

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

The Communities of St Mary Magdalene, Bexhill & St Martha, Little Common

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 here are some extracts:

6.1: The world in which we live thirsts for God and every person, as God's creation, finds meaning and fulfilment only in Him. As Saint Augustine reminds us: 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.' This restlessness, this thirst, is often not recognised and results in much searching that reaches no fulfilment. It is into this space that the Church must step, answering 'the need to respond adequately to many people's thirst for God'. 6:3: The Pastoral Plan presents, therefore, our earnest attempt to respond to this challenge in our present times and circumstances.

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.

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

If you need to contact Fr Simon urgently:

simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

18th February 2023
First Sunday of Lent, B

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – 23rd February 2023

<https://cafod.org.uk/>

This Friday is Family Fast Day and a good way of linking together the three pillars of our Lenten practices: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Watch CAFOD's 2024 appeal video: <https://vimeo.com/907870859/957128ab4a>

James said that when his family had no food, he faced a terrible choice: stay home and stay hungry or put everything on the line to go out onto the water in his small canoe. Five fishermen a month (many he called 'brothers') were dying in storms at sea. Just like him, they could not afford the life jackets, compasses, and other equipment needed to stay safe at sea and get a good catch. Your support for CAFOD this Fast Day helps hardworking people like James to return home safely and feed their families for good'. Please bring back your envelopes or use the CARD reader next Sunday.

LEPRA: Second / Retiring Collection this Sunday.

As mentioned in my homily last week, 28th January was World Leprosy Day. Therefore, as our first opportunity in the schedule, our second collection this weekend supports 'Lepra' who work to find new treatments to break the cycle of physical, social, economic, & psychological harm associated with leprosy and its stigma. If using the card reader, please select second collection. May God bless us. Fr Simon.

Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene

Maundy Thursday – 8pm on 28th March 2024

Good Friday – 3pm on 29th March 2024

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – 8pm* on 30th March 2024

**It is (just) before the clocks go forward so we can start earlier than we have done in previous years.*

We pray for those who have died: Patricia Brooks, Keith Bourne, Michael (Mike) Kitts, Katherine (Katie) Spall, Sheila Sheldon, Kathleen Ryan 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, 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 Lourdes Pilgrimage – Applications are open – 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

Funerals: Keith Bourne RIP, Requiem Mass, 12 noon on Friday 1st March in St Martha's Church.

Funeral Details of Mike Kitts and Sheila Sheldon RIP to follow soon.

Penitential Rite at Mass: During Lent, from the options in the Missal, Fr Simon will use option 2 more frequently: *"Have mercy on us, O Lord" R:/ "for we have sinned against you"*. *"Show us, O Lord, your mercy" R:/ "And grant us your salvation."* After the absolution, the 'Lord, have mercy' follows as normal.

Stations of the Cross: These are led by parish groups at 7.30pm on Fridays in St Mary Magdalene Church (unless stated): 23rd Feb (Home Communion Team), 1st March (Mother's Prayers), 8th March (CAFOD & Fairtrade), 15th March (Readers & Welcomers), 22nd March (Parish Catechists). All welcome to attend. When there is a Parish Mass in St Mary Magdalene on Fridays, 'Fr Gerry Coates' stations' at 10.30am or at times otherwise indicated on page 4. On **Good Friday**, there is the Ecumenical 'Walk of Witness' at 9am on Bexhill Seafront, and at 11am in St Martha's, the Stations are led by the CWL.

Singing at the Easter Services: Practices for those who would like to be part of the parish-wide choir for the Sacred Triduum continue at 6pm on 23rd February; 8th and 22nd March in St Martha's Hall, and on Monday 25th March at 6pm in St Mary Magdalene. Please come and join, contact Joe 07954 095707.

Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday: we invite a representative from the various parish groups (or indeed any parishioner) to have a foot washed during the 8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Maundy Thursday, 28th March. Please submit names to the parish office. We need 12 people.

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 11th March, 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, 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, to share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community.

Parish Priest: Fr Simon Dray.**Parish Deacon: Rev. Simon Kirkdale.****Administrator: Bonita Osmond.****Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousens**

Fundraising & Parish Offertory

Mass intentions & other payments: BACs: Name: RCD St Mary Magdalene, Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20. (Please add a reference). **Contactless Payments with Dona:** 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.

CAFOD: visit <https://cafod.org.uk/> to find out about the Big Walk Challenge.

Formation & Sacraments

Short Lent Talk: Fr Simon's short Lent talk '*He was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body*', will be at 10.30am in St Mary Magdalene Church, immediately after 10am Mass on Saturday 2nd March.

Invited Lent 2024: Our Invited Mission continues in Lent offering a programme for small groups, online conversations, and individual engagement. The material will discuss 'Discipleship' as we reflect on how we continue to conform our lives to the Lord. www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited There will be a Parish Group, held in the presbytery on Saturdays 24th Feb & 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March, at 11am after Mass and Adoration.

Adult Baptisms & Receptions & Confirmations: Yesterday in the Cathedral, our RCIA group were accepted by the Bishop as the Elect for Baptism or as Candidates for Reception. As **recommended** by the Missal, during Lent and Eastertide we will profess our faith using the '**Apostles Creed**' so that the Sacrament of Baptism may be at the forefront of our minds during these two seasons.

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: For those who have completed Chapter 4, First Confessions resume at 4pm, on 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 25th February at St Mary Magdalene Presbytery. The Deanery Confirmation Mass is 7pm on Friday 28th June in St Mary Magdalene.

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 Spring 2025.

Parking in our Parish Car Parks (Spaces are Limited)

When our car parks are full, please park legally off-site, respecting the coned off areas, which are there to protect pedestrians and keep fire exits clear. Little Common car park is £1 for 4 hours.

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:



Saturday 17th February	Ferial	Saturday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church	10:00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	No Adoration or Confessions
Worth Abbey	10.30am	Requiem: Fr Stephen Ortiger RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Irene Herring RIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT B

Gen. 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22 & Mk 1:12-15

Sunday 18th February	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	TD Thomas Tharayil RIP
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
		Second Collection: Lepra (not in our GA scheme)
Monday 19th February	Ferial	Monday in 1st Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ann Higgins RIP
Tuesday 20th February	Ferial	Tuesday in 1st Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	David James Connearn
Wednesday 21st February	Ferial	Wednesday in 1st Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church		No Mass
Thursday 22nd February	Feast	St Peter's Chair
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Christina Morgan RIP
Friday 23rd February	Ferial	Friday in 1st Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Gladys Elma Rowe RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
St Mary Magdalene	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 24th February	Ferial	Saturday in 1st Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10:00am	James JD Spittal RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	John McAnulty RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT B

Gen. 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Rom. 8:31-34 & Mk 9:2-10

Sunday 25th February	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	David MrGurk RIP
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	& Louis Rosenau RIP
		Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: CAFOD – Family Fast Day (not in our GA scheme)

Ecumenical & Interfaith

Christian Voices Musical Drama Group's "The Wedding at Cana"

Performances: St Mary Star of the Sea. Sat 17th Feb 2.30pm; St Peter's Community Centre. Sun 18th Feb 10am; St Stephen's Church Mon 19th Feb 6.30pm; St Barnabas Church Wed 21st Feb 7pm; Christchurch Methodist Church Sat 24th Feb 11am; Battle Methodist Church Sun 25th Feb 10.30am.

"World Day of Prayer": Fri. 1st March at 10.30am in St Marks Church, Little Common. A Global, Ecumenical Service; this year poignantly prepared by Christian women of Palestine. Please come and pray for Peace.

Sacrament of the Sick

Urgent Visits

'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".

Home Visits

Office hours:

bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

01424 210 263 opt 4.

Out of hours:

simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

In Eastbourne or Conquest Hospital:

Contact the Chaplaincy on 0300 131 5307 or 5308 who will coordinate the visits to both hospitals (out of hours ask the Ward to call the on-call Catholic chaplain).

In Bexhill Hospital: ask the ward to contact the Parish Office on 01424

210263 opt. 4.

Going into Hospital?

Ask for the Sacrament of the Sick in Advance at your usual Sunday Mass.

Care Home Visits:

Please clear the visit with the Home before contacting the Parish.