Angelo Di Mascio RIP  
People of the Parish  
Baptism of Ava & Arlo Hanlon  
Syro Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: No second collection this week.****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)