

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

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 Masses

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 celebrations, 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.

22nd December 2024

Forth Sunday of Advent C And Christmastide.

4th Sunday of Advent:

Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved

Mass Of Midnight

Today a Saviour has been born to us;
who is Christ the Lord.

Dawn Mass:

Today a light will shine upon us;
for the Lord is born for us.

Mass of the Day:

All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.

Merry Christmas!

The Parish Clergy: Fr Stephen and Deacon Simon,
along with Bonita our Administrator wish you a

Happy & Holy Christmas.

May 2025, for you and your families,
be 'another year of favour from the Lord'.

And so, we are (nearly, if you're reading this on the 4th Sunday of Advent!) there. Our Advent pilgrimage is over, and we have journeyed to the stable. The Christ Child fills our thoughts. It's no surprise that Christmas is seen as the great feast for little ones. It certainly is: they can see one like them, someone who needs their parents' help and love.

And yet we slightly older people should not think it is only a children's feast. We all sometimes know that feeling of being in need, being desperate for care. We too can really share the sense of being like the Christ Child. Indeed, we should: Jesus asks us to come to him with the simple faith of little ones. Let's all celebrate this moment, when Jesus comes to us as the most in need human as well as God, remembering that this means he will always understand and love us in his need.

God Bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Mary Whitehead RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, Margaret Hitchman, David Spooner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, Cecilia 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: It is working once again! The old gas meter which had stopped working, has now been replaced with a new one. The boiler however has had more new parts, has also been fixed and is working once again! We would welcome any donations to assist with maintenance of the boiler.

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 07815 182189.

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?srsltid=AfmBOoqOYFz9UV93Lt38sXeu4ui4i08HKSFIDf1ivLT2DQV9wY7yFuHv>

Diocesan Directories 2025: They have arrived, and are available to purchase from the repository, £5 per copy.

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.

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://stmbexhill.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://stmbexhill.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 – Topic is 'The Gifts'. 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://stmbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone 01424 210263 opt. 4.

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

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 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	‘O Emmanuel’ / O God with us
St Martha’s Church	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Mary Chapman RIP
<i>St Martha’s Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
No Second collection		
Monday 23rd December	23rd Dec	‘O Emmanuel’ / O God with us
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mick Hanson RIP

CHRISTMAS MASSES

*Midnight: Is. 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14 & Lk 2:11-14. Dawn Mass: Is. 62:11-12, Titus 3:4-7 & Lk 2:15-20
Mass of the Day: Is. 52:7-10, Heb. 1:1-6 & Jn 1:1-18.*

Tuesday 24th December	Christmas	‘Mass of Midnight’
St Martha’s	4.00pm	Priests Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	SVP Sick & Housebound
<i>St Martha’s</i>	8.30pm	Syro Malabar Mass
One Collection Only: Christmas Clergy Collection		
Wednesday 25th December	Christmas	Dawn (9am), Day (11am)
St Martha’s	9.00am	SVP Sick & Housebound
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha’s</i>	11.00am	Syro Malabar Mass
Feast		
Thursday 26th December	Feast	St Stephen, First Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass
Friday 27th December	Feast	St John, Apostle & Evangelist
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass
Saturday 28th December	Feast	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Hanson & Driscoll Families RIP / GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

THE HOLY FAMILY, C

Sam 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24, & Lk 2:41-52

Sunday 29th December	Sunday	Second Collection: Christmas Crib Collection A & B Crisis Fund (not our GA)
St Martha’s Church	9.00am	Marie Hanson GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Janella Mathew GE
<i>St Martha’s Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

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.