

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!

Contact Sarah Surman: 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)

From the Finance Committee

The Christmas Collection is your gift to Fr Stephen who does not receive a salary from the diocese but relies on your offerings for Mass Intentions and Sacramental celebrates, plus the two collections at Christmas and Easter. If giving on the day at your Christmas Mass, please use the green envelopes available. Alternatively, please make a BACs transfer using the reference "Christmas". Please note your standing order is for the Parish only.

For Mass intentions & other payments:

BACs: Name: RCD St Mary Magdalene,

Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20.

(Please add a reference)

Online Offertory via Diocesan Website:

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent, C.

What great deeds the Lord worked for us!

Indeed, we were glad!

It is often said that a priest is the least permanent member of a parish family. I often think that, at least in my case, I am the least holy, as I see so many examples of devotion to our Lord in our communities. So, I was glad to have the opportunity on Tuesday to pray for a while with our Diocesan family of clergy at Worth Abbey.

I opened up my Bible and wondered what passage to use for prayer. Immediately I thought that, with the Advent of Christ near, I should go back to that Christmas staple reading, the opening of John's Gospel.

I hardly need to remind you of the opening words: "In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God". Especially as we begin to use our new Lectionaries, a reminder of God as the "logos"- literally in Greek "the one who speaks"- was inspiring. God speaks to us in our hearts all the time, whether in our liturgies, or immediately to us as we pray.

Yet more wonderful, however, was the reminder that He is the light of the world. In these dark winter months, the image of God shining brightly is great by itself, but it's also a reminder that He gives His light to us to let us see the path of love to follow. Moreover, we are like the planets, which cannot shine without the light of the Sun, but, in that light, can reflect brightness. We can show God's light to the world in our love and our lives.

So, this Advent, let's do just that: let's shine out in our darkening world as beacons of God's love, letting everyone know that God's love and care is the true light to enlighten everyone, and that, if we let him speak to us, we can give that Word of life to everyone who desperately needs to hear and receive it.

God Bless, Fr Stephen.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

4pm: St Martha

9am: St Martha

6pm: St Mary Magdalene

11am: St Mary Magdalene

Boxing Day (St Stephen) - No Mass

28th / 29th December - Usual weekend Masses

We pray for those who have died: No new parish notifications.

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.

'New Lectionary' Talk by Fr Tony Milner: 6.30pm – 7.30pm, Tuesday 17th December, Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Eastbourne. Refreshments from 6.15pm. All are welcome.

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 is 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.

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

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 SVP and Foodbanks.

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.

Christmas Music: The parish choir invite any parishioners who would like to join the choir for Christmas Day. Your extra voices would be appreciated. The practice for Mass at St Martha's is Friday 13th December, 6pm in St Martha's Hall, for more information contact Joe Apicella 07954 095707. The practice for Mass at St Mary Magdalene's to be announced shortly, for more information contact Margaret Smart 07815182189.

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

Administrator: Bonita Osmond. **Safeguarding:** Sylvia Cousins



Parish Offertory & Fundraising

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:

Next Session: Thursday 12th December with 6.30pm Mass & their 3rd Talk, focusing on Our Lady & the Season of Advent. **Followed by:** Saturday 14th December, after the 10am Holy Mass - **RCIA meeting:** Morning of Reflection for Advent.

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmbehill.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://stmmbehill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

First Holy Communion: Please start working through Chapters 3 & 4 of the '*I Belong Course*', ahead of 1st Confessions at 4pm on one of these dates: Fridays: 10th & 17th & 31st January, and on 7th & 14th & 21st February, at the Presbytery at St Mary Magdalene. No need to book. Confessions will be on a first-come, first-served basis. FHC Mass date can be booked after Reconciliation.

Confirmation: Next Session: Saturday 14th December, but they are also involved with the Christingle Service as part of their Service Project to the Parish. Advent Service Rehearsal and preparation: Sat 14th Dec. 6pm-8pm St Martha's Church/Hall and Sun 15th Dec. 2.30pm Parish Advent Service - St Martha's Church. 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://stmmbehill.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 7th December	Memorial	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Sienna Stait
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	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	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	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
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second collection: Christmas Flowers (GA)

Monday 9th December	Solemnity	Immaculate Conception of BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Tom Friary, Mick Farrell & Family RIP
Tuesday 10th December	Ferial	Tuesday in 2nd Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Mary Bunyon RIP
Wed. 11th December	Ferial	Wednesday in 2nd Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass
Thursday 12th December	Ferial	Thursday in 2nd Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Paulette Rantz RIP And 3 rd RCIA Mass & Talk
Friday 13th December	Memorial	St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Fr's Arthur & Bernard Holland & Fr Fenning RIP
Saturday 14th December	Memorial	St John of the Cross, Priest, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Peter Green RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Livia Knoll RIP

THIRD 'GAUDETE' SUNDAY OF ADVENT, C

Zeph 3:14-18a, Phil 4:4-7, & Lk 3:10-18

Sunday 15th December	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Dave Aldridge RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	2.30pm	Parish Christingle Service
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second collection: HUG (Not GA)

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

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.