

PARISH NEWS

24th December 2023 to 5th January 2024

Christmas Double Edition.

The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea

Comprising St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

4th Sunday of Advent

Masses:

6pm Vigil Mass (23rd December)

St Mary Magdalene

9am Mass (24th December)

St Martha's

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it done unto me according to thy Word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word became flesh.

And dwelt amongst us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Parish Office

The Parish Office will be **closed for**

Christmas from

4pm on Friday 22nd December,
reopening

9.15am on Tuesday 2nd January.

Non-urgent administration:

Contact: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Urgent Matters only:

simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

4th Sunday of Advent:

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Mass of Midnight:

Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

Dawn Mass:

This day new light will shine upon the earth:

the Lord is born for us.

Mass of the Day:

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Merry Christmas!

The Parish Clergy: Fr Simon and Deacon Simon, along with Bonita our Administrator wish you a Happy & Holy Christmas.

May 2024, for you and your families, be 'another year of favour from the Lord'.

31st December: Sunday of the Holy Family.

By virtue of our baptism, we are called to be missionary disciples, and the building blocks of an effective apostolate of charity, prayer, formation, and mission are first found in the Family which is properly called the '*domestic Church*'. As Bishop Richard will say in the Pastoral Plan (due to be released on 2nd January), '*Prayer is the life-breath of the Christian. Nothing is possible without it and the continuing life of the Diocese, as in the past, will depend upon the life of prayer of all of us*'. Only in a family that makes prayer a priority can we see, as the gospel for this Sunday suggests, our children truly growing to maturity as a child of God, assured that they are filled with wisdom, and have God's favour resting upon them. With every blessing for the New Year. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Mary Nash, Eileen O'Donovan RIP.

We pray for the sick: Fr Quinn-Morris, Dorothy Smyth, 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, Margaret McNamara, Keith Bourne, Leon Barre, Elizabeth Doust, Fr Boniface, Pat Payne.

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>

Diocesan Pastoral Plan Update – December 2024

Diocesan Communications have sent through an update on the Pastoral Plan, and can be found here:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/12/diocesan-pastoral-plan-update-december-2023.pdf>

Liturgy & Prayer

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

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 8th January, St Martha's Hall. Info: bexhill@svp.org.uk All Welcome.

Bereavement Support: if you are recently bereaved or still struggling with Bereavement, our Ministry of Consolation Bereavement befrienders are here to offer support. We also have trained counsellors who can offer support. In the first instance, contact our administrator: 07783 598238 or E: 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.

Fundraising

Contactless Payments with Dona: Parish Offertory: No Cash? No problem! We have Dona Contactless Machines in both Churches. Simply select the right category (e.g., *Offertory Collection*, *Second Collection*, *Christmas Collection*). Select an amount (or enter an amount). Tap your contactless card when directed. **GIFT AID:** Some collections are eligible for Gift Aid. If eligible you will be asked to add it. Select yes or no. If you are adding gift aid, it will be linked to your Card & email address, so if doing so for the first time you will need to complete a quick registration (once only). Every future donation eligible for gift aid will then be noted as such by the Dona device. As both devices are registered to the Parish, if you register on the St Mary Magdalene Church, it is automatically recorded on the device at St Martha's (and vice versa). Some 3rd party collections are not eligible for Gift Aid, and so the functionality for these will be switched off. Thank you for continuing to support your parish through your offertory giving.

Unwanted Christmas Presents? Please consider donating unwanted presents to the **Bexhill SVP** after Christmas and throughout January, helping them raise funds to support many people. Your kindness is appreciated. Unwanted items can be placed in the special boxes at the back of both Churches.

[Sussex Catenians: A Catholic organization for men and their families in Hastings & Bexhill. More info: <https://sussexcatenians.org/> or scan the QR opposite, to watch a video:]



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



Barrie Wright's 70th Birthday Sponsored Pilgrimage for Christians in Gaza:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/12/barrie-wrights-70th-birthday-pilgrimage-for-christians-in-gaza.pdf>

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>

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, Sacramental celebrations, and the collections at Christmas and Easter. If giving on the day, please use the green envelopes available or the Dona Contactless Machine. Alternatively, please make a BACs transfer with 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/>

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://stmmrbexhill.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://stmmrbexhill.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.

Need a non-urgent pastoral visit? Please use the online form: <https://stmmrbexhill.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.

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

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

Data Protection Reminder to all groups: when sending out group emails, please use the Bcc function.

Fr Boniface: is out of hospital, recuperating at Holy Cross Priory and is grateful for your prayers.

The next Newsletter will be 7th January, the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

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 23rd December	23rd Dec	O Emmanuel / O God with us
St Mary Magdalene	9.30am	Ann Ford RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Christmas Set up
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on Request

The only Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent for those wishing to attend at St Mary Magdalene Church will be the "Vigil Mass at 6pm"

St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Baby Angelo DiMascio RIP
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, B

2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Rom. 16:25-27 & Lk 1:26-38.

Sunday 24th December

St Martha's Church	Sunday	
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	Mick Hanson RIP
St Martha's	11.00am	NO MASS THIS SUNDAY

Second Collection: No second collection

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Midnight: Is. 9:1-7, Titus 2:11-14 & Lk 2:1-14. Dawn Mass: Is. 62:11-12, Titus 3:4-7 & Lk 2:15-20

Mass of the Day: Is. 52:7-10, Heb. 1:1-6 & Jn 1:1-18.

Sunday 24th December

St Martha's	Christmas	'Mass of Midnight'
St Mary Magdalene	4.00pm	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha's</i>	6.00pm	SVP Sick & Housebound

Monday 25th December

St Martha's	Christmas	Dawn (9am), Day (11am)
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	SVP Sick & Housebound
<i>St Martha's</i>	11.00am	Priest's Intentions

11.00am Syro Malabar Mass

One Collection Only: Christmas Collection

Tuesday 26th December

St Mary Magdalene	Feast	St Stephen, First Martyr
		No Mass

Wed. 27th December

St Mary Magdalene	Feast	St John, Apostle & Evangelist
		No Mass

Thursday 28th December

St Mary Magdalene	Feast	Holy Innocents, Martyrs
St Mary Magdalene	11.45am	Latin Mass with Fr Paul Gillham
	6.30pm	Michael Spillane GE

Friday 29th December

St Mary Magdalene	Feast	St Thomas a Beckett, Martyr
	10.00am	Cathy Paris GE & All Family & Friends

Saturday 30th December

St Mary Magdalene	Octave	6th Day within the Christmas Octave
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Edna & Fred Herring RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	11.15am	Wedding Vows Renewal Parsons
St Mary Magdalene	11.45am	Latin Mass with Fr Paul Gillham
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	GE Welfare of Catholic Parish of Bexhill

Sunday 31st December

St Martha's Church	Sunday	The Holy Family
St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	Bourne, Misty & Young Families GE
<i>St Martha's</i>	11.00am	People of the Parish

11.00am Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Christmas Crib Collection A & B Crisis Fund

Monday 1st January

St Mary Magdalene	Solemnity	Holy Mary, Mother of God
	12noon	Hanson & Driscoll Families GE & RIP

Tuesday 2nd January

St Mary Magdalene	Memorial	Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
	11.00am	Maria Tamburo RIP

Wed. 3rd January

St Mary Magdalene	Opt. Mem	Holy Name of Jesus
		No Mass

Thursday 4th January

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Christmas Weekday
	6.30pm	Mark Ferdinand Ranjo RIP

Friday 5th January

St Mary Magdalene	Ferial	Christmas Weekday
	10.00am	CWL Mass