

7th January 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord.

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

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

PARISH NEWS

Epiphany Chalk Blessing

Take (blessed) chalk (found by the crib) and mark on the lintel of your front door:

20 + C + M + B + 24 saying:

The three Wise Men,

C (Caspar),

M (Melchior),

B (and Balthasar),

followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago.

+ May Christ bless our home,

+ remaining with us, this new year. Amen.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who served to make our Christmas Celebrations a wonderful expression of the one Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary. Bless you for your cards, gifts and generous Christmas Offering.

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

as this is an old address which is likely to be switched off soon.

If you need to contact Fr Simon urgently, the best way is via email:

simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

Diocesan Pastoral Plan – ‘The Word who is Life’.

3rd Edition – 2024 Implementation.

On 2nd January, Bishop Richard published the 3rd edition of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, writing, *‘this edition... seeks to lay out the practicalities of the way forward, but these must be set very firmly in the foundations and principles outlined in the previous iterations of the Plan’*, namely, Prayer, Formation, and Mission, with the celebration of the Eucharist being central to Diocesan Life, but that the provision of Mass will not be the same as it has been in recent times. We may have to travel further to access Mass, as we do for other activities.

The plan may be found here:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan>

There are also a limited number of hard copies available for those who do not have access to the internet.

The bishop presents a webinar at 7.30pm on 10th Jan:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>

We must be ready for a change in pastoral provisions, especially as *‘priests will serve larger number of people, in wider areas, than has been the case before’*. This change will not happen overnight, taking place on a Deanery-by-Deanery basis, with *‘Eastbourne and St Leonard’s Deanery’* seeing change from November 2024. This presents an advantage and a disadvantage: we can learn lessons from implementation in other deaneries, but the danger is we sit back and not get ourselves ready for change. A phrase we will be hearing is *‘moderated parishes’*, bringing people together so that a parish becomes a *‘community of communities.’* In practice, ***the groupings of parishes that currently form deaneries, will become parishes***, with the parish priests working *‘in solidum’* (in teams under a moderator) to make the liturgical and pastoral provision sustainable. Change is never easy, and we must resist the temptation to say, *‘yes change is needed but do not touch my Mass!’* Please read the plan, steer clear of rumour and gossip, and watch the webinar.

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

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.

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. On 8th January at 7.30pm in St Martha's Hall, the CWL host a Beetle Drive and the ladies of the parish are most welcome to attend. To book in please phone one of the two contact numbers above.

Fundraising

Contactless Payments with Dona: Parish Offertory: No Cash? No problem! Please use the Dona Contactless Machines in both Churches and select the right category (*e.g., Offertory Collection, Second Collection, etc.*). 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 for the first time on that card, you will be asked to complete a quick registration (*once only per card*). Every future donation eligible for gift aid will then be noted as such by the Dona device. 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.

SVP Tabletop Sale: The SVP tabletop sale will be on Saturday 3rd February from 10am to 1pm in St Martha's Hall. Before publicizing the event next week, the SVP would like to offer parishioners the first opportunity to hire a table for £5. Contact Chris Jones on 07783 598238.

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: 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://stmmbexhill.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://stmmbexhill.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 8th Jan & 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 7th January at St Mary Magdalene Presbytery.

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

Formation

Bible in a year with Mike Schmitz, Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

Catechism in a year, with Mike Schmitz, A.P.: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

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)

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

[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 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 6th January

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

Ferial

10.00am
10.00am
5.15pm
6.00pm

Christmas Weekday before Epiphany

Thomas Wray (Tommy) RIP
Adoration & Confessions
Confessions on Request
Thomas & Margaret McGowan RIP

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is. 60:1-6, Eph. 3:2-3, 5-6 & Mt 2:1-12.

Sunday 7th January

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

Sunday

9.00am Joyce & Sydney Twitchett RIP
11.00am People of the Parish
11.00am No Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem to support its outreach to those affected by the conflict in the Holy Land.

More information: From the Latin Patriarch's Website:

<https://www.lpj.org/en/news/general-appeal>

Monday 8th January

St Mary Magdalene

Feast

10.00am

Baptism of the Lord

Margaret Keep, Jackie & Family

Tuesday 9th January

St Richard's C.C.
St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

8.45am
11.00am

Tuesday in 1st Week in OT

Year 10 Mass

Cyril Hanson RIP

Wed. 10th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

Wednesday in 1st Week in OT

No Mass

Thursday 11th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

6.30pm

Thursday in 1st Week in OT

Richard (Teddy) Epsom RIP

Friday 12th January

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

Friday in 1st Week in OT

Joseph Thomas RIP

Saturday 13th January

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

Opt. Mem

10.00am
10.30am
5.15pm
6.00pm

Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Nancy & Dom Simmons GE
Adoration & Confessions
Confessions on Request
People of the Parish

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 Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Pax Christi (Peace Day)

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.*