

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

After 9am Mass, St Martha's Hall, 22nd September

Fairtrade Breakfast

9th to 22nd Sept is Fairtrade Fortnight & Fairtrade UK 30th Birthday where we celebrate CAFOD's great part in reaching out our caring hands, our faith in action.

Annual SVP Mass for the Sick and Housebound: 3pm, 28th September St Martha's Church:

This Mass of Anointing (followed by tea and cake) is hosted by the SVP. We would encourage, next of kin where possible to bring their loved ones who need the sacrament to this mass. If anyone would like to come and may need a lift, please contact Chris Jones on 07783 598238 as soon as possible. Guidance on who should be anointed during this Mass is available at our website, here:

<https://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/svp-mass-of-anointing-guide-on-receiving-the-sacrament-of-the-sick.pdf>

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.

22nd September 2024

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, B

The Lord upholds my life.

In the Gospel today Jesus says, *"If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all"*. When we serve others, we receive something that money can never buy.

St Teresa of Calcutta said this:

'When He was dying on the Cross, Jesus said, "I thirst." Jesus is thirsting for our love, and this is the thirst of everyone, poor and rich alike. We all thirst for the love of others, that they go out of their way to avoid harming us and to do good to us. This is the meaning of true love, to give until it hurts. This neglect to love brings spiritual poverty. Maybe in our own family we have somebody who is feeling lonely, who is feeling sick, who is feeling worried. Are we there? Are we willing to give until it hurts in order to be with our families, or do we put our own interests first? We must remember that love begins at home, we must also remember that 'the future of humanity passes through the family.'

'One evening we went out and we picked up four people from the street. And one of them was in a most terrible condition. I told the sisters: "You take care of the other three; I will take care of the one who looks worse." So, I did for her all that my love can do. I put her in bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face. She took hold of my hand, as she said one word only: "Thank you" - and she died. I could not help but examine my conscience before her. And I asked: "What would I say if I were in her place?" And my answer was very simple. I would have tried to draw a little attention to myself. I would have said: "I am hungry, I am dying, I am cold, I am in pain," or something. But she gave me much more, she gave me her grateful love. And she died with a smile on her face'.

<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/mother-teresas-national-prayer-breakfast-message/> Read the full address – it's a humbling read and it might make you think. God bless, Deacon Simon Kirkdale.

2024 Parish Annual Mass Count: For our annual Parish and Diocesan statistics, we kindly ask our **welcome teams to count all parishioners and record on the documents provided**, for the last two weekends of September and the first two weekends of October:
21/22, 28/29 Sept & 5/6 & 12/13 Oct. Thank you.

We pray for those who have died: Ellen Downs, Regino Wahnon, Rev Peter Timms OBE RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, Margaret Hitchman, David Spooner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, Veronica Phillips, Cecila Weathers, Margaret Carley, Jackie & Laurence Keep, David Meyer, Stephen Doyle, Ron Harbin, Jean Clifford, Margaret McNamara, Elizabeth Doust, Pat Payne, David Ball, Neal Sheppard, Fr Andrew Pinsent.

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) Mass: A new rota for welcoming and stewarding for the rest of the liturgical year needs to be populated with names please. This ministry is an integral part of our celebration. Thank you very much!

Sundays in September: we welcome Canon Paul Jennings this weekend. While Fr Simon is away (4th to 22nd Sept, inclusive), please refrain from sending him or copying him into unnecessary emails. Please contact bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk instead. Many thanks.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) elsewhere in the Deanery: While Fr Simon is away on holiday, you can usually find Confessions at Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne after 10am Mass on Saturday mornings or at 5pm (before the evening Mass) at St Thomas of Canterbury, St Leonards.

Weekday Masses – please see newsletters for details of weekday Masses in the Deanery.

OLR <http://ourladyofransom.org.uk/newsletter/> & CTK <http://christthekingeastbourne.org/newsletter/>

Good Shepherd Parish, St Leonards & Hollington: <https://parishofthegoodshepherd.net/newsletters/>

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 14th October, 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): the CWL meet at 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, in St Martha's Hall. Contact: 211717 or 221803. We are a women's group sharing faith and friendship, with many interesting topics & activities.

The annual Parish Harvest Collection for the Food Bank: before all Masses, 6th October. Please donate tin goods, packets fresh fruit etc. After the 9am Mass, St Martha's the CWL will be selling hot dogs and there will be a cake stall. Proceeds go to Hug & donations to the Food Bank. All welcome.

SAVE THE DATE - PARISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE - SATURDAY, 7th DECEMBER: Volunteers urgently needed to man stalls, help with the organisation, etc. A meeting will be held in St Martha's Church Hall after the 9am Mass on Sunday 22nd Sept. As it is the 'Fairtrade Breakfast' we hope that many Parishioners will be present and sign up. If you can help but can't be at the meeting, email: Margaret Von Speyr on margaretvonspeyr@gmail.com; Chris Jones on popsy75@outlook.com and / or Anne Campbell on atjcampbell@sky.com **This is a great social and fundraising opportunity!**

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

Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations:

Applications for RCIA 2024/25 are now closed. Those who have completed the 'pre-catechumenate' and have had their interview with Fr Simon should now have received a 'welcome letter'.

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/baptism/>

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

First Holy Communion: Applications are now open (closing date: Monday 30th September). The course begins with two parents' sessions 1) 4th (7pm) or 5th (9am) October & 2) 18th (7pm) or 19th (9am) October.

The application form can be found here: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/>

FHC Candidates, parents/carers, Sarah Surman will be offering a tour of the church after Sunday Masses 13th or 20th Oct. Also, October is Our Lady of the Rosary Month. 'Let's Learn to Know and Pray the Rosary' - 3pm - 4pm, Sun 13th Oct, St Martha's Church. All welcome. Free Rosaries!

Confirmation: Applications for 2025 are now open and will close on Friday 11th October. The application form can be found here: <https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/confirmation/>

Marriage: 12-months' notice required. Please contact the parish office if getting married in autumn 2025.

Home Visits: you need a non-urgent sacramental or pastoral visit, please use the form:

<https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone 01424 210263 opt. 4.

St Richard's Catholic College Supplementary Forms (SIF): Fr Simon will make himself available to sign these SIFs at 7pm on Mondays 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th October, at the parish office. On these dates, he will open the doors at 7pm and stay for as long as there is a queue, then go home. Be mindful that as the weeks go by, the queue usually gets shorter! SIF forms need to be downloaded from the College website and be completed before you arrive: <https://strichardscc.com/> Please remember to bring your sacramental certificates in support of your application and if you need a replacement, please contact the parish office where you were baptised or received as a Catholic / made your First Holy Communion – there may be an administrative charge for replacements. **If you attend the Syro-Malabar Mass, you should ask Fr Mathew to sign your SIF forms. Fr Simon does not sign SIF forms of non-Catholic Children.**

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 21st September	Feast	St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions – see page 2
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions – see page 2
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

TWENTY- FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

Wis. 2:12. 17-20, Js 3:16-4:3 & Mk 9:30-37

Sunday 22nd September	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Keith Bourne RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Stewart Gerard MacNamara & Susan RIP
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>
Second collection: Liturgy Fund - Lectionary Costs (GA)		
Monday 23rd September	Memorial	St Pius Pietrelcina, 'Padre Pio'
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
Tuesday 24th September	Memorial	Our Lady of Walsingham
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Mark Ferdinand Ranjo RIP
Wed. 25th September	Ferial	Wednesday in 25th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	2.00pm	No Mass Funeral Ellen Down RIP
Thursday 26th September	Ferial	Thursday in 25th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	John & Pat Billingham RIP
Friday 27th September	Memorial	St Vincent de Paul, Priest
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
Saturday 28th September	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
St Martha's Church	3.00pm	SVP Mass of Anointing
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Children of Irene & David Herring RIP & Mary Herring RIP

TWENTY- SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

Num11:25-29, Js 5:1-6 & Mk 9:38-43.45.47-48

Sunday 29th September	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	William Austin RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Holy Souls
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>

Second collection: SVP Bexhill (not GA)

Canterbury: In the Footsteps of St Augustine Part 2

Friday 27th September – There are a few places still available

An information sheet and application form: <https://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/application-form-for-canterbury-in-the-footsteps-of-st-augustine-part-2-friday-27th-september-2024.pdf>

Second part of our pilgrimage to explore St Augustine, in Canterbury.
Contact the parish office for more information.

Parking in our Parish Car Parks: When our parish Car Parks are full, please park legally off-site. Please do not move cones protecting pedestrian & fire access. Off-site, please do not park on double yellow lines, obstruct driveways / pavements and be considerate to others. Little Common public car park £1.30 for 4hrs; please do enter the public car park via the exit which is marked with "no-entry signs".

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.