

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:

5:9: With such a structure in place, the teams of priests living across this wider community will then be able to cooperate more closely, serving the sacramental needs of the communities concerned in a flexible way and freed to bring their gifts to the service of the Church in Mission.

5.12: Church communities will need to identify suitable lay people to act as an advertised point of contact for those requiring pastoral care and to organise visits and other pastoral care, in collaboration with the priests and deacons of the parish.

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

11th February 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

**You are my refuge, O Lord;
you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Ash Wednesday – 14th February 2024

This Wednesday is 'Ash Wednesday' and the start of the fast of the Sacred Lenten Season. Although it is 'Valentine's Day', it remains a day of **fasting** (for those aged 18-59) and **abstinence** (for those aged 14+). Fasting means to eat less, to have one main meal and two snacks, whereas Abstinence means we eat no meat today. Clearly, anyone with underlying health conditions should act cautiously and not deprive themselves of any necessary nutrition for their condition, as all our penances are not meant to be torture but little acts of love to the Lord, in response to the ultimate act of love of his sacrifice on the cross by which he gives his life so that we might have life and have it in abundance. Perhaps, then, the best way for couples to express their love for each other is to come to the 'Agape Love Feast' that is the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist. Holy Masses will be celebrated in St Mary Magdalene at 11am and 7pm on Wednesday.

There are, of course, further opportunities for abstinence on all Fridays (*except when a solemnity falls on a Friday*), and there will be another opportunity to Fast on CAFOD's 'Family Fast Day' (23rd Feb) which is also a good way of fulfilling the Almsgiving requirement of Lent. This season is also marked by Prayer, and I draw your attention to the item about 'Stations of the Cross' on page 2 and 'Invited' on Page 3 of this newsletter. Every blessing for the Season. Fr Simon.

11th February 2024 – Our Lady of Lourdes

"World Day of Prayer for the Sick"

You can read Pope Francis's message for this day here:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20240110-giornata-malato.html>

We pray for those who have died: Fr Stephen Ortiger, Keith Bourne, and 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.

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: Karl Pearson RIP, Requiem Mass, 11am on Friday 9th February in St Mary Magdalene Church. Fr Stephen Ortiger RIP, Requiem Mass, 10.30am on Saturday 17th February at Worth Abbey. 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.

Stations of the Cross in Lent: The 'Way of the Cross' will be led by various parish groups at 7.30pm on Fridays in St Mary Magdalene Church (unless stated): 16th Feb (SVP), 23rd Feb (Home Communion Team), 1st March (Mother's Prayers), 8th March (CAFOD & Fairtrade), 15th March (Readers & Welcomers), 22nd March (Parish Catechists). All parishioners are invited and welcome to attend. And when there is a Parish Mass at 10am on Friday mornings, 'Fr Gerry Coates' stations' will be prayed at 10.30am in St Mary Magdalene (not 16th Feb or 1st March). 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: 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. Coffee, and Cake sale, in the hall, after Mass, Sun 11th February. Contact: 211717 or 221803.

Climate Change: Questions have been sent to our local MP. You are invited to pray and join the vigil on Fri 16th Feb, 12noon-1pm, outside the MP's office, 29 Sea Road. Enquiries: jackdoherty@sky.com

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.

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.

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://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 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 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 10th February	Memorial	St Scholastica, Virgin
St Mary Magdalene Church	10:00am	Mary Horner RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10:30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	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	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Allana Margaret McNamara GE
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (Parish GA)

Monday 12th February	Ferial	Monday in 6th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joseph Thomas RIP
Tuesday 13th February	Ferial	Tuesday in 6th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Frs Arthur & Bernard Holland & Fr Fennning RIP

Wednesday 14th February	Lent Begins	Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Mary & Joseph Callaghan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	7.00pm	Holy Souls

Thursday 15th February	Ferial	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	No Mass

Friday 16th February	Ferial	Friday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Stations of the Cross & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross

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 Joseph Tharayil RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Lepra (not in our GA scheme)

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.drax@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.

Hastings & 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.

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.

The Ukrainian Ladies from the Bexhill Hub are very grateful for the generous donations received from SVP Tabletop Sale; & £440 raised at their table will be used to buy special dressings for the war wounded in Ukraine.