

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

This 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: after 9am Mass

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/>

The Parish Office will be closed for

Christmas: 25th & 26th December.

& Annual leave: 31st Dec – 10th January

15th December 2024

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent, C.

Shout aloud and sing praise,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

As I write this, I am looking at this Thursday's Gospel, where Jesus speaks of how the Kingdom of Heaven is under threat even as He speaks. It reminds me of the first thing ever said to me when I started seminary training for the priesthood: that there has never been a "golden age" in the Church. This is of course quite true: every age of the life of the Church has had good things about it, but also dangers and downsides.

We might, however, be understandably nervous that this age in the life of our parish has had great challenges. We have seen and are seeing differences in the way we work: after all, I am writing this at my desk in the Presbytery, a building which is currently for sale!

Of course, this is against the backdrop of the parishes of our Deanery preparing to come together into a wider parish community of communities. There may be fears that this will lead to the disappearance of our vibrant community spirit. However, this could not be further from the intention of Bishop Richard in furthering this plan.

He is working to ensure that, against challenging financial times, and a background of increasingly fewer priests, all our communities will be preserved as both individual places where the Gospel may be proclaimed and lived and part of a wider Christ-filled community, with activities taking place both locally and more widely, as appropriate. Mass, particularly Sunday Mass, will be offered as widely as possible with the numbers of priests available, while there will be many opportunities for all of us to live our common Baptismal calling as priests, prophets, queens and kings by encouraging and leading prayer, liturgies and activities across our communities.

It's normal to be a little nervous when we step out into the unknown. Let's, however, ask God to be with us as we continue to proclaim His Gospel. After all, during the first Advent, few could have imagined that that would lead to two millennia of God's salvation. Let's have courage, that, wherever and however we proclaim that salvation, God will always be with us on that journey.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024

Christmas Eve

4pm: St Martha

6pm: St Mary Magdalene

Christmas Day

9am: St Martha

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. *Please note:* No prayer groups on Thursday 26th December, and Thursday 2nd January.

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 13th January, St Martha's Hall. Info: bexhill@svp.org.uk All Welcome.

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 World Gifts: Please visit <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a brochure at the back of the Church for a range of alternative Christmas gifts that you give on behalf of a loved one. They receive a card telling them what you have donated to help make a real difference to people around the world.

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.

Christmas Music: The parish choir invite any parishioners who would like to join the choir for Christmas Day. Your extra voices would be appreciated. For St Martha's contact Joe Apicella 07954 095707. For St Mary Magdalene contact Margaret Smart 07815182189.

Faith Enrichment: If your new year resolution is to deepen your knowledge of God and his Church, why not start the journey of the Bible in a year with Fr Mike Schmitz:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>

or the Catechism in a year:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear?srsId=AfmBOoqOYFz9UV93Lt38sXeu4ui4i08HKSFIdf1ivLT2DQV9wY7yFuHv>

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.

Parish Christmas Fayre: This was a huge success attended and enjoyed by many parishioners and visitors. The total sum raised was £1844.17 which is in aid of the parish. The Repository stall also had a very busy day too. A very special thank you to Margaret Von-Speyer for her dedication in organising the event, and to all those many people who were involved in any way.

Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: Thursday 9th January with 6.30pm Mass & their 4th Talk, focusing on Mission, including Baptism and Confirmation. Please pray for our Catechumen for Baptism & Candidates for Reception, who now deepen their appreciation of the Catholic faith. The next event is the Rite of Election with Bishop Richard on Saturday 8th March, at Arundel Cathedral, more details to follow.

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmbexhill.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://stmmbexhill.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 12th January, 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://stmmbexhill.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 14th December	Memorial	St John of the Cross, Priest, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Peter Green RIP
		Followed by Morning of Reflection for Advent
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
<i>St Mary Magdalene Church</i>	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean – Nave & Porches</i>
St Martha's Church	2.30pm	Parish Christingle Service
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>

Second collection: HUG (Not GA)

Monday 16th December	Ferial	Monday in 3rd Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	<i>Fr Stephen Induction meeting with the Diocese.</i>
Tuesday 17th December	17th Dec	'O Sapientia' / O Wisdom
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Christine Cunningham RIP
Wed. 18th December	18th Dec	'O Adonai' / O Lord
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass
Thursday 19th December	19th Dec	O Radix Jesse / O Rod of Jesse
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Friday 20th December	20th Dec	'O Clavis David' / O Key of David
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Noreen Corness RIP
Saturday 21st December	21st Dec	'O Oriens' / O Dawn of the East
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Edna Herring RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism of Molly Ann Noakes
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, C

Mic 5:2-5a, Heb 10:5-10, & Lk 1:39-45

Sunday 22nd December	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Mary Chapman RIP
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>

No Second collection

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.

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".