

PARISH NEWS

SIXTEENTH 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

Fire Evacuation Plan / Fire Drill.

Every year, Fr Simon is required to 'sign off' that he has 'reviewed' our fire evacuation plans. But when was the last time, we put them to a test with a 'fire drill'? Perhaps, it wasn't necessary during COVID with smaller congregations and **stewards** to keep us safe. Now that Masses are full or nearly full, we should really have a drill, especially at all Sunday Masses. **Groan!** Clearly, this is an undesirable chore, but we will just have to put up with it, so please do cooperate when asked to evacuate. **Yes, there may be some issues**, and that is the point, to identify them for the day when there might be a real emergency, which never happens until they happen! We will do it on one Sunday in August, but to make it as real as possible, Fr Simon is not going to pre-announce which Sunday. At 9am Mass and 11am Mass, we have welcomers who can assist, but at the 6pm (Sat) Mass, we may find this more of a challenge. All of us should take the next couple of weeks to look around where we sit and think who will need assistance in evacuating (*and how they will be helped coming back in*), as we will continue with the Mass!

Parish Office

Re-opens on Monday 24th July, as usual 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.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Children's Liturgy of the Word 2023/24

It is with regret that we are currently unable to run a Liturgy of the Word for Children from September. The team that has provided this liturgy during the previous academic year has done a tremendous job but have been overstretched. Even so, to ensure that they were not burned out, we were only providing this liturgy every other week, during term time, and this was only at one of our three Sunday Masses, and only at St Martha's. To be compliant with the safeguarding requirements, each session needs a team of four people. Volunteers also need to hold a valid DBS with the Diocese. Volunteering should be life giving. Therefore, for 'Children's Liturgy of the Word' to be viable we need 'teams of teams.' One team means they are on duty every other week, two teams mean they are on duty once a month, three teams mean they are on duty once a half term, allowing the volunteers to explore other aspects of their spiritual, pastoral, and family life without it feeling like a burden. Until these 'teams of teams' have been recruited, sadly, we cannot proceed. Then we will also have to turn our attention to baptism preparation, first holy communion preparation etc. In recent months, as the diocese, deaneries, and parishes have been reflecting on the **Diocesan Pastoral Plan**, all of us must gently challenge the notion that the Church is a '**service provider**', that we 'take' what we need. No, instead, all Christians by virtue of their baptism, should consider how they offer service, 'giving' of their time, resources, and talents. As the entrance antiphon for this Sunday prays: 'I will sacrifice to God with a willing heart'. We have much to ponder. Fr Simon.

30th July 2023: Annual Mission Appeal

Next weekend, we welcome a priest from the 'Comboni Missionaries (the Verona Fathers)' who will supply the Sunday Masses and make the annual missionary appeal.

We pray for those who have died: Krystyna Kwiatkowska, Marion O'Sullivan, Arthur Mackrell and Bridget (Bridie) Lacon 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: Arthur Mackrell, 11.30am on Mon. 24th July 2023 (St Martha's); Marian O'Sullivan, 11am on Tues. 8th Aug. (St Mary Magdalene); Krystyna Kwiatkowska, 10am on Mon. 14th Aug. (Reception of the Body, 13th Aug at 4pm); Bridget Lacon, 12noon on Thurs. 10th Aug. (St Mary Magdalene).

Solemnity of St Martha (Mary and Lazarus): We celebrate the patronage of St Martha (co-principal patron of the parish) on Sunday 30th July at all 3 Sunday Masses (Readings of 17th Sunday in OT).

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

130th Parish Anniversary, 6th – 8th October 2023: 11 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. We call it an '*ignition*' weekend, as Christians 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.

Social & Pastoral

SVP Tea @ 3pm: The next 'Tea @ 3' is 3pm on Monday 7th August, St Martha's Hall. For more info, please email the SVP: bexhill@svp.org.uk The next **Friday Pop-In** is 11th 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

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 and follow us on 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://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 Communion 2024 (School Year 3 and above)

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

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

- 1) 7pm on Friday 29th September **or** 9am on Saturday 30th September (St Martha's Hall) **AND**
- 2) 7pm on Friday 13th October **or** 9am on Saturday 14th 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://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, please contact us if marrying in Summer of 2024.

Other Notices

Off-site Parking: when our Church car parks 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.

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 23rd July. Full details on the poster at Church.

CAFOD is looking for new school volunteers to work with our young people inspire and awaken in our children their sense of global justice. If you are interested, contact Jenny Finlayson at A&B CAFOD on 01483 573273 & 07710094448 or arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

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

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 22nd July

St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

Solemnity

10.00am

St Mary Magdalene

Hugh Stewart & Francis Steele RIP

11.00am

Adoration & Confessions (until 11.30am)

The 6pm Mass is the Anticipated Mass of 16th Sunday

St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm

Confessions on Request

St Mary Magdalene

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 23rd July

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

Sunday

9.00am

Baby Angelo Di Mascio RIP

11.00am

People of the Parish

12.30pm

Baptism of Ava & Arlo Hanlon

[11.00am]

[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: No second collection

Monday 24th July

St Mary Magdalene
St Martha's

Funeral

10.00am

Requiem Mass

No Mass

11.30am

Requiem: Arthur McGeary Mackrell RIP

Tuesday 25th July

St Mary Magdalene

Feast

11.00am

St James, Apostle

Ann & Charles Wright RIP

Wed. 26th July

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

St Joachim & St Anne,
Parents of the BVM

No Mass

Thursday 27th July

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

6.30pm

Thursday in 16th Week in OT

No Mass

Friday 28th July

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

Friday in 16th Week in OT

No Mass

Saturday 29th July

St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

Solemnity

10.00am

Martha, Mary and Lazarus of Bethany

No Mass

10.30am

No Adoration or Confessions

5.15pm

No Confessions

6.00pm

People of the Parish

ST MARTHA, MARY & LAZARUS OF BETHANY

(St Martha, co-principal patron of the parish)

(Readings of 17th Sunday in OT A)

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, Rom. 8:28-30 & Mt 13:44-52

Sunday 30th July

St Martha's Church
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Mags (Dcn Simon)
St Martha's

Sunday

9.00am

Holy Souls

11.00am

Halse & Green families RIP

12.30pm

Baptism of Bethany Ameila Reeves

11.00am

Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Appeal: Comboni Missionaries (the Verona Fathers)

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)