

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*'.

This is the last and final date for

1st Confessions

Monday 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.

Note Parish Mass – Time Change:

Tuesday morning Mass at

St Mary Magdalene will now be at

10am every week, as from next

Tuesday 25th February.

23rd February 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, C

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

We have been, at weekday Mass, for the past fortnight, hearing readings from the Book of Genesis. It can be a little disorientating: after all, these are some of the most famous Bible stories, except for the life of Jesus, and yet modern science has correctly shown that the timescale of creation could not be as described here. This therefore leads us to think about what we as Catholics believe about sacred Scripture.

It is the Church herself who put together the books of the Bible, from the time of St Jerome, who translated Scripture into Latin, the language of his people, in the Vulgate. Later, at the Council of Trent, the books included in the Bible were defined. The Church has always placed great importance on Scripture, including reading it always in Mass and using it throughout the liturgy (the Sanctus, for example, is based on text in the Book of the Apocalypse). Yet, from the time of St Ambrose, we have not proclaimed that all Scripture is literally true.

Scripture is described as having two authors: the actual human writers, and the Divine writer- the Spirit. All Scripture is therefore inspired by God. The human authors, however, are seeking very different aims.

Genesis is a great example of a "foundation myth"- a story, not necessarily literally true, which nevertheless includes an inner allegorical important meaning, in this case a description of the creation of the world which really shows how God the creator sought, as with Noah and Abraham, to show his love for his people through covenants.

The books of the Bible are a very varied set of genres- from the history of the Gospels, through apocalyptic writings, revealing visions, instruction in the faith, even to love poetry. It helps to read each book taking into account its genre.

However, we must always look for what God is trying to tell us. As we shall hear at the Easter Vigil, underlying all the story of God's love for us, and his work for our salvation. Let's look for that and be inspired to know and love God in his Scripture ever more deeply.

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.

Bexhill Foodbank: We are seeking one or two volunteers to join us to train to be Team Leaders. There will be full training and support offered. Full details: <https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

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.

Maintenance for Church Organs: Second / Retiring Collection this Sunday.

Parish Boilers Update: After having both church boilers serviced in September last year, the boiler at St Martha's has since had to have a lot of new parts fitted to ensure it has continued providing warmth for our parishioners. We were kindly offered a donation towards the cost, unfortunately, this did not arise. If anyone would like to donate towards the cost, it would be most welcome, current cost is £3228.92.

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://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, the final date available is: **Monday 3rd March, 4pm at the presbytery / parish office.** FHC Mass date can be booked after Reconciliation.

Confirmation: Flame Event 15th March. Next Session: Sunday 16th March – Topic is 'The Holy Spirit'. The Confirmation Mass is 2.30pm on Saturday 3rd May at Arundel Cathedral.

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.

Lourdes Pilgrimages Applications: Applications for this summer's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 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 22nd February	Feast	The Chair of St Peter the Apostle
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Peter Chapman RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	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	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	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)

Monday 24th February	Ferial	Monday in 7th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Deceased Barlow Family
Tuesday 25th February	Ferial	Tuesday in 7th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Deceased Clients of HUG
Hastings Crematorium	1.15pm	Funeral Angela Isaac RIP
Wed 26th February	Ferial	Wednesday in 7th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass
Thursday 27th February	Ferial	Thursday in 7th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Funeral Service Christine Bottrill RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Armelle Fréreux RIP
Friday 28th February	Ferial	Friday in 7th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Philippe Morel RIP
Eastbourne Crematorium	2.30pm	Funeral Rosina Mary Massey RIP
Saturday 1st March	Feast	St David
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Abriella Mathew GE (Birthday)
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Dina Green GE

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN OT C

Sir 24:4-7, Cor 15:54-58 & Lk 6:39-45

Sunday 2nd March	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Sheila Matthews RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Parish Boilers Maintenance (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

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.

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.

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year: as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese (Arundel Cathedral, Worth and St Joseph's Guildford) as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>