

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

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.

And <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/resources> for Big Lent Walk sponsorship form.

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

This address is no longer in use:

stmm@btconnect.com

9th March 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, C

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – 14th March 2025

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

This Friday is Family Fast Day and a good way of linking together the three pillars of our Lenten practices: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

This Lent Cafod are sharing the story of Lokho from Marsabit, Kenya, whose community they supported through the food crisis in East Africa. Lokho's community lost their livestock and main food source after 40 months of drought. With Cafod's local partner, Wakera, and support from parishes like ours, Lokho and other women in her village worked together to plant kitchen gardens using innovative shade nets to protect them from the harsh climate. Today these gardens feed their community. Your support for CAFOD this Fast Day helps people like Lokho, offer signs of hope to their community. Please bring back your envelopes or use the CARD reader next Sunday.

SVP Bexhill: Second / Retiring collection this Sunday

This weekend, our second collections are in aid of the society of St Vincent de Paul, more commonly shortened to SVP. Our Bexhill SVP group do so much good work in attending to the spiritual and welfare needs of so many of the most vulnerable in our community and thus are such an important part of the pastoral outreach of our parish. Please do support this most worthy cause with your customary generosity. God bless, Fr Stephen.

Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene

Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm on 17th April

Good Friday – 3pm on 18th April

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – 7.30pm on 19th April

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.

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>

Deanery Newsletter March / Moderated Parish Updates:

<https://stmbexhill.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/deanery-newsletter-march-2025.pdf>

Liturgy & Prayer

Requiem Mass for David Meyer RIP will be Friday 28th March, 10am at St Mary Magdalene.

Requiem Mass for Margaret Donaldson RIP will be Friday 4th April, 10am at St Mary Magdalene.

Station 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 (Core Group), 28th March (SVP), 4th April (Readers & Welcomers), 11th April (Fairtrade & Cafod). All parishioners are invited and welcome to attend. At St Martha's, 11.30am, 21st March (CWL). On **Good Friday**, there is the Ecumenical 'Walk of Witness' at 9am on Bexhill Seafront, and at 11am in St Martha's, the Stations be specially for Children (all are welcome).

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: 9th March, 13th April Palm Sunday, 4th May, 8th June. 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. Friday 21st March 11.30am Stations of the Cross in St Martha's Church, followed by CWL Lenten Lunch, St Martha's Hall, 12.30pm. Tickets on sale-weekend Masses (£5 each).

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.

SVP Bexhill: 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 '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: Now that First Confessions are complete, and you have booked into your First Holy Communion Mass, please continue working through Chapters 5 -10 of the 'I Belong' coursebook.

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>

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.

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.

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 8th March	Ferial	Saturday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	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)
Monday 10th March	Ferial	Monday of First Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Peter Cornfield & Varghese Thomas GE
Tuesday 11th March	Ferial	Tuesday of First Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls
Wed 12th March	Ferial	Wednesday of First Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 13th March	Ferial	Thursday of First Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Fr Desmond Baker RIP Followed by RCIA meeting
Friday 14th March	Ferial	Friday of First Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Thompson RIP
Saturday 15th March	Ferial	Saturday of First Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Harry & Peggy Paris 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	Dominic & Italia Capaldi RIP

SECOND 'TRANSFIGURATION' SUNDAY OF LENT C

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28b-36

Sunday 16th March	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: CAFOD Lent Fast Day (not our GA)

Weekly Collections: 2nd March

Offertory: £1031.58 / GA £211.41

2nd Collection – Boilers Maintenance: £287.46 / GA: £285.00

February SO: £610.00 / GA £3285.25

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund - 2nd Feb: £371.17 / GA £317.00

CWL raised £270.34 at the cake sale in aid of St Michael's Hospice.

Thank you to all involved.

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.