

PARISH NEWS

130th Parish Anniversary Weekend

The Anniversary Mass will be on Saturday 7th October, at 11am in St Martha's Church, followed by lunch in St Martha's Hall.

Celebrating who we are!

As part of the Anniversary celebrations, parishioners are invited to bring in photos of special memories throughout the years for displays in the entrances to St Martha's and St Mary Magdalene's. Images could be of Sacramental Celebrations: Weddings, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, achievements or just photos of families, loved ones, past or present in and around the parish. Display boards will be up from Saturday 9th Sept. until the celebratory weekend of 7th and 8th Oct. 2023. After the event photos can either be collected or added to the parish archive, please make sure you write your **name** and either **collect** or **archive** on the back. Please include the following permission on each photograph for display: **I give permission for this photo to be included in a public display and will collect / leave for archive.** (please note: photos will be pinned to the boards so duplication of older images is recommended) All welcome to participate.

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.

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

The role of sacristan is a very important ministry. The sacristan not only supports the priest, but their work enables the whole community to fully participate in the liturgical celebrations. Their role ensures that there is no frantic rush to organise things before Mass and prevents a 'break' in proceedings because something essential has been left in the cupboard in the sacristy.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal simply states that the sacristan "... diligently arranges the liturgical books, the vestments and other things that are necessary for the celebration of Mass" (no. 105). This also means that work needs to be done to ensure that what is required for Mass is clean, well-maintained, and in good supply.

There may be a number of volunteers to assist as sacristans. Some may prepare the church for Mass each Sunday, while some others take the responsibility for tasks such as washing linen, cleaning the sacred vessels, or checking the supply of requisites such as bread and wine. Things like the candlesticks, thurible and processional cross need to be cleaned, polished, and maintained to ensure they are at their best and fit for purpose for the Celebration of Mass.

Those who minister in the sacristy perform a valuable and essential role for the good of our parish community.

Many hands make light work, and we urgently need more volunteers at both churches to help those that are currently carrying out this ministry.

Can you Help? If you can, please contact the parish office.

God bless, Deacon Simon Kirkdale.

Supplementary Form Signing for St Richard's Catholic College

Fr Simon will be available in the Presbytery / Parish Office at 7pm on Mondays 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th October. Forms will be signed on a first-come, first-served basis. He will stay until the queue has finished. Please remember to bring your completed SIF, copies of your sacramental certificates. Replacements certificates from the Bexhill Parish Office are charged at £10.

Those who attend the Syro-Malabar Mass should ask Fr Mathew to sign their SIF form.

(SIF forms for St Mary Magdalene Primary School will be signed at 7pm on Mondays 27th Nov. & 4th & 11th Dec).

We pray for those who have died: Doreen Turner RIP, Juliet Duffy 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, Roy Mitchell, Margaret McNamara, Keith Bourne, Leon Barre, Margaret Smythe.

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

News: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news> 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.

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.

Harvest Festival: On Sunday 1st October we will be holding our Annual Collection of food for the Foodbank. Please bring donations of tins, jars, packets of pasta, rice, cereals etc before 9am Mass at St Martha's Church. CWL will be selling hot dogs and there will be a cake sale, all proceeds to Foodbank.

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

Newman Association (Eastbourne & Bexhill Circle): As part of the Faith Enrichment Programme, Father Mike Hagan will speak on "The Signs of the Times" at 7pm for 7.30pm start on 11th September in Our Lady of Ransom, Church Hall, Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU The evening ends at 9pm.

"East Sussex Health Trust's Faith and Belief Network presents a joint evening with Hastings and

Rother Interfaith Forum: Tuesday 12th September on the role of faith within healthcare practices. To book: esht.faithandbelief@nhs.net . See posters.

Three Churches in Little Common: Next meeting Wednesday 20th September, in St Martha's Church Hall. We shall be looking at some favourite psalms – and singing! All are welcome."

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://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 open (close on 30th September). The application form is found here: <https://stmbexhill.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://stmbexhill.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 anointed, 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.

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, Wed. 4th October.

Feedback from last Sunday's Fire Drill: Thank you for your co-operation: here are some learning points:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/08/fire-drill-feedback-26-27-august-2023.pdf>

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 9th September	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	No Adoration or Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

Ez. 33:7-9, Rom. 13:8-10 & Mt 18:15-20. (Fr Chris Benyon Supplying)

Sunday 10th September	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	William (Bill) Austin RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Michael Halse RIP
St Martha's	11.00am	<i>Syro Malabar Mass</i>

Second Collection: Education Sunday (not in our GA scheme)

Monday 11th – Friday 15th September No Mass

No Mass while Fr Simon is on holiday.

Tuesday 12th September – Caring for our Church

Volunteers Required for St Mary Magdalene Church Clean, 2pm – 4pm.
If able, please bring brush, duster, long-handled duster, or anything you think helps to clean this large space. Refreshments provided.

Mass Count at Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses

Saturday 16th September	Memorial	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian, Martyrs
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	No Adoration or Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	12 noon	Baptism Olivia Getty (Fr Barry Anderson)
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish (Fr Chris Benyon Supplying)

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

Ecc. 27:30 - 28:7, Rom. 14:7-9 & Mt 18:21-35.

Sunday 17th September	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mary Rabbett (aka Jo) RIP Inc. St Stephens Guild enrolment
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Edward Newman
St Martha's	11.00am	<i>Syro Malabar Mass</i>

Second Collection: Home Mission Sunday (not in our GA scheme)

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)

Mass Intentions: These get booked up six months in advance. To make an offering, please remember to reference 'Mass Intention'.

2023 Parish Annual Mass Count

For our annual Parish and Diocesan statistics, we kindly ask our **welcome teams to count all parishioners and record on the documents provided**, for the last two weekends of September and the first two weekends of October:

16/17, 23/24, 30 Sept/1, 7/8 Oct