

PARISH NEWS

Advent - Christingle Service

'Let your Light Shine Outside the Parish.'

2.30pm on Sunday 17th December

St Martha's Church followed by

Festive Refreshments in the Hall

Our Parish Advent Christingle Service includes our **Parish Nativity Play** and lots of young actors are needed!

More Information from Sarah Surman:

on 07926 514784

Rehearsal 1: St Martha's Church after 9am Mass on Sunday 10th December.

Rehearsal 2: St Martha's Church after 9am Mass on Sunday 17th December.

Performance: during the Christingle Service, arrive in costume by 2.10pm
(Costumes can be provided if required)

From the Finance Committee

The Christmas Collection is your gift to Fr Simon who does not receive a salary from the diocese but relies on your offerings for Mass Intentions and Sacramental celebrations, plus the two collections at Christmas and Easter. If giving on the day at your Christmas Mass, please use the green envelopes available. Alternatively, please make a BACs transfer using the reference "Christmas". Please note your standing order is for the Parish only.

For Mass intentions & other payments:

BACs: Name: RCD St Mary Magdalene, Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20.

(Please add a reference)

Online Offertory via Diocesan Website:
<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

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

A Voice crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'.

For the Prophet Isaiah, to 'prepare a way for the Lord' is to make a path home from exile, a 'highway', the fastest possible route home. However, if the mistakes of the past that led to exile have not been learned, then the benefits of returning to Jerusalem will be put at risk. Isaiah, then, is a voice, a 'light shining in the darkness' of the exile calling the people to return to the covenant, his prophecy a call that remains counter cultural. There are three elements to prophecy:

- 1) The past – God's saving action in history forms our identity and constitutes a frame of reference for God's people to assess the...
- 2) The Present – how God's people should live and engage with the culture in which they currently find themselves in and who look to...
- 3) The Future – to which all Christian action (sacrifice, goodness, and virtue) is directed, towards eternal life.

The Church continues to be both a 'light in the darkness', illuminating the path of virtue and that 'voice crying in the wilderness', announcing the good news of salvation. Through the Church's Teachings, guarded by the Holy Spirit, we hear that 'sat-nav' style voice reassuring us, 'you are still on the fastest route' home. With every blessing for this Advent Season of hope and expectation. Fr Simon.

The Parish Office

Office Hours: 9.15am to 4.45pm. However, please remember, due to our lone working policies, admittance is by appointment / prearrangement only. Contact: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk
01424 210 263 opt 4.

The Parish Office will be **closed for Christmas** from 4pm on Friday 22nd December, reopening on 9.15am on Tuesday 2nd January.

We pray for those who have died: no new parish notifications

We pray for the sick: Fr Quinn-Morris, Dorothy Smyth, Mary Nash, Margaret Hitchman, David Spooner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, Veronica Phillips, 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, Elizabeth Doust, Fr Boniface.

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>

CAFOD: Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal: Donate to CAFOD's Crisis Appeal on 0303 303 3030 or at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/israeli-palestinian-crisis-appeal>

CAFOD World Gifts: Please visit <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a brochure at the back of the Church for a range of alternative Christmas gifts that you give on behalf of a loved one. They receive a card telling them what you have donated to help make a real difference to people around the world, such as Winter Survival Kits, Soup Kitchens, Greenhouses, Weatherproof crops and much more!

Liturgy & Prayer

St Mary Magdalene 'Big Clean for Christmas' after 10am Mass, Mon 18th Dec, refreshments follow.

New Readers at St Mary Magdalene: Anyone who is interested in becoming a Reader of the Liturgy at the 6pm Vigil and 11am Sunday Masses (from January 2024) please contact Barrie: bfrp@live.co.uk We especially need at least two new readers for the 6pm Saturday evening Mass.

Advent Taize – 'Wait for the Lord': 4pm Service of Music and Prayer on Sunday 17th Dec. at St Thomas of Canterbury, St Leonard's. If you wish to help with the music, please arrive for a practice at 3pm.

Day of Reflection with Bishop Richard: Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Readers: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/9vii0inm> Sacred Heart, Cobham (20th Jan. 2024)

EMHC: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/diqacwqd> St Michael's, Worthing (10th Feb. 2024)

Social & Pastoral

Knights of St Columba - Hastings & Rother Valley: The KSC visit our parish on Sat. 16th and Sun. 17th December to distribute (*for a small donation to their charities*) a "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster.

SVP Christmas Lunch: (*replacing Tea at 3 this month*) at **1.30pm**, Mon. 11th Dec, St Martha's Hall. Info: bexhill@svp.org.uk Tea at 3pm returns in the New Year. All Welcome.

Bereavement Support: offering 6 one-hour 1-2-1 sessions with one of our Bereavement Team. Lauren: 07880 662341, David: 07771 757367 or contact the SVP: 07783 598238 or by email: bexhill@svp.org.uk

Catholic Women's League (CWL): a group for women, meeting at 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, to share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community. Contact: 211717 or 221803.

10th Dec: Retiring Collection, Friends of the Holy Land. Please donate in the baskets at Church or visit: <https://www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/> to help support Christians in the Holy Land.

Sussex Catenians: A Catholic organisation for men and their families in Hastings & Bexhill.

More info: <https://sussexcatenians.org/> or scan the QR opposite, to watch a video:

Church Heating: The central heating is working, but even so, still wear warm clothing.



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



Sacraments

Adult Baptisms & Receptions & Confirmations: Please pray for our Catechumen for Baptism & Candidates for Reception, who now deepen their appreciation of the Catholic faith. The next event is the Rite of Election on the Saturday prior to 1st Sunday of Lent. Applications for 2024/25 open after Easter.

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 Holy Communion: Please start working through Chapters 3 & 4 of the '*I Belong Course*', ahead of 1st Confessions at 4pm on one of these dates: 8th Jan & 15th Jan, then 5th Feb, 12th Feb & 19th Feb at the Presbytery at St Mary Magdalene. No need to book. Confessions will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Confirmation 2024: Next Session is 5pm on Sunday 7th January at St Mary Magdalene Presbytery, but they are also involved with the Christingle Service as part of their Service Project to the Parish.

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 Winter of 2024.

'Invited': Diocesan Advent Reflection: Continues Thursday 14th December and Monday 18th December, hosted by the **Parish Charismatic Group** 7.15pm in St Mary Magdalene Presbytery. Films found here: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited> or <https://www.youtube.com/@AandBcommunications>

Arrangements for 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve / Day

Fr Simon will celebrate 1 Mass in each Church for 4th Sun. of Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day:

4th Sun of Advent: 6pm on Sat 23rd Dec in St Mary Magdalene & 9am on Sun. 24th Dec in St Martha's.

Christmas Mass (of 'Midnight'): Sunday 24th Dec, 4pm in St Martha's & 6pm in St Mary Magdalene.

Christmas Day Mass: Monday 25th Dec, 9am (Dawn) in St Martha's, 11am (Day) in St Mary Magdalene.

Other Service Required, in a similar vein to the Front Page

Fairtrade Group: A volunteer is sought to manage a Fairtrade Stall once a month at St Martha's and / or St Mary Magdalene. More info: speak with Bridget Grant, Bridget Schofield, or Jack Doherty.

Marriage Preparation: The Parish & Deanery needs parishioners to help run the Diocesan designed Marriage Preparation Course for engaged couples. More information: contact Deacon Simon.

St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill-on-Sea.

The Parish expresses its immense gratitude to Miss Cronin as she retires as Principal, thanking her for the enormous contribution she has given to Catholic Education over so many years. At the start of the new term in January, the College welcomes Mr Barker as the new Head of St Richard's Catholic College and our parish looks forward to welcoming him in due course and working closely with him to further the Catholic Mission. We wish all staff and pupils a happy and holy Christmas Holiday at the end of this week.

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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Saturday 9th December	Opt. Mem	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Toby Stephen GE
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration & Advent Talk
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Confessions
Presbytery	11.00am	Session for Readers
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, B

Is. 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8

Sunday 10th December

St Martha's Church	Sunday	
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	Shelagh Smith RIP
<i>St Martha's</i>	11.00am	Edward Newman RIP

Second Collection: Friends of the Holy Land (Not in our GA scheme)

Monday 11th December

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Monday of 2nd Week of Advent
AMEX Stadium	9.00am	Mary Bunyan RIP

11.00am *Sussex Clergy Gathering*

Tuesday 12th December

<i>St Richard's</i>	Opt. Mem	Our Lady of Guadalupe
St Mary Magdalene	8.45am	<i>No Form Mass today</i>
<i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	10.00am	People of the Parish

11.30am *Monthly Deanery Meeting*

Wed. 13th December

St Mary Magdalene	Memorial	St Lucy, Virgin Martyr
		No Mass

Thursday 14th December

St Mary Magdalene	Memorial	St John of the Cross
	6.30pm	Joseph Thomas RIP

Friday 15th December

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Friday of 2nd Week of Advent
	10.00am	Rebecca Surman & Paul Murphy GE

Saturday 16th December

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Saturday of 2nd Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Jean Fenton RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Gerardo Di Mascio RIP

THIRD (GAUDETE) SUNDAY OF ADVENT, B

Is. 61:1-2, 10-11, 1 Thess. 5:16-24 & Jn 1:6-8, 19-28.

Sunday 17th December

St Martha's Church	Sunday	
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Martha's	11.00am	Margaret & Don Skinner RIP
<i>St Martha's</i>	2.30pm	Parish Christingle Service

11.00am *Syro Malabar Mass*

Second Collection: Christmas Flowers (GA scheme)

Parking in our Church Car Parks: St Mary Magdalene & St Martha's.

Our car parks have limited spaces. When they are full, please park legally off-site, with consideration for our neighbours. Please also respect the coned off areas and do not move them. These cones / areas are there to keep cars and people apart, thus allowing for the safe ingress and egress of pedestrians (*who under the revised Highway Code, have priority*). The cones are also in place to stop people obstructing fire exits. Please do not double park, which might prevent access by emergency vehicles if the situation were to arise. *The public car park in Little Common is £1 for 4hrs.*