

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

Last and final date for 1st Confessions:

**Monday 3rd March, 4pm at the
Presbytery / Parish Office**

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. Visit: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

To sign up and for details of this year's Family Fast Day, on Friday 14th March, with the collection Sunday 16th March.

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.

2nd March 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, C

It is good to give thanks to you, Oh Lord.

On Saturday we celebrated the feast of St David. This is obviously in Wales one of the biggest feasts of the year. However, as with St Patrick in a few weeks, it reminds us of those great disciples of the Lord who first brought the Gospel to these islands.

In Wales, St David- Dewi Sant- was renowned for the holiness of his life and his ministry. He truly lived the Christian life, and inspired others to follow Jesus. In Ireland, St Patrick was a Romano- British citizen whose family were left vulnerable after the Romans left, and who was enslaved. He escaped to Ireland and did such good work in proclaiming the Gospel, especially forgiveness, as he sought to forgive those who had mistreated him. The Easter fire he lit in the mountains proclaimed Christ's resurrection to many and led them to Christ.

In Scotland St Columba too, and in England St Augustine of Canterbury, sent by Pope Gregory to evangelise England, did the same. The Gospel was fresh, new and inspiring (even though we now think that some Roman nobility had already converted here before they left, and we know that St Alban was the first Christian martyr here in the 2nd century AD)- we became Christian nations for the first time.

The old saying, that familiarity breeds contempt, has rather characterised the last few years in our islands for Christianity. And yet we are still here proclaiming and living the Gospel. We can let people know that Christianity is not something from the Dark Ages (which weren't dark, by the way- that's an old saw which claimed that nothing happened of note here between 410 and 1066 AD- nobody told St Bede!!!). The Gospel is always new- so let's inspire our current generation with Christ's love, just as those first evangelists did so long ago.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Rosina Massey, David Meyer, Margaret Donaldson 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, 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

Station of the Cross in Lent: Stations of the Cross in Lent: The 'Way of the Cross' will be led by various parish groups at 7.30pm on Fridays in St Mary Magdalene Church (unless stated): 7th March (Charismatic Group), 14th March (Mother's Prayers), 21st March (Choir / Core Group), 28th March (SVP), 4th April (Readers & Welcomers), 11th April (Fairtrade & Cafod). All parishioners are invited and welcome to attend. On **Good Friday**, there is the Ecumenical 'Walk of Witness' at 9am on Bexhill Seafront, and at 11am in St Martha's, the Stations are led by the CWL.

Child Led Masses at St Marthas: 9am, 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: 3rd Session - Thursday 27th March - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery. Topic will be 'The Spirit & Our Lady'. More info 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, this Sunday 2nd March.

St Patrick's Celebration - St Richards School: 6pm, Saturday 8th March - please [click here](#) to view a poster. Tickets on sale via Eventbrite.

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/>

Hastings & Rother Interfaith Music & Culture Evening: 7pm-9pm, 11th March, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. 2 Ledsham Ave, St LOS. TN37 7LE. More Info - See posters in churches.

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 Boilers: 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 'Scripture and The Mass'. Please pray for our Catechumens 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, 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://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 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 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
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
		Second Collection: Parish Boilers Maintenance (GA)
Monday 3rd March	Ferial	Monday in 8th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	All Departed Souls
Tuesday 4th March	Ferial	Tuesday in 8th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Margaret & Arthur Cornfield RIP
Wed 5th March	Lent Begins	Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Penhalagan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	7.00pm	Margaret Hanson RIP
Thursday 6th March	Ferial	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church		-
Friday 7th March	Ferial	Friday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church		-
St Martha's	10.30am	World Day of Prayer Service
Saturday 8th March	Ferial	Saturday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church		-
St Mary Magdalene Church		No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	No Adoration or Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on request
	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT C

Deut 26:4-10, Rom 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

Sunday 9th March	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Betty Smith RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
		Second Collection: Bexhill SVP (not our GA)

Weekly Collections: 23rd February

Offertory: £932.00 / Gift Aid: £219

2nd Collection – Organ Maintenance: £269.37 / Gift Aid: £346.00

(Not including Standing Orders - to be presented monthly.)

Social Events Coordination: As we move further into being a moderated parish, it will become even more important to build our 'community of communities'. For this purpose, forming a committee to organise social events will be essential. If you are interested in playing a role in this, please contact the parish office.

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.