

PARISH NEWS

Fire Evacuation Plan / Fire Drill.

More on the upcoming fire drill on 26/27 August 2023, immediately after Holy Communion. Please:

- do not double park in car parks or block gates, preventing access for emergency vehicles.
- do not sit or stand in exits or aisles.
- walk, do not run.
- co-operate when instructed.
- leave bulky items behind.
- familiarize yourself with the exits.
Note: your nearest exit might be unusable or be behind you.
- look around you; who near you might need assistance?
- At St Martha's the muster point is the grassy area on the corner of Birkdale / Cooden Sea Road.
- At St Mary Magdalene, the muster point is the pavement on 'Magdalene Road', outside the hall.
- The Deacon or MC is responsible for evacuating the Altar Servers.
- The duty organist is responsible for evacuating any children or vulnerable adults in the choir.
- do not re-enter until the 'all clear'.

The aim of the exercise is to learn lessons, so there may be issues, so be patient and look out for one another. Thank you.

Parish Office: Open by appointment only. Please contact the parish office by email: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk or 01424 210263 (opt 4) Office hours: Mon – Fri 9.15am to 4.45pm. (**Closed 18th August**)

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,
and give us your saving help.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, body and soul, into Heaven (15th August).

The formal definition of the Assumption came in 1950 after the Vatican was flooded with requests following the formal definition of the Immaculate Conception the century before, the Assumption being the logical consequence of Mary's sinless conception and reward for remaining sinless in life, meaning she is spared the corruption or decay of the body, and takes the fastest route to heaven. This, then, is a matter of justice. Mary is present in heaven as a complete person, body, and soul; we will have to wait for the resurrection of the body on the last day to experience the fulness of redemption. For now, we, like the other saints, can only hope that our souls rest peacefully in the heavenly kingdom. The understanding of Mary's Assumption is far more ancient than 1950, with the tomb of the 2nd century Zaragozan Martyrs (Spain) depicting an image of the Assumption. The Dormition (or *falling asleep*) of Mary was celebrated liturgically from 4th Century, and to this day there are no relics of Our Lady, which is notable in a Church that gathered up the bones of their saints. For instance, Smyra collected the relics of Polycarp and St Peter's Basilica in Rome is built over his grave; and yet neither Jerusalem nor Ephesus (*where John made a home for Our Lady*) claim any relics. St John Damascene (8th Century) implies that the same singular holiness and grace that allowed her to be the Mother of God, means she continues to be intimately united to Christ. Thus, the Assumption is a Son's love for His Mother, who would not separate himself from her. He who preserved her spotless virginity, before, during and after birth now surely preserves her body from decay. It seems, then, that God wishes that the Ark of the New Covenant be returned to heaven, where she will be crowned Queen of Heaven. God Bless. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Krystyna Kwiatkowska.

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

Krystyna Kwiatkowska: Requiem Mass: 10am, Mon. 14th Aug & Vigil: 4pm, 13th Aug in STMM.

The Assumption (Holy Day of Obligation) 15th August: Holy Mass on Tuesdays is 11am. Fr Simon's diary allows an additional Mass for the benefit of working parishioners at 7pm on Monday 14th August.

130th Parish Anniversary, 6th – 8th October 2023: 8 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.

Altar Server Mass – Saturday 23rd September at Arundel Cathedral: Fr Aaron Spinelli, Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen, invites diocesan altar servers to a special Mass at Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 23 September at 12 noon, led by Bishop Richard. The Mass is for all those who have served, all those who are serving, and anybody who would like to serve - all are very welcome. Fr Aaron requests attendees bring a cassock/cotta or an alb (if possible), and a packed lunch. There is no need to register, though attendees are asked to E: aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk to confirm numbers.

Social & Pastoral

SVP Tea @ 3pm: The next 'Tea @ 3' is 3pm on Monday 11th September, St Martha's Hall. For more info, please email the SVP: bexhill@svp.org.uk

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 01424 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://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 (School Year 3 and above) Applications are now open, and will close on 30th September. The application form can be found here: <https://stmbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/>

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 via 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 Autumn 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/ spam/tuna/corned beef, tea, coffee, squash, rice, pasta and sauce.

CAFOD: Our Metropolitan Archbishop John Wilson speaks about his transformative visit to El Salvador, sharing reflections on connecting with communities in need: <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/ElSalvador>

St Richard's Catholic College: for children approaching the transfer period to secondary school, serious consideration is needed in discerning the process of transition. With kind permission of Mr McKeever, Miss Cronin (Head at St Richard's) invites you to an evening presentation **at St Mary Magdalene Primary School at 6.30pm on Thursday 21st September.** Present with the Leadership and Management Team will be the Pastoral Leader of Year 7 and the SENCO. **St Richard's Open Day:** 6pm on Wed. 4th October.

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.

PARISH NEWS**Page 4****Parish Mass Diary and Intentions****Saturday 12th August**

St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene
St Martha
St Mary Magdalene
St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

10.00am
10.30am
12.30pm
5.15pm
6.00pm

Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Joseph Thomas RIP
Confessions & Adoration
Baptism of Dylan Fernandez
Confessions on Request
Thresiamma Joseph RIP

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, Rom. 9:1-5 & Mt 14:22-33

Sunday 13th August

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

Sunday

09.00am
11.00am
12.30pm
4.00pm
11.00am

People of the Parish

Sr Imelda GE for services to the parish
Baptism of Michael Emmanuel Hughes
Vigil: Krystyna Kwiatkowska RIP
Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Church Flowers**Monday 14th August**

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

10.00am

St Maximilan Kolbe, Martyr

Requiem: Krystyna Kwiatkowska RIP

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM (Holy Day of Obligation)

St Mary Magdalene

7.00pm

Vigil Mass:

Tuesday 15th August

St Mary Magdalene

Solemnity

11.00am

The Assumption: Holy Day

Frank Horner RIP

Wed. 16th August

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial**Wednesday in 19th Week in OT**

No Mass

Thursday 17th August

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

6.30pm

Thursday in 19th Week in OT

The Snowden Family

Friday 18th August

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

Friday in 19th Week in OT

Francesca Surman & Grace Surman GE

Saturday 19th August

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

10.00am

Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Fr Simon, Dcn Simon & Bonita GE

St Mary Magdalene

10.30am

Adoration & Confessions

St Mary Magdalene

12.30pm

Baptism of Jude Watts

St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm

Confessions on Request

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

Is. 56:1, 6-7, Rom. 11:13-15, 29-32, Mt 15:21-28

Sunday 20th August

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

Sunday

9.00am
11.00am
12.30pm
11.00am

Elizabeth Francis RIP

Peter Dolan RIP

Baptism of Pennie McMorran

Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Survive-Miva (Missionary Vehicle Association)**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)

Keys for St Martha's

If anyone is in possession of keys for St Martha's church or hall, and does not use or need them, please may you return them to the parish office. Thank you.