

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions at 4pm on one of these dates (*please note the change of dates from previously advertised*):

**Mondays: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> February  
& 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

or by 01424 210263 opt.4

To contact Fr Stephen:

[stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk)

The email: [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com)  
is no longer in use.

### Monthly Churches Clean

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

**19<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> January (inclusive). A supply priest has been arranged for the Sunday Masses on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> February, St Martha's Hall. Info: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto: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?srsId=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:** 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

**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 13<sup>th</sup> February with 6.30pm Mass & their 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> March, at Arundel Cathedral, more details to follow.

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

**First Holy Communion:** Please start working through Chapters 3 & 4 of the '*I Belong Course*', ahead of 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions at 4pm on one of these dates: *(please note the change of dates from previously advertised)* **Mondays: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> February & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> February – Topic is 'The Holy Mass'. We have been given the date of the Confirmation Mass: 2.30pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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://stmmboxhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone 01424 210263 opt, 4.

### **Christian Unity Week (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January) & Interfaith**

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

**Mass of Christian Unity:** 10am, Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jan in St Mary Magdalene, for Christian Unity Week.

**Three Churches in Little Common:** 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting, 11am on Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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:



<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
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*

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

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

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

## 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.**

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

**Second Collection: SPUC White Flower Appeal (not our GA)**

## 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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4.

### Out of hours:

[stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.

**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.