

# 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

*From page 3 of the abridged version:*

The principal role of the priest is the preaching of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments and the pastoral care of the people placed in his charge. We must enable the priests of the Diocese to be free to carry out these prime responsibilities of their vocation. The many employees and volunteers in our parish communities play an important part in the mission, and the future sees the development of existing & new roles.

**Fr Simon ponders**, *'perhaps, we need to move urgently to an assumption that the priest will be ministering further afield, and that he will not be available to open / close the Church and will arrive expecting everything ready for Mass and the sacraments (and done in accord with the custom of the Universal Church).'*

### 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.**

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

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Second (Transfiguration) Sunday of Lent, B**

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

### Repairs Update – Spring 2024

Hopefully you have read last year's accounts which outlined the way forward for our buildings, especially at St Mary Magdalene. If not, you will find the 2022 Accounts here:

[catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/2022-accounts-and-parish-priest-statement-and-update-on-buildings.pdf](https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/2022-accounts-and-parish-priest-statement-and-update-on-buildings.pdf)

Once the Diocese has approved the 2023 Accounts, we will bring these to you. In December, *(in line with the bishop's & Trustees wishes and with the approval of the Parish & Diocesan Finance Committees)*, I appointed Harding Bond as the managing-surveyor for the repairs at St Mary Magdalene Church. They have instructed a Quantity Surveyor to provide a clear picture of costs, and that the repairs are in line with our expectations and funding coming from the sale of Sidley, which we hope completes this year now that the intended buyer has finally been able to submit their planning permission for development. Once we have a 'schedule of works', we will submit it to Historic Churches (South) to ensure we are managing the repairs in line with our listed building obligations. Then we go to out to tender. Despite our best efforts, therefore, we may not see any physical works before Sept. 2024 or even spring 2025 depending on the progress of the above and the autumn weather. The Presbytery & Hall at St Mary Magdalene are now on the market, and we have had three viewings but no offers yet. Money raised will hopefully fund new (yet undefined) pastoral space at St Mary Magdalene. Some repairs are also needed at St Martha's, funded from our **operational budget** which is not the sole responsibility of the people of St Martha's, but of the whole parish. This is your annual encouragement to review your (gift-aided) offertory giving. Fundraising for the parish is also needed! Fr Simon.

**We pray for those who have died:** Patricia Brooks, Keith Bourne, Michael (Mike) Kitts, Sheila Sheldon, Robin Lloyd, and David Rowe 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/](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.

Mike Kitts, 3.30pm on Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> April, and Sheila Sheldon, 12.30pm on Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> April – both St Martha's.

**Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene:** Maundy Thursday – 8pm on 28<sup>th</sup> March, Good Friday – 3pm on 29<sup>th</sup> March & Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – 8pm\* on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024. *\*It is (just) before the clocks go forward so we can start earlier than we have done in previous years.*

**Stations of the Cross, led by Parish Groups:** Continues at 7.30pm on Fridays in St Mary Magdalene Church (unless stated): 1<sup>st</sup> March (Mother's Prayers), 8<sup>th</sup> March (CAFOD & Fairtrade), 15<sup>th</sup> March (Readers & Welcomers), 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**, the Ecumenical 'Walk of Witness' at 9am on Bexhill Seafront, and at 11am in St Martha's, the Stations are led by the Catholic Women's League (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 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March in St Martha's Hall, and on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 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, 28<sup>th</sup> March. Please submit names to the parish office. We need 12 people.

### **Social & Pastoral**

**Next SVP Tea at 3pm:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 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, 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, to share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community. At the recent cake sale approx. £280 was raised in support of PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust).

Parish Priest: Fr Simon Dray.

Parish Deacon: Rev. Simon Kirkdale.

Administrator: Bonita Osmond.

Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins



### 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.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited) There will be a Parish Group, held in the presbytery on Saturdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, at 11am after Mass and Adoration.

**Adult Baptisms & Receptions & Confirmations:** As our Elect for Baptism and our Candidates for Reception prepare for the sacraments, as **recommended** by the Missal, during Lent and Eastertide we will profess our faith using the '**Apostles Creed**' to keep Baptism at the forefront of our minds.

**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:** Now that First Confessions are complete, and you have booked into your First Holy Communion Mass, please continue working through Chapters 5-10 of the 'I Belong' coursebook.

**Confirmation 2024:** Next Session is the meeting with the bishop at 7.30pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February followed by our session at 5pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at St Mary Magdalene Presbytery. The Deanery Confirmation Mass is 7pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Fairtrade:** The Fairtrade Stall will return to St Martha's Hall, Sunday after 9am Mass. Including Easter eggs and Cards, Divine chocolate, coffee/tea. Please support Fairtrade producers.

### 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:



<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Saturday in 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10:00am	James JD Spittal RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
Presbytery	11.00am	Invited – Lent Reflection
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	John McAnulty RIP

## **SECOND (Transfiguration) SUNDAY OF LENT B**

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

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

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

<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Monday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Abriella Mathew
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Tuesday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent</b>
St Richard's Catholic College	9.00am	Year 9 Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Priests Intentions
Worth Abbey	11.00am	Clergy Lenten Day of Recollection

<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Wednesday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.30am	Latin Mass

<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Thursday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.30am	Latin Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Joan Horner RIP

<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St David, Patron of Wales</b>
St Mark's, Little Common	10.30am	World Day of Prayer
St Martha's Church	<b>12noon</b>	<b>Requiem:</b> Keith Bourne RIP
St Mary Magdalene	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Saturday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10:00am	The Walsh Families GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Short Lent Talk & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>11.00am</b>	Confessions
Presbytery	11.00am	Invited – Lent Reflection
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Ralph Adam RIP

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT B**

*Ex. 20:1-17, 1 Cor. 1:22-25 & Jn 2:13-25*

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	John Murphy RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Church Heating Bills**

### **Ecumenical & Interfaith**

**'World Day of Prayer':** Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Caring for our Church, Cleaning for Holy Week & Easter**

Volunteers are asked to stay behind after all Sunday Masses of 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March) to clean our church in time for Holy Week. We all share in this responsibility, and it is also an H&S concern. Thank you.

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

01424 210 263 opt 4.

#### **Out of hours:**

[simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.