

PARISH NEWS

Extracts from the Pastoral Plan

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/bishop-richards-new-pastoral-plan>

It is best to read the whole plan, but some pertinent paragraphs will be shared in the newsletter.

3.1iv: The Eucharist, celebrated with care and with active participation, is the most profound encounter with Christ and is the greatest prayer that we can offer. 2.3: Future provision will not be the same as it has been in recent decades, but this must not keep us from the celebration. 2.4: Just as priests will travel to celebrate with the communities they serve, so some travel may well be required of the lay faithful also. The act of joining in the celebration of the Eucharist must take priority over attempts to preserve an existing community. 2.5: Services of Word & Communion are for use in emergencies, such services are not designed for regular use and must not be seen simply as a replacement for Sunday or weekday Mass.

The Parish Office

Due to our lone working policies, the Parish Office is open by appointment, or by pre-arrangement only.

Office Hours: 9.15am to 4.45pm

The best way to contact the office is:

bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

or if required: 01424 210 263 opt. 4.

Please delete from your system:

stmm@btconnect.com *this is an old address and may soon be switched off.*

If you need to contact Fr Simon urgently:

simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Peace Sunday 2024: Artificial Intelligence and Peace

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Pope-Francis-Message-for-World-Day-of-Peace-2024.pdf>

Pope Francis invites us to consider how Artificial Intelligence impacts on our freedom, peace, and security. We ask, *'who is gaining power through the use of AI and who is being disempowered? What is the impact on human ethics, is it making us better people or manipulating us to accept ideologies incompatible with the gospel?'* The boundary between truth and opinion has become blurred, as if truth and falsehood are merely about personal taste. Whereas the truth remains the truth even if no-one wishes to believe it, and falsehood remains false even if everyone claims it to be true! In our time, it has never been more important for us to know our scriptures and catechism so that we may know the truth and not some warped version of *'my truth'*. Maybe, we should be concerned about people who live life through their screens, never *'unplugging.'* We gather as the *'Ecclesia'*, the people of God, coming to the Church to encounter *'the Word who is Life'*. As Bishop Richard says in the Pastoral Plan, *'while the use of livestreaming has been a blessing during the Covid Pandemic – and will continue to be for those unable to join their brothers and sisters through ill health – this cannot replace full and active participation in the Eucharist (p. 2:2)'.* Called to Mission, we continue the work of the Apostles to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom. *'Ite Missa Est: Go, you are sent'* to our families, inviting them to *'Come and See'* a glimpse of the heavenly peace found in the Mass. The Church reiterates the question of Jesus to the disciples: *'what do you want?'* [perhaps a better translation, *'what are you searching for?'*] They seek the one who brings meaning to their life. A disciple follows a discipline, there being no greater one than the way of the cross: *'If you want to be a disciple of mine'*, says the Lord, *'you must renounce yourself and pick up your cross daily, and follow me'*. God bless. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Eileen (Meg) O'Donovan, Mary Nash, Brian Williams 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>

50th Anniversary of the Arundel & Brighton Pilgrimage

Applications are now open for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. More information here:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/applications-to-our-lourdes-pilgrimage-will-open-in-january>

Catenian Bursary Fund is available for young helpers: https://sussexcatenians.org/bursary_fund_video/

Liturgy & Prayer

Post-Christmas Leave: Fr Simon will be away from 22nd January to 31st January (inclusive). A supply priest has been arranged for the Sunday Masses on 27th & 28th January, but no weekday Masses.

Funerals: Eileen (Meg) O'Donovan, 10am Mass on Monday 15th January in St Mary Magdalene Church. Mary Nash, Traditional Latin (Requiem) Mass, the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite (*which were per her instructions*) at 10.30am on Friday 19th January, with Fr Paul Gilliam in St Mary Magdalene Church. Brian Williams, Service at 12.15pm on Sat. 20th January in St Martha's, Little Common.

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 12th February, 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: To give by Card, please use the Dona Contactless Machines in both Churches, selecting the appropriate category Select or enter an amount, and tap your contactless card when directed. **GIFT AID:** Some collections are eligible for Gift Aid. If eligible you will be asked to add it, and if doing so for the first time, you will be asked to complete a quick registration (*once only per card.*) 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.

SVP Tabletop Sale: The SVP tabletop sale will be on Saturday 3rd February from 10am to 1pm in St Martha's Hall. Please come along and support the event and pick up a bargain or two!

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

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>

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: Our current group will be meeting the Bishop for 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://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 Holy Communion: The Children should be completing Chapters 3 & 4 of the 'I Belong Course'. **For those who have completed Chapter 4,** First Confessions begin at 4pm either / or 15th Jan, then 5th Feb, 12th Feb & 19th Feb at the Presbytery at St Mary Magdalene. Please bring your 'I Belong' book with you to show Fr Simon. No need to book. Confessions will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Confirmation 2024: Next Session is 5pm on Sunday 4th February at St Mary Magdalene Presbytery.

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.

Marriage: 12 months' notice is required for weddings, please contact us if marrying in Winter of 2024.

Christian Unity Week (18th – 25th January) & Interfaith

Mass of Christian Unity: 6.30pm, Thurs. 18th Jan in St Mary Magdalene, start of Christian Unity Week.

Service of Christian Unity: 4pm, Sunday of Christian Unity Week, 21st Jan. in St Mark's, Little Common.

Three Churches in Little Common: 2024 1st Meeting, 11am on Wed. 24th January in St Martha's, Little Common. Theme: Christian Unity Week, using the resources provided by the Churches of Burkina Faso.

Interfaith - "Sharing Faith, Friendship and Food": On 16th January (7-9pm), an evening of small group discussion in St Martha's Hall, with time to share something about our life and faith, ask each other questions and get to know each other better. Please confirm your attendance and the food you are bringing by email: timjmillier52@outlook.com Full details at the back of the Church.

[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:]

Bursary: helping 16-24 yr. olds joining an organized scheme (e.g. Lourdes) as a helper:

https://sussexcatenians.org/bursary_fund_video/ More info, email: ed@murphy.is



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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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 13th January

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

Opt. Mem

10.00am Nancy & Dom Simmons GE
10.30am Adoration & Confessions
5.15pm Confessions on Request
6.00pm People of the Parish

Saturday Memorial of the BVM

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

1 Sam. 3:3-10, 19, 1 Cor. 6:13-15, 17-20 & Jn 1:35-42

Sunday 14th January

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

Sunday

9.00am Dennis & Pat Taylor RIP
11.00am Jan Jankowski RIP
12.30pm Baptism of Willow Deliah Clark
11.00am *No Syro Malabar Mass*

Second Collection: Pax Christi (Peace Sunday) c.f. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

Monday 15th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am **Monday in 2nd Week in OT**

Requiem: Eileen (Meg) O'Donavon RIP

Tuesday 16th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

11.00am **Tuesday in 2nd Week in OT**

Harris & Bentley Families

Wed. 17th January

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

St Antony, Abbot

No Mass

Thursday 18th January

St Mary Magdalene

Votive

6.30pm Leanne, June, Lionel, Lawrence Keep RIP

Friday 19th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.30am **Friday in 2nd Week in OT**

12.15pm **Requiem Mass (TLM):** Mary Nash RIP

Parish Mass: Marion Cox RIP

Saturday 20th January

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

Saturday Memorial of the BVM

St Mary Magdalene

10.00am Elizabeth Francis RIP

10.30am Adoration & Confessions

St *Martha's*

12.15pm **Funeral Service:** Brian Williams RIP

St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm Confessions on Request

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm Deceased members Capaldi Families

THIRD SUNDAY (of the Word of God) IN O.T. B

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Cor. 7:29-31 & Mk 1:14-20

Sunday 21st January

St Martha's Church
St Mary Magdalene
St Mark's, Little Common
St *Martha's*

Sunday

9.00am People of the Parish
11.00am Mary Chapman RIP
4.00pm Service of Christian Unity
11.00am *Syro Malabar Mass*

Second Collection: SPUC White Flower Appeal

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.*

Snow & Ice Policy: *If there is significant snow or ice, please check the home page of the parish website & the Parish Facebook Page to see if the Masses will be celebrated, as our first priority will be the safety of parishioners.*

And finally, last Sunday we had an unexpected visit from Sussex Police, asking if anyone was interested in joining the Police Force! That they would welcome applications from people of faith to better represent the community they serve. If this is of interest to you: www.sussex.police.uk/careers