

4th February 2024

PARISH NEWS

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, B.

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

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

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.

5.8: The groupings of parishes that form deaneries, will come parishes. The numbers of priests will continue to decline over an extended number of years. In structural terms, this gives us two alternatives: either to reduce the number of parishes gradually (which extends a period of pain and uncertainty and is problematic as vacancies do not always occur in places that would be suitable for amalgamation) or take the bold step of reducing the number of parishes in one go to a level that is sustainable long-term. Once the Diocese is restructured, each parish can be run with the number of available priests. This gives the flexibility to respond to challenges in a way that is resilient, sustainable, and adaptable.

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

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Marriage Week: 7th – 14th February

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week-2024/>

The Church celebrates Holy Matrimony, that *'partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, which has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized'* (Canon Law, p.1055.1). **For a Catholic**, baptism binds the individual to the Church's law and 'form' (*the who, what, where and how*) of marriage. It is essential for a Catholic planning to get married to see the parish priest of where they live (*not where they worship*) to ensure that any permissions or dispensations (where needed) can be arranged, as these may have future implications for the licit and fruitful reception of Holy Communion. As consent to enter marriage is given *'until death do us part'*, marriage preparation is needed; as such, 12 months' notice is required in Arundel & Brighton (*this assumes everything is straightforward and does not require a referral to the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal due to previous marriages of any sort*). **Marriage preparation is an area highly suited to the lay apostolate** as married couples bring their experience of Holy Matrimony to the preparation process (*speak to Deacon Simon if you feel called to being part of the lay-led Diocesan Marriage Preparation team*). This week, we pray for married couples and engaged couples but also those whose marriages are in difficulty. We pray also **for Catholics** civilly married outside the Church, either in a registry office (*considered sacramentally invalid by the Church*) or to Christian of another denomination where the required permissions or dispensation were not sought. Now, perhaps, is the time to ask their parish priest to **'convalidate'** such marriages, to receive the nuptial blessing and return to a licit and fruitful reception of Holy Communion. Your parish priest can also advise a Catholic previously married, now civilly divorced, who wishes to explore the annulment process. With every blessing, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Fr Stephen Ortiger, Keith Bourne, Karl Pearson, Michael (Mike) Kitts 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.

Rt. Rev. Dom Stephen Ortiger RIP

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Stephen Ortiger, 3rd Abbot of the Monastery of Our Lady, Help of Christians at Worth, Titular Abbot of Bury St Edmunds, who died on 27th January 2024 in 84th year of his age, 62nd year of his profession and 57th year of his priesthood.

His Requiem Mass will be at 10.30am on Saturday 17th February at Worth Abbey.

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

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.

Funerals: Karl Pearson RIP, Requiem Mass, 11am on Friday 9th February in St Mary Magdalene Church. Keith Bourne RIP, Requiem Mass, 12 noon on Friday 1st March in St Martha's Church. Michael (Mike) Kitts RIP who died peacefully in the Conquest hospital, following a brief, acute illness, on 24th January. His wish was for a Direct Cremation, followed by a Thanksgiving Memorial Service at a later time.

Ash Wednesday: Masses: 11am & 7pm in St Mary Magdalene on Wed. 14th February. Even though this be '*Valentine's Day*', it remains a day of **fasting** (for Catholics aged 16-59) and **abstinence** (for those aged 14+). Fasting = one main meal and two small snacks. Abstinence = no meat.

Singing at the Easter Services The singers & musicians from Mary Magdalene and St Martha's are starting to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. They invite parishioners who wish to join them just for Easter to do so. Practices are: 6pm Fridays 9th & 23rd February; 8th & 22nd March, St Martha's Hall; Monday 25th March at 6pm in St Mary Magdalene. Please come and join, contact Joe 07954 095707.

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, 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, to share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community. 'Talk' about the De La Warr Pavilion, Mon 5th Feb. Coffee, and Cake sale, in the hall, after Mass, Sun 11th February. Contact: 211717 or 221803.

Parish Clergy: Fr Simon Dray, Deacon Simon Kirkdale
Administrator: Bonita Osmond
Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins



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.

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: visit <https://cafod.org.uk/> to find out about the **Big Walk Challenge** and for details of this year's Family Fast Day, which is on Friday 23rd February, with the collection on Sunday 25th February (1st Sunday of Lent). You can also still donate to their Israeli-Palestinian, Gaza appeal.

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, 4th, 16th, 23rd March, at 11am after Mass and Adoration.

Eastbourne & Bexhill Newman Circle: Fr Kevin's Talk on Thursday 8th February has been postponed.

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://stmmmbexhill.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://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

First Holy Communion: For those who have completed Chapter 4, First Confessions resume at 4pm, on 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. 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://stmmmbexhill.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

[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.drax@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

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 3rd February

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

10.00am

St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

Peter Chapman RIP

St Mary Magdalene

10.30am

Blessing of Throats

St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm

Confessions on Request

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm

Winifred Broughton RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, B

Job 7:1-4, 6-7, 1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23 & Mk 1:29-39

Sunday 4th February

St Martha's Church

Sunday

9.00am

People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene

11.00am

Margarat McNamara GE

St Martha's

11.00am

No Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: SVP Bexhill (not in our GA scheme).

Monday 5th February

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

10.00am

St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

Margaret & Jimmy Hilder, Tom Fryery & Family RIP.

Tuesday 6th February

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

11.00am

St Paul Miki & Companions

David Rowe RIP

Wed. 7th February

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

Wed. in 5th Week in OT

No Mass

Thursday 8th February

St Mary Magdalene

Opt. Mem

6.30pm

St Cuthman of Steyning

Peter Chapman RIP

Friday 9th February

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

11.00am

Friday in 5th Week in OT

Requiem Mass: Karl Pearson RIP

Saturday 10th February

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

10.00am

St Scholastica, Virgin

Mary Horner RIP

St Mary Magdalene

10.30am

Adoration & Confessions

St Mary Magdalene

5.15pm

Confessions on request

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm

William & Violet Hayes RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, B

Lev. 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1, Mk 1:40-45

Sunday 11th February

St Martha's Church

Sunday

9.00am

People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene

11.00am

Allana Margaret McNamara GE

St Martha's

11.00am

Syro Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund (not in our GA scheme)

For Mass intentions & other payments: BACs: Name: RCD St Mary Magdalene,

Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20. (Please add a reference)

Donation of Mobility Scooter: The SVP have been kindly donated a Aerolite Mobility Scooter that is in perfect working order and may be of use to someone in the parish. For further details, please contact the SVP on 07783 598238

or bexhill@svp.org.uk

Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum: Tuesday 13th Feb, 7pm – 9pm, The Friends Meeting House, 15a Albert Road, Bexhill TN40 1DG. **Rev Stephen Need** will speak about “Living in Jerusalem”. See posters.

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.*