

# 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

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Third Sunday of Easter, B.

### The Pastoral Plan Prayer

*Lord, The Word who is Life: May all the people of our Diocese grow in openness to the power of the Holy Spirit, so that through a growth in understanding and courage, and truly open to your call, we may bear powerful witness to all around us, for you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.*

### Caring for our Church (Cleaning)

It is almost time for another Church clean. Next weekend (20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April), please may the three Mass communities take the opportunity to whiz the brooms around and wipe down the benches. Many thanks.

*(Last done 17<sup>th</sup> March)*

### The Parish Office

Due to our lone working policies, the parish office is open to those with appointments or for pre-arranged groups and events.

For routine administration including the booking of Mass intentions, please contact the Parish Office by email:

[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

or by 01424 210263 opt.4

The best way to contact Fr Simon is by email: [simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk)

The email: [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) is an old address and should not be used.

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

### Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who made our celebration of the Sacred Paschal Triduum and Easter such a wonderful expression of the one Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary. And thank you for your cards and easter wishes, which you expressed so generously through the Easter Collection. The next events which will need a combined parish effort will be the Extended Vigil of Pentecost, the Deanery Confirmation Mass, and the Parish First Holy Communion celebrations.

### Did you have a good weekend?

We might imagine such a question at work on a Monday morning. And how will we answer? Perhaps, we will tell people about visits to family, to the theatre, the cinema, a local attraction, to play sport or watch our favourite team win or lose. How might a Catholic respond to such a question? *'The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognized Jesus at the breaking of the bread'*. Therefore, **as well as** telling people about the exciting activities highlighted above, perhaps we might say: *'well, of course, as a Catholic I first and foremost went to Holy Mass participating fully in the sacred liturgy, the work of God's people in giving thanks to God for the redemption that he has applied to me through the Paschal Mysteries'* possibly adding other joyful news such as, *'I attended a baptism as my child, niece or nephew etc had their original sin wiped away and became a new child of God or I had the privilege of serving God's people at [name charitable endeavour]'*. We speak of our joy of how God has opened our mind to his Word and gave us an opportunity of *'taking station'* at the cross, giving us the hope of eternal life in the Easter mystery.

Bless you all on this journey to Pentecost. Fr Simon.

**We pray for those who have died:** Patricia Brooks, Michael (Mike) Kitts and Sheila Sheldon, Derek Rowe, Dorothy Taylor, Canon Michael Spellman 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, David Ball, Andy Stirk.

**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**

**Funerals:** Memorial Service of Sheila Sheldon, 12.30pm on Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> April in St Martha's Church.

**6pm (Sat) Welcomers / Stewards:** there is still at least one gap on the rota to Trinity Sunday to be filled.

**The Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation):** Fr Simon will celebrate two parish Masses in St Mary Magdalene Church at 11am and 6.30pm, as well as Masses for our parish and deanery school.

**The Vigil of Pentecost:** As in previous years, the 6pm Vigil Mass of Pentecost on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, will be celebrated in its '*extended form*', as a mirror to the Easter Vigil. With its additional hymns, readings and psalms, parishioners should not expect the Mass to be celebrated in 45 minutes!

**Annual Leave:** Fr Simon will be on his post-Easter break from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, arriving back in time to celebrate the Extended Vigil of Pentecost at 6pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Masses for 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter will be celebrated by Fr Chris Benyon. No weekday Masses during this period.

### **Social & Pastoral**

**Next SVP Tea at 3pm:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 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, which meets at 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, to share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community.

**Corpus Christi (Arundel) – Carpet of Flowers & Mass:** A 22-seater bus / coach to Arundel Cathedral is being arranged for the 5.30pm Corpus Christi Mass & Carpet of Flower on Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> May. Cost is £24 per person. Contact: Robert Mulligan: [robertjmulligan@robertjumulligan.plus.com](mailto:robertjmulligan@robertjumulligan.plus.com) or on 07394 925611

**Parish "Thameslink Pilgrimage" to St Albans:** Fr Simon & Barrie Wright invite you to join them on pilgrimage to the '*Shrine of St Alban*' at St Alban's Cathedral (AL1 1BY) on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June: 12noon Catholic Mass, private veneration of the relic of St Alban (proto martyr of England) and guided tour of the Cathedral. Travel by 08:37 train from Bexhill, changing to the Thameslink at Haywards Heath, with a group ticket to save money (*or you can drive and meet us there*). Our pilgrimage starts the evening before with the Thursday evening 6.30pm Mass in St Mary Magdalene, the Memorial of St Alban's Feast Day.

**A&B Grandparents Pilgrimage (11am to 3pm, Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> June):** To sign up for the annual grandparents' Mass and pilgrimage to West Grinstead please visit: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/h4bozjok>

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:** To give by Card, please use the Dona Contactless Machines, selecting the appropriate category. GIFT AID: Some collections are Gift Aid-able.

### Formation & Sacraments

**The Gift, a course on the Holy Spirit:** Held on Thursdays (11<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May) at O.L. Ransom, Eastbourne, 11.45am & 1.15pm (after the 11am Mass), six sessions on the role and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Life in the Spirit – Journey to Pentecost 2024:** These seminars continue on Wednesdays, information: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2024/03/life-in-the-spirit-journey-to-pentecost-2024.pdf>

**Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations:** Adults who wish to be admitted to the Sacraments at Easter 2025 need to start attending Sunday Mass now. To join the 2024/25 course, you will need to have completed the 'pre-catechumenate', which involves having attended Sunday Mass for at least six months prior to the start of the course in October. If this applies to you, please book, and attend an appointment with Fr Simon by 31<sup>st</sup> August at the latest. To book your appointment either complete the online application: <https://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/rcia/> or email [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk) if you have already submitted an application. Many thanks.

**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:** 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 5pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 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.

### Other

**Fairtrade:** The stall is available after 9am Mass at St Martha's on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

**Marriage:** 12 months' notice is required for weddings, please contact us if marrying in May 2025.

**Parking:** when our parish car parks are full, please park legally and respectfully off-site. Please do not move cones which are protecting pedestrian access and fire access. Off-site, please do not park on double yellow lines, obstruct driveways or pavements. Please be considerate to our neighbours. Thanks.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church  
St Mary Magdalene

**Ferial**

10.00am  
10.30am  
  
3.30pm  
5.15pm  
6.00pm

**Saturday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter**

Kitty McNulty RIP  
Confessions & Adoration, to pray  
for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.  
Memorial Service: Mike Kitts RIP  
**No Confessions**  
Mrs Imelda McConnell RIP

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER B**

*Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 Jn 2:1-5 & Lk 24:35-48*

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**Sunday**

9.00am  
11.00am  
12.30pm  
11.00am

Kaye Forde GE  
People of the Parish  
Baptism: Frederick Freeman  
Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second collection: Confirmation Retreat**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church

**Ferial**

10.00am

**Monday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter**

David Herring RIP

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church

**Ferial**

11.00am

**Tuesday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter**

Frank Horner RIP

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church

**Ferial**

**Wed. in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter**

No Mass

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Mary Mags Primary School  
St Mary Magdalene Church

**Ferial**

2.00pm  
6.30pm

**Thursday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter**

Children's Easter Mass  
Reg Chapman RIP

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church

**Ferial**

10.00am

**Friday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter**

Hester & Ellis Eyre RIP

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church  
St Mary Magdalene Church

**Ferial**

10.00am  
10.30am

**Saturday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter**

Patricia Brookes RIP  
Confessions & Adoration, to pray  
for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.  
Memorial Service Sheila Sheldon  
Baptism: Tamara-Mia Gonzalez  
Mutombo  
Confession on Request  
Mr & Mrs C Ewins RIP  
Cleaning of the Church Transept

St Martha's Church

12.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Church

12.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Church

5.15pm

St Mary Magdalene Church

6.00pm

St Mary Magdalene Church

After Mass

**FOURTH (GOOD SHEPHERD) SUNDAY OF EASTER B**

*Acts 4:8-12, 1 Jn 3:1-2 & Jn 10:11-18*

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

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

**Sunday**

9.00am  
After Mass  
11.00am  
After Mass  
11.00am

**Also, Vocations Sunday**

People of the Parish  
Cleaning of the Church  
Michael Pitt-Payne GE  
Cleaning of the Nave and Porch  
Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second collection: Education of Future Priests**

**Ecumenical & Interfaith**

**Hastings & Rother Interfaith:** Meeting at 7pm – 9pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at St Martha's Church Hall. Guest speaker: Rabbi Danny Rich returns to report on his recent visit to Israel and lead a discussion about the impact of 7<sup>th</sup> October on Israel and the worldwide Jewish Community. See Poster.

**Three Churches in Little Common:** Our parish hosts the next meeting of this prayer & social group at 11am on Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> April, St Martha's Hall.

**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.