

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

Safeguarding Training

We have been notified by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office that training for volunteers working with children and adults at risk is now **compulsory** and should be completed every three years. There is only one course available, online, which is CSSA Level 3. (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency). All volunteers who have DBS clearance need to register for this course, here:

<https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/courses>

Further details on the posters displayed in both churches or from Sylvia Cousins, Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Little Common

The price of the public car park in Little Common is now £1.30 for 4 hours.

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

or by 01424 210263 opt.4

The best way to contact Fr Simon is by email: simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

The email: stmm@btconnect.com is an old address and should not be used.

28th April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter, B.

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA

Adult Baptism, Reception & Confirmations 2025.

Thank you to Sylvia Cousins and Anne Campbell for their years of service in preparing adults for the sacraments. As the '*moderated parish*' comes into being in November, the *clergy & leadership teams* will set sacramental policy for the '*moderated parish*'. Most likely there will be changes in how we prepare people in the various '*communities*' that make up the '*moderated parish*'. In most instances, until instructed otherwise, plans for 2024/25 continue as normal. Regarding RCIA, now that Anne and Sylvia have stood down, new arrangements are needed. As such, Sarah Surman and I are putting in place interim arrangements for 2025. We still need to work out the details, but there will be an RCIA programme running in our community, which will be suitable also for all Adults wishing to brush up their formation in the faith.

Any **Adults who wish to be Baptised or Received as Catholics at Easter 2025** should start attending Sunday Mass now. To join the 2024/25 course, you should have completed the '*pre-catechumenate*', which involves attending Mass regularly for six months prior to the start of the course in October. If this applies to you, please book, and attend an appointment with me by 31st August by completing the online application: <https://stmm-bexhill.co.uk/rcia/> or by emailing bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk if you have already submitted an online application. Many thanks. Fr Simon.

Diocesan 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.

We pray for those who have died: Minerva Spiteri, Canon Michael Spellman, Una McGowan, Maureen Crisp, Anna May 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

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 18th 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 is away between 10th May & 18th May, back for the '*Extended Vigil of Pentecost*' at 6pm on Sat. 18th May. Masses for 7th Sunday of Easter will be celebrated by Fr Chris Benyon.

Next Church Clean: The 'May' clean will be after Masses on 11th / 12th May, to prepare for Pentecost.

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 13th May, 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 women's group, meeting 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, sharing faith, skills, and friendship. May Procession is Sun. 5th May at St Martha's and after Mass in the Hall, the CWL hold a 'Sausage Sizzle' with refreshments – cost is £3 cash at the door, with profits going to PACT.

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. 30th May. Cost is £24 per person. Contact: Robert Mulligan: robertjmulligan@robertjumulligan.plus.com or on 07394 925611

(updated) 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 21st June. You can find in the newsletter section of the parish website a sheet giving all the **updated information**:

<https://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/st-alban-pilgrimage-21.6.24.pdf>

The day includes 12noon Catholic Mass and veneration of the relic of St Alban (proto martyr of England). The night before, the Thurs. 6.30pm Mass in St Mary Magdalene is the Memorial of St Alban's Feast Day.

A&B Grandparents Pilgrimage (11am to 3pm, Wed. 26th 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.

Gift Aid Statements: if you wish to receive a Gift Aid statement please email or phone Bonita who will email you your statement (or post if necessary). Last year, they were printed, and many went uncollected.

Barrie Wright: please pray for Barrie who has now begun his charity pilgrimage for Christians in Gaza.

Formation & Sacraments

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 – *please see the front page of this newsletter.*

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/>

(Updated) First Holy Communion: Mrs Surman offers a session after the 9am Mass at St Martha's to practice receiving Holy Communion (A choice of dates: 19th May, 26th May, and 2nd June, with no need to book). The post-Communion '*We Belong*' celebration will be after 9am Mass at St Martha's on 30th June.

Confirmation 2024: Film & Pizza, **4pm** on Sunday 19th May at St Mary Magdalene Presbytery.

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 2nd & 4th 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.

The Knights of St Columba Council 630: Thanks to the generosity of the Deanery Parishes, the KSC have made the following contributions: £200 to each of the Hastings, Bexhill and Battle Foodbanks, £150 to the Parish of the Good Shepherd's Community Tea Project, £100 to the Governors' Fund at each of the Catholic Deanery Primary Schools, and finally £250 to the Charity '*Let the Children Live!*' Thank You!

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 27th April	Ferial	Saturday in 4th Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Andree-Rose Marceau RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration, to pray for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.
Memorial Garden	11.30am	Burial of Ashes: Connie Stoddart
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confession on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Sheila Sheldon RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

Acts 9:26-31, 1 Jn 3:18-24 & Jn 15:1-8

Sunday 28th April	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Michael McElligott RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism: Hansel Arinze Kizito
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second collection: Parish Energy Bills – Gift Aid

Monday 29th April	Feast	Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	PK Kurian RIP
Tuesday 30th April	Ferial	Tuesday in 5th Week of Easter
St Richards Catholic College	8.45am	Form Service for 8O & 8S
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Robert Moggridge RIP

Wednesday 1st May	Opt. Mem.	St Joseph the Worker
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	

Thursday 2nd May	Memorial	St Athanasius, Bishop
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Holy Souls

Friday 3rd May	Feast	Saints Philip & James, Apostles
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ray Ford GE

Saturday 4th May	Feast	The English Martyrs
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joseph Thomas RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration, to pray for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism: Wilfie & Barney Roberts
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confession on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Antonelli Families RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48, 1 Jn 4:7-10 & Jn 15: 9-17

Sunday 5th May	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Gary David McNamara & Family GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism: Giovanna & Olive Slidel
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second collection: CAFOD Emergency Appeal for Sudan

CAFOD & SVP: 'A Year of Encounter': With an upcoming General Election, Catholics have a responsibility to lobby our candidates to keep poverty and injustice front and centre of the political debate. *A Year of Encounter* equips Catholics to ask key questions of the candidates. Visit:

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/campaign-with-us/a-year-of-encounter-calling-for-action-with-your-parish-during-general-election-2024>

CAFOD Sudan Emergency Appeal: After being forced to leave their homes due to conflict, many people now experience extreme hunger. Visit:

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal>

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.