

# 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.*

1.7: We must keep our minds and hearts fixed on Christ, The Word who is Life, the One Who is our Subject, the One who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist and Who sends us out, in the power of the Holy Spirit to be His instruments, to be the earthenware vessels that hold the treasure that is the message of Life.

3.2.i: Formation, beginning with and grounded in prayer, leads us to be ever closer to Christ, conformed to Him. Formation requires deeper understanding of Scriptures, especially the Gospels...

3.2.viii: In the previous editions of the Pastoral Plan, reference was made to the stable ministries of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist... Those who discern the call to these ministries make application in 2025.

## 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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

or if required: 01424 210 263 opt. 4.

*Please delete from your system:*

[stmm@btconnect.com](mailto: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](mailto:simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Lord, make me know your ways.**

## Sunday of the Word of God

Pope Francis has designated this Sunday, 'The Sunday of the Word of God', so that we may be opened to the rich treasury of the Scriptures. More information at the Bishops Conference:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/>

We are grateful to those who proclaim God's Word at Mass, especially for their prayerful preparation so that they read the scriptures with clarity and understanding. Pope Francis is opening the Ministry of Lector (*previously reserved as a step toward ordination*) to all faithful Catholics who have discerned this call – applications in 2025. The Lector reads or sings the Word of God in the liturgical assembly, except for the Gospel. This includes the Psalm when there is no cantor. The Lector presents the general intercession when there is no deacon or cantor. As Bishop Richard said in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Pastoral Plan, '*The Lector also has the function of directing the singing and participation of the faithful and has a role in instructing the faithful in the reception of the Sacraments. The Lector also has the function of preparing others to read the Scriptures during the Liturgy.*' As such this responsibility requires reading, reflection, and formation on God's Word. The 1<sup>st</sup> reading shows that the preaching of God's Word (*liturgically by the priest or deacon, or through the community's commissioning at the end of Mass*) has an aim, not to make us feel all 'warm and fuzzy', but to bring about our conversion. We announce to others '*that the time has come, and the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe in the Good News.*' First though we need to look in the mirror and ask ourselves what we still need to do in conforming our hearts, minds and will to God, otherwise we might be accused of hypocrisy. The Sacred Lenten Season is now not that far away, and we should start thinking what we might do to show God of our '*efforts to renounce evil behaviour.*' May our study of the Sacred Scriptures, help us know the way of the Lord so that we may walk in his truth. God bless. Fr Simon.

**We pray for those who have died:** Karl Pearson 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>

## 50<sup>th</sup> 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/](https://sussexcatenians.org/bursary_fund_video/)

## Liturgy & Prayer

**Post-Christmas Leave:** Fr Simon will be away from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January (inclusive). Fr Paul Jennings will supply the Sunday Masses on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January, but no weekday Masses. Please let the parish office know if you can help with opening & closing the Church at the Saturday 6pm Mass and with closing the Church after the 11am Mass. Appropriate keys can be collected from the Parish Office.

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

## Social & Pastoral

**Next SVP Tea at 3pm:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February, St Martha's Hall. Info: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 resume on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb & 19<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January) & Interfaith

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

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

**Police Chaplaincy Volunteer, Bexhill Police Station:** Chaplaincy volunteers spend 2-4 hours a week visiting the station to listen and provide support to officers and staff who want to talk about work stress, health, family, and bereavement. Training and supervision are provided. Each Chaplain has the approval of their faith community to take on this role. Expression of interest to Francis Novillo, Chaplaincy Lead for Surrey & Sussex Police: 07783 804665 or [frances.novillo@surrey.police.uk](mailto:frances.novillo@surrey.police.uk)

**[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/](https://sussexcatenians.org/bursary_fund_video/) More info, email: [ed@murphy.is](mailto:ed@murphy.is)



## Parish Office

Remains closed to casual callers.

All enquiries:

[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4

out of hours

[simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> January

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

### Opt. Mem

10.00am  
10.30am  
12.15pm  
5.15pm  
6.00pm

### Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Elizabeth Francis RIP  
Adoration & Confessions  
**Funeral Service:** Brian Williams RIP  
Confessions on Request  
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 21<sup>st</sup> January

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

### Sunday

9.00am  
11.00am  
4.00pm  
11.00am

People of the Parish  
Mary Chapman RIP  
*Christian Unity Service*  
No Syro Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: SPUC White Flower Appeal:** <https://www.spuc.org.uk/>

(Not in our GA Scheme)

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

St Mary Magdalene

### Ferial

10.00am

### Monday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week in OT

**No Mass**

### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

St Mary Magdalene

### Ferial

11.00am

### Tuesday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week in OT

**No Mass**

### Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> January

**St Martha's Hall**

### Memorial

11.00am

### St Francis de Sales, Bishop

'Three Churches in Little Common'  
Meeting for Christian Unity Week

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January

St Mary Magdalene

### Feast

6.30pm

### The Conversion of St Paul

**No Mass**

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

St Mary Magdalene

### Memorial

10.00am

### St Timothy and St Titus, Bishops

**No Mass**

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January

St Mary Magdalene

### Opt. Mem

10.00am

### Saturday Memorial of the BVM

St Mary Magdalene

10.30am

**No Mass**

St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm

**No Adoration or Confessions**

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm

**No Confessions**

**Fr Paul Jennings will supply the Sunday Masses this weekend**

St Mary Magdalene

Dennis Driscoll RIP

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, B

*Deut. 18:15-20, 1 Cor. 7:32-35 & Mk 1:21-28*

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

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

### Sunday

9.00am  
11.00am  
11.00am

Catherine Hurley RIP

People of the Parish

Syro Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Racial Justice Sunday (Not in our GA scheme)**

## 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.*

**And finally - Thank you from the Knights of St Columba:** The Hastings & Rother Branch reports that monies from the Christmas Posters and a recent Quiz raised £1200 which have been passed to the Hastings, Bexhill and Battle Food Banks (£600) and the other £600 to local charities in the Catholic Parishes of Hastings, St Leonard's and Bexhill, which we have passed onto the SVP. Thank you for your ongoing support.