

27th August 2023

PARISH NEWS

Twenty-First 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.

THIS SUNDAY! (26/27 August),
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.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal:

discard not the work of your hands.

"He shall be a Father to the people".

Monday 28th August is the 5th Anniversary of my appointment as Parish Priest. There have been many challenges and the brief the Diocese gave me was to urgently balance the operational budget, which was accomplished through the closures of the Parish Nursery and Sidley, and by staff redundancies, all while being hampered by COVID. As you would imagine, this was not the dream I had for my first appointment as parish priest, and I am conscious that some found these decisions hard, in themselves, or the way in which they were enacted. Among the promises I made at my Induction, there was one you did not see because it was made in the sacristy; it was the promise to manage the temporal goods of the parish. As Parish Priest, I hold the legal responsibility to ensure that the '*mission*' is conducted in line with Diocesan Health & Safety policies. As parents might appreciate, part of being a '*father*' includes unpopular decisions because they have the long term good of the parish in mind. The Parish Priest is appointed by the bishop to help him sanctify, govern, and teach the People of God in this part of the Diocese. Borrowing from Isaiah, it is akin to his words to the House of David, '***I invest him with your robe, gird him with your authority; and he shall be a Father***' to the people. And so, I renew my promise to only teach that which is in accord Sacred Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church. As to the parish's temporal resources, I am in active discussions with the Diocese to consider how, in line with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, the management of our current estate best serves the mission of the gospel in Bexhill. This is a complex issue, and with Diocesan guidance, I and the Finance Committee will keep you apprised as we know more. What I can tell you, it will require a renewed commitment to mission and service from all parishioners. God bless. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Doreen Turner RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, Mary Nash, Margaret Hitchman, David Spooner, 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.

Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/>

Here you will find Diocesan News: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news>

Here you can sign up for Diocesan Events: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

Liturgy & Prayer

Doreen Turner RIP: Requiem Mass: 1.30pm on Monday 18th September in St Mary Magdalene.

130th Parish Anniversary, 6th – 8th October 2023: 7 weeks to go to our celebration of our parish's 130th anniversary. The Anniversary Mass will be on Saturday 7th October, at 11am in St Martha's Church, following by lunch in St Martha's Hall. More weekend event details to follow in subsequent newsletters.

Altar Server Mass – Saturday 23rd September at Arundel Cathedral: Altar Servers are invited to join Bishop Richard and Fr Aaron Spinelli, Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen for Mass at Arundel Cathedral on Sat. 23 Sept. at 12 noon. The Mass is for those who have served, are serving, or anyone who would like to serve - all welcome. Please bring your own alb or cassock/cotta, and a packed lunch. No need to register but you are asked to email aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk to confirm numbers.

Fr Simon's summer holiday 30th Aug – 16th Sept: there will be no weekday Masses while he is away.

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

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

Christian Voices the Musical Drama Group: present "Anger in Nazareth" in St Martha's Hall on Mon. 4th Sept. at 8.00pm. Based on Luke 4:16-30, Jesus returns home to Nazareth and enters the Synagogue and reads from the Scriptures. How will the people react when He says he has been anointed by God?

Newman Association (Eastbourne & Bexhill Circle): As part of the Faith Enrichment Programme, Father Mike Hagan will speak on "*The Signs of the Times*" at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start on 11th September in Our Lady of Ransom, Church Hall, Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU The evening ends at 9pm.

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



Sacraments

Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations 2023: Fr Simon has completed his interviews (or has the last appointments in his diary) for adults desiring to receive the Sacraments in 2024. The Catechists will be in touch in the early autumn to invite you to start the RCIA course.

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

First Communion 2024 (School Year 3 and above): Applications are open (close on 30th September). The application form is found here: <https://stmmbehill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/> We begin with two preliminary 'Parents Sessions': 7pm on Friday 29th September or 9am on Saturday 30th September (St Martha's Hall) AND 7pm on Friday 13th October or 9am on Saturday 14th October (St Martha's Hall).

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://stmmbehill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone the parish office on 01424 210 263 opt 4 to arrange a home visit.

Annual SVP Mass with the Anointing of the Sacrament of the Sick:

3pm on Saturday 23rd September (Confessions from 2.15pm), St Martha's, Little Common

Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass, and for those who are sick, there will be the anointing with the 'Sacrament of the Sick' and for those not being anointing, prayers for other forms of healing will be offered. If you are coming, please feel free to bring members of your family with you, especially if they are otherwise unable to attend Mass regularly due to age or infirmity. It is a such a wonderful opportunity for us to experience this celebration together. A light tea will be served in the hall afterwards. If you would like to come but need transport, please contact Ron Brazier on 01424 844177 or Chris Jones on 07783 598238

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.

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'.

Bexhill Foodbank: needs tinned ham/spam/tuna/corned beef, tea, coffee, squash, rice, pasta and sauce.

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

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 26th August

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

Opt. Mem

10.00am
10.30am
12.30pm
5.15pm
6.00pm

Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God

Michael Halse RIP
Confessions & Adoration
Baptism of Jemimah & Eliana Daly
Confessions on Request
William & Veronica Hayes RIP

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

Is. 22:19-23, Rom. 11:33-36 & Mt 16:13-20

Sunday 27th August

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

Sunday

09.00am Bill Marsh RIP
11.00am People of the Parish
12.30pm Baptism of Alexander Arnold Fisher
11.00am Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: No retiring collection – fire drill instead!

Monday 28th August

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

10.00am

St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor

Mary Carroll GE (Birthday)

Tuesday 29th August

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

11.00am

Beheading of St John, the Baptist.

Noreen Corness RIP

Wed. 30th August

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, Martyrs.

No Mass

Thursday 31st August

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

6.30pm

St Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne

No Mass

Friday 1st August

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

Friday in 21st Week in OT

No Mass

Saturday 2nd September

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

Opt. Mem

10.00am
10.30am
5.15pm
6.00pm

Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God

No Mass

No Adoration or Confessions

No Confessions

Deceased members Buckle Family

TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

Jer. 20:7-9, Rom. 12:1-2 & Mt 16:21-27. (Fr Paul Jennings Supplying)

Sunday 3rd September

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

Sunday

9.00am
11.00am
12.30pm
11.00am

People of the Parish

Thomas & Norah Moran RIP

Baptism of Noah & Indie Parsons

Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: No retiring collection

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)

Caring for our Church: Volunteers needed to clean St Mary Magdalene's: We have not given it a good clean since Easter! Please come and help on any of these dates: **Monday 4th September 10-12am, Thursday 7th September 10-12am, Tuesday 12th September 2-4 pm.** Refreshments will be provided. Please feel free to bring brush, duster, long-handled duster, or anything you think will help, it is a large space to clean.