

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

Advent - Christingle Service

2.30pm, Sunday 15th December

St Martha's Church followed by Festive Refreshments in the Hall

Our Parish Advent Christingle Service includes our **Parish Nativity Play** and

lots of young actors are needed:

Angels; Shepherds, Wiseman etc.

Recruitment: after Sunday Masses on Sunday 1st December or telephone Sarah Surman on 07926 514784

Rehearsal 1: St Martha's Church after 9am Mass on Sunday 8th December.

Rehearsal 2: St Martha's Church after 9am Mass on Sunday 15th December.

Performance: during the Christingle Service, arrive in costume by 2pm
(Costumes can be provided if required)

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

To contact Fr Stephen:

stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk

The email: stmm@btconnect.com

is no longer in use.

1st December 2024

First Sunday of Advent, C.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

I went over to Eastbourne by train the other day. Standing on the platform, I could see the announcement system telling me that my train had left Warrior Square, and I also followed the time-honoured tradition of staring along the track waiting until I could see the train in the distance. It amused me to think how often over the years I have done just that!

In a way, Advent is a funny name for the season we are just entering. "Adventus" in Latin means arrival, and yet we are actually waiting for Christ's arrival, preparing to welcome him at Christmas. It does, however, focus us on why we are waiting. Historically, it was a time of abstinence, just like Lent, but it doesn't have quite the same sense of "giving up things". In fact, it is a season with its own distinct character.

We are firstly recalling the long wait for the Messiah to come the first time. From the earliest days of Jewish faith, but particularly as time wore on, there was a great sense that someone needed to come from God. We of course know that that "Son of Man", as Daniel foresaw, is the Son of God. In many ways, we are bringing to life again that great desire to receive Jesus in our world and our hearts.

Also, we are remembering his promise to return. St Paul clearly thought that this would happen soon. We know of course that it hasn't, but this great season allows us to think and pray that Christ will return in glory.

Overall, it is a great time to renew our desire to receive Jesus in our lives. Let's make, if you will, that crib in the manger in our hearts, ready to know with ever greater joy that he is truly with us, as he said, until the end of the age.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

This weekend: 30th Nov / 1st Dec:

Monthly Church Clean of both Churches.

We pray for those who have died: Rosemary Cox RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, Margaret Hitchman, David Spooner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, 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, Sian Stevens.

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>

Bereavement Support

Ministry of Consolation: 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

Liturgy & Prayer

St Martha's Boiler: Good news! St Martha's Boiler has new parts, has been fixed and is working! Thank you on behalf of the parish, to the kind parishioner who has offered to pay the full amount for the repairs.

Social & Pastoral

Wild Goose Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Thursday 7.15pm, at the presbytery, for praise, praying with scripture, teaching and praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome.

Next SVP Tea at 1.30pm: Monday 9th December, St Martha's Hall. Info: bexhill@svp.org.uk All Welcome. Please note the earlier start time, this is because it not tea, but our Christmas Buffet.

Catholic Women's League (CWL): meet at 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, in St Martha's Hall. Contact: 211717 or 221803. A women's group sharing faith and friendship. The CWL will run the cake stall at the **Christmas Fayre** and they would like donations of cakes please, with ingredients / allergens listed. All cakes and preserves to be brought to the hall at 8.30am on Saturday 7th December. Thank you.

CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) Needs Your Help: They need new parish volunteers to assist Christina to help with the CAFOD Fast Days and campaigning. If you are interested, please contact Jenny Finlayson on 07710 094448 or arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum: The Annual General Meeting, 7pm, Tuesday 3rd December at St Martha's Church Hall. All are welcome.

Council 630 Knights of St Columba: They will be distributing their Christmas poster after weekend Masses 21st/22nd Dec. All donations received will go to their nominated charities.

Service of Music and Prayer from Taize for World Peace: Sunday 8th December, 4 pm, St Thomas of Canterbury & English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, St Leonards-on-Sea. Those who would like to help lead the music are requested to attend a practice, beforehand, at 3 pm.

Christ the King Child Led Mass: Thank you to all those involved, which helped make Fr Stephen's first Sunday with us very special. We hope to plan more children's masses in the new year. Joe Apicella.

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen O'Brien. Parish Deacon: Rev. Simon Kirkdale.

Administrator: Bonita Osmond. Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins



Parish Offertory & Fundraising

Christmas Fayre – St Martha's Hall - 11am to 3pm on Saturday 7th December

Offers of volunteers to help on the day are needed please and please keep the donations coming in, **particularly bottles!** Leave raffle prizes and other items in the Church porches. To help, contact:

Margaret: margaretvonspeyr@gmail.com Chris: popsy57@outlook.com Anne: atjcampbell@sky.com

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.

Building Update: Having completed the Tendering Process, the Parish Finance Committee, with Diocesan approval have appointed Minerva Building Restoration Limited to carry out repairs to the South and West walls, elevations and windows. This work begins in the Spring of 2025, lasting for approx. 30 weeks, at a cost of £300K. In 2026, we will address the other aspects of the Church at an additional cost.

Formation & Sacraments

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

Rite of Acceptance: our group will be admitted to the Catechumenate or accepted as candidates for Reception at all Sunday Masses on 1st December (1st Sunday of Advent). **Next Session:** Thursday 12th December with 6.30pm Mass & their 3rd Talk, focusing on Our Lady & the Season of Advent.

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: Having read the gospels, the Children should be moving onto chapters 2 & 3 of the 'I Belong' to be on time for their First Confession in January & February. **Formation Session on Reconciliation for FHC children not in Catholic schools:** 9am on Sat. 30th Nov at St Martha's Church.

Confirmation: The next session: 5pm on Sunday 1st December in the Presbytery. Topic: Reconciliation. Many thanks. We have been given the date of the Confirmation Mass: 2.30pm on Saturday 3rd May at Arundel Cathedral – please check your emails (& junk folder) for an email with more information.

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.

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 30th November St Mary Magdalene Church	Feast 10.00am	St Andrew, Apostle Nancy & Don Simmons, Leanne, June, Lionel, Lawrence RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Michael Moores RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	& RCIA Rite of Acceptance
		<i>Church Clean - Transept</i>

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, C

Jer. 33:14-16, 1 Thess. 3:12-4:2 & Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

RCIA SERVICE OF ACCEPTANCE DURING ALL SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday 1st December St Martha's Church	Sunday 9.00am	Bourne, Mistry & Young Families GE
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean – whole Church</i>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Matthew Davis
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	<i>Church Clean – Nave & Porches</i>
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism: Eric Anderson
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>

Second collection: Bexhill Foodbank (not GA)

Monday 2nd December St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial 10.00am	Monday in 1st Week of Advent Irene & David Herring RIP
Tuesday 3rd December St Mary Magdalene Church	Memorial -	St Francis Xavier, Priest No Mass – Clergy Day of Recollection
Wed. 4th December St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial -	Wednesday in 1st Week of Advent No Mass
Thursday 5th December St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial 6.30pm	Thursday in 1st Week of Advent Joseph & Thomas Family GE
Friday 6th December St Richard's CC St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial 8.30am-11am 11.30am	Friday in 1st Week of Advent Reconciliation Margaret Keep, Jackie, Carly, Lawrence & family GE
Saturday 7th December St Mary Magdalene Church St Mary Magdalene Church St Mary Magdalene Church St Mary Magdalene Church St Mary Magdalene Church	Memorial 10.00am 10.30am 12.30pm 5.15pm 6.00pm	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP Confessions & Adoration Baptism Sienna Stait Confessions on Request Tony Stephen GE

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, C

Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:3-6, 8-11, & Lk 3:1-6

Sunday 8th December St Martha's Church	Sunday 9.00am	Ken Wood RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism: Ava-Rose Proctor
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>

Second collection: Christmas Flowers (GA)

When our parish Car Parks are full, please park legally off-site. 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 not 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:

stephen.obrien@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.