

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: 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.

Thank you

Hastings and Rother Council 630 of the Knights of St Columba wish to thank all the parishioners who supported their recent charity events. They raised £1760 for SVP and Foodbank.

16th February 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, C

Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Some people may remember the Cypriot political leader in the 1950s, who was also a senior clergyman-Archbishop Makarios. This would not have been his name at birth- in the Orthodox Church it is common for bishops to have a name which means something to do with God. In his case, he took the name Makarios as the Greek word μακάριος means “blessed”.

You may notice this weekend that one change in the new translation of the readings is that today's Gospel, Luke's version of the Beatitudes, reads “Blessed are...”. The previous version said, “Happy are...”. Certainly, a more commonly used word, but it's good that we are led to think a little about this idea.

Not that the Greek word was always something with a special meaning. The very sarcastic Greek playwright Aristophanes used it to take the mickey out of people or places who were thought lucky with the Greek gods. It could just mean fortunate: it was used by the historian Herodotus to describe an oasis in the desert. However, these might lead us to think about how Jesus might be using it in the Gospels.

For starters, it does tend to have a meaning to do with being favoured by God. This draws us to the idea that those whom Jesus describes as “blessed” are especially loved and cared for by God.

It of course is used more surprisingly than that here. The first “blessed” group are the ptochoi in the Greek. This means more than just the poor- it means “blessed are the beggars”. God loves especially those whom the world would never consider as fortunate.

So, what we can see here is that everyone, no matter how humble or suffering, will receive special blessings from Jesus. Let's rejoice that God loves us so much that, whatever happens, we remain within his love and blessings.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Audrey Draude, Angela Isaac, Christine Bottrill 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, Rose Massey.

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>

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage – Applications are open – More information here:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

Liturgy & Prayer

Child Led Masses at St Marthas: 9th March & 9am, Palm Sunday 13th April. All are welcome to bring children / grandchildren to support these Masses.

Singers and Musicians wanted for St Mary Magdalene church: all ages welcome, all instruments welcome, please contact Margaret: 07815 182189.

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

The Wild Goose Course: to invite Catholic Christians into a more profound life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Wild Goose is the name that the Celts gave to the Holy Spirit as he leads people where he wills, if they let him. **2nd Session** - Thursday 27th February - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery. Topic will be 'The breath of God'. Short film followed by a discussion. More info and dates on the Parish Facebook page & Parish website.

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 10th March, 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. **CWL Information Day with Coffee morning & Cake Stall:** after 9am Mass in St Martha's Hall, Sunday 2nd March.

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.

St Patrick's Celebration - St Richards School: 6pm, Saturday 8th March - please [click here](#) to view a poster. Tickets on sale via Eventbrite. However, the PTFA would like to offer tickets to parents, families and friends of St Richard's. Contact Helen 07855 409022 / Rachel 07855 225419.

Three Churches in Little Common: Next meeting - 11am, Wednesday 19th February, Little Common Methodist Church. All are welcome.

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. **Racial Justice: Second / Retiring Collection this Sunday.**

Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: Thursday 13th March with 6.30pm Mass & their 5th Talk, focusing on Prayer, including The passion of Christ and Redemption. 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.

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: 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 16th March – Topic is 'The Holy Spirit'. 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. Flame Event – 15th March

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.

Lourdes Pilgrimages Applications: Applications for this summer's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (25-31 July by air or own transport, 24 July-1 August by coach/jumbulance) are now open on the diocesan website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

'World Day of Prayer' Ecumenical Service: 10.30am, Friday 7th March, St Martha's church. All welcome. Volunteers for welcoming and refreshments needed. Contact Bridget Grant 01424 845015 / 07749 482033 or bridget.grant@talk21.com

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 15th February	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls
Memorial Garden	After Mass	Burial of Ashes of Elizabeth Robinson RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Mia Coyne & Parents
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Anniversary Blessing
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Confessions on request
		Sheila Sheldon RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY IN OT C

Jer 17:5-8, Cor 15:12, 16-20 & Lk 6:17, 20-26

Sunday 16th February

	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Cronin & Dreland Family GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Cillian & Charles Jordan
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Racial Justice (not our GA)

Monday 17th February

St Mary Magdalene Church

Tuesday 18th February

St Mary Magdalene Church

Wed 19th February

St Mary Magdalene Church

Thursday 20th February

St Mary Magdalene Church

Friday 21st February

St Mary Magdalene Church

Saturday 22nd February

St Mary Magdalene Church

St Mary Magdalene Church

St Mary Magdalene Church

St Mary Magdalene Church

Ferial

10.00am

Monday in 6th week OT

Irene Herring RIP

Ferial

11.00am

Tuesday in 6th week OT

Holy Souls

Ferial

-

Wednesday in 6th week OT

No Mass

Ferial

6.30pm

Thursday in 6th week OT

Enrik Rukaj RIP

Inc Baptism & FHC Alice Levitt

Ferial

10.00am

Friday in 7th week OT

Fr Stephen Ortiger

& Fr Lawrence Quinn-Morris RIP

Feast

10.00am

The Chair of St Peter the Apostle

Peter Chapman RIP

Feast

10.45am

Confessions on request

Feast

5.15pm

Confessions on request

Feast

6.00pm

Anne & Pat Ketterick & Family GE

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN OT C

Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13, 22-23, Cor 15:45-49 & Lk 6:27-38

Sunday 23rd February

St Martha's Church

Sunday

9.00am

Janet Tanton RIP

St Mary Magdalene Church

11.00am

People of the Parish

St Martha's Church

11.00am

Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Maintenance for the Parish Organs (GA)

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.

When our parish Car Parks are full, please park legally off-site. Do not move cones protecting pedestrian & fire access. Thank you.

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.