

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

First Holy Communion Update

Please start working through Chapters 3 & 4 of the '*I Belong Course*', ahead of 1st Confessions at 4pm on one of these dates (*please note the change of dates from previously advertised*):

**Mondays: 3rd, 10th, 17th February
& 3rd March**

**4pm at the Presbytery / Parish
Office 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.

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.

Monthly Churches Clean

Next weekend 25th / 26th January
after all Masses, please.

19th January 2025

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, C.

**Proclaim the wonders of the Lord
among all the peoples.**

Peace Sunday 2025

Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/20241208-messaggio-58giornatamondiale-pace2025.pdf>

Pope Francis' World Peace Day Message for this year is rooted in the biblical tradition of the Jubilee. The Jubilee or 'acceptable year' was that one year in seven or one in forty-nine, of forgiveness and restoration, when all debts were forgiven, prisoners freed and a sense of community restored. However, it was more often than not a dream rather than a reality.

The Message tells us that the concepts of hope and forgiveness are at the heart of the Jubilee, a time for conversion that calls us not to condemn, but instead to bring about reconciliation and peace. We are invited to ask for forgiveness as a means of obtaining God's peace. And, God knows, we have much to be forgiven for. The Pope informs us that it is only from a genuine conversion on all levels - personal, local and international - that true peace will be able to flourish.

In the Bible, the term 'conversion' appears over a thousand times and means to turn, return, bring back, restore. It is always specific, a turning away from something towards something else: from injustice to justice, from violence to peace, from darkness to light. And it is always a turning towards God. In the New Testament, it can be understood best in the context of the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. So let us turn now and ask for forgiveness.

God Bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Audrey Draude, Gerald Ramsay, Elizabeth Allen, Maureen Dodd 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, Lorraine Gill.

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

Post-Christmas Leave: Fr Stephen will be away from 22nd January to 30th January (inclusive). A supply priest has been arranged for the Sunday Masses on 25th & 26th January, but no weekday Masses.

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

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 3pm: Monday 10th February, 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.

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: These are available to purchase from the Repository, £5 per copy.

Volunteers Needed: Flower Arrangers to join the St Martha's Team, on a rota basis. If you would like to help, please contact Susanne on 07827 292024. Thank you.

Holocaust Memorial Day: 27th January. The Shackleton Room, Welcome Building, The Congress Theatre, Eastbourne. 6:30-8:30pm. Free Entry.

Diocesan Youth Project Worker - Part time. The St Philip Howard Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6RP. For more info - E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

Exploring the vocation to teaching in our diocesan schools: Dave Legrand, Diocesan Secondary RE Advisor, will be running an online information event 12th February from 5.30 - 6pm. To book a place, please use the link: [Exploring the vocation to teaching in our diocesan schools \(12-Feb-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](https://www.churchsuite.com/events/Exploring-the-vocation-to-teaching-in-our-diocesan-schools-(12-Feb-2025)-ChurchSuite-Events)

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 13th February with 6.30pm Mass & their 5th Talk, focusing on The Eucharist, including Sacrificial Love. 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://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: Please start working through Chapters 3 & 4 of the '*I Belong Course*', ahead of 1st Confessions at 4pm on one of these dates: (*please note the change of dates from previously advertised*) **Mondays: 3rd, 10th, 17th February & 3rd March, 4pm at the parish office / 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: Sunday 9th February – Topic is 'The Holy Mass'. 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.

Christian Unity Week (18th – 25th January) & Interfaith

Service of Christian Unity: 4pm, Sunday of Christian Unity Week, 19th Jan. in St Mark's Church Hall, Little Common. Rev Jonathan Frais invites all of Bexhill to join the Prayer Service.

Mass of Christian Unity: 10am, Mon 20th Jan in St Mary Magdalene, for Christian Unity Week.

Three Churches in Little Common: 2025 1st Meeting, 11am on Wed. 22nd January in St Marks Church Hall, Little Common.

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 18th January	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Marion Cox RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Capaldi Families

SECOND SUNDAY IN OT C

Is 62:1-5, Cor 12:4-11, & Jn 2:1-11

Sunday 19th January	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Sally Moore GE
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Pax Christi (Peace Sunday) c.f. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

Monday 20th January	Ferial	Monday in 2nd week in OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Unity of Christians
Tuesday 21st January	Memorial	St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Holy Souls
Wed 22nd January	Ferial	Wednesday in 2nd week in OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass
Thursday 23rd January	Ferial	Thursday in 2nd week in OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	No Mass
Friday 24th January	Memorial	St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
Saturday 25th January	Feast	The Conversion of St Paul
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
<i>St Mary Magdalene Church</i>	After Mass	<i>Church Clean (Transept)</i>

THIRD SUNDAY IN OT C

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10, Cor 12:12-30 & Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

This weekend we welcome Fr Chris Benyon to celebrate Mass.

Sunday 26th January	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Keith Bourne RIP
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	After Mass	<i>Church Clean (whole Church)</i>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Fr Stephen Ortiger RIP
<i>St Mary Magdalene Church</i>	After Mass	<i>Church Clean (nave & porches)</i>
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: SPUC White Flower Appeal (not our 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".

Snow & Ice Policy: If there is significant snow or ice, please check the home page of the parish website & the Parish Facebook Page to see if the Masses will be celebrated, as our first priority will be the safety of parishioners.

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

For emergencies

i.e. Last Rites:

07872 396683

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.