

# 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

### Sacred Paschal Triduum

#### in St Mary Magdalene

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April

Good Friday – 3pm on 18<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

7.30pm on 19<sup>th</sup> April

### Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday:

we invite a representative from the various parish groups (or *indeed any parishioner*) to have a foot washed during the 8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Maundy Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April. Please submit names to the parish office. We need 12 people.

### 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)

This address is no longer in use:

[stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com)

### Monthly Churches Clean

This weekend 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> March after all Masses, please.

16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Second 'Transfiguration' Sunday of Lent, C

### The Lord is my light and my salvation.

It is probably inevitable that we can be often surprised by where God leads us. After all, it's logical to think that God might think differently from us, or as Isaiah 55:8 puts it: "My thoughts are not your thoughts; my ways not your ways". However, God understands that this is difficult for us. We could think of St John Henry Newman. When he was an Oxford undergraduate, feeling called to ministry in the Church of England, he was probably surprised already that he was drawn towards making the Anglican tradition closer to Catholic belief, in the Oxford Movement. When he visited Italy, and felt the call to "cross the Tiber" and acknowledge that the Catholic Church was his true home, and moreover when he realised that most of his friends would desert him because of this, he must have found it very challenging to follow God's will, but, with the Holy Spirit with him, he managed it.

Today's readings give us examples of just this sense of God taking us in an unexpected direction. Abram (note his original name, before the covenant with God- even my autocorrect finds that difficult!) could scarcely believe that he and Sarah are, far from not being able to have a child, are going to be the founders of God's people. The disciples could scarcely believe the miracle they would see in the Transfiguration- and we know that Peter will find so much difficulty throughout Jesus' journey to the Cross and Resurrection. This miracle would be part of his growing understanding.

Today we are faced, not with a radical different course, or a new discovery, but a world in which we are facing an increasingly difficult climate in which to live our faith. We are being called to a different model of our local Church.

To this end, all of our communities in coastal East Sussex are being called to become one parish. This does not mean that everything will be centralised- in fact far from it: the vision of Bishop Richard is that we will encourage each of our communities to do as much locally as is possible and permissible in Church law. However, it does mean a new vision. The clergy will work as a team to serve the new parish and our local hubs. We are also all called to live our common baptismal vocation. Whether ordained or not, each of us is called to minister as priests, prophets and queens or kings. Let's all think and pray about how we can serve our local communities, the church in Bexhill and Little Common, and the community across coastal East Sussex. God is calling us to live the Gospel in a new way- let's proclaim the Good News to everyone as part of this call.

God Bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** David Meyer, Margaret Donaldson, Susan Thomas 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 28<sup>th</sup> March, **10am** at St Mary Magdalene.

**Requiem Mass for Margaret Donaldson RIP** will be Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, **11am** 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): 21<sup>st</sup> March (Core Group), 28<sup>th</sup> March (SVP), 4<sup>th</sup> April (Readers & Welcomers), 11<sup>th</sup> April (Fairtrade & Cafod). All parishioners are invited and welcome to attend. At St Martha's, 11.30am, 21<sup>st</sup> March (CWL before their Lenten Lunch). 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:** 13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

### **Social & Pastoral**

**The Wild Goose Course: 3<sup>rd</sup> Session** - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery.

**Next SVP Tea at 3pm:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 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. Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 11.30am Stations of the Cross in St Martha's Church, followed by CWL Lenten Lunch, St Martha's Hall, 12.30pm. Tickets £5 on sale - weekend Masses. Or call 07889 734142 by Monday 17th a ticket will be reserved for you to pay at the door. In aid of Cafod.

**World Day of Prayer:** Thank you to all who attended and contributed to this wonderful ecumenical Service. The choir and music were appreciated by all.

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.

**Second / Retiring Collection this Sunday:** CAFOD Lent Fast Day

**Weekly Collections - 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Offertory: £1180.77 / GA £314.00 And 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – SVP: £497.11

### **Formation & Sacraments**

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

**Next Session:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10am Mass followed by Morning of Reflection for Lent. And Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April with 6.30pm Mass & their 6<sup>th</sup> Talk, focusing on Reconciliation – 'The Moral Life'.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> March. Next Session: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Topic is 'The Holy Spirit'. The Confirmation Mass is: 2.30pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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'. 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.

**Bexhill Foodbank - Do you donate online?** If yes, please note, they have had to change their bank account, and their old account will close at the end of March 2025. Please contact Caroline on 01424 322541 / [info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk) urgently to update your details.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Saturday of First Week in Lent</b>
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
<i>St Mary Magdalene Church</i>	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean (Transept)</i>

## SECOND 'TRANSFIGURATION' SUNDAY OF LENT C

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

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean (whole Church)</i>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Mary Magdalene Joseph RIP
<i>St Mary Magdalene Church</i>	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean (nave &amp; porches)</i>
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
<i>Second Collection: CAFOD Lent Fast Day (not our GA)</i>		
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St Patrick, Bishop, Missionary</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Dennis Driscoll RIP
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Tuesday of Second Week in Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>Clergy Lent day of Reflection</b>
<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Solemnity</b>	<b>St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Thursday of Second Week in Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Mrs Depleave RIP & Family
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Friday of Second Week in Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Frank Horner RIP
St Martha's Church	11.30am	Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Saturday of Second Week in Lent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Winn Yeo RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	& RCIA Morning of Reflection for Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Confessions on request
		Tim Phillips GE

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT C

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15, Cor 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9

<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Lisa Jane Cruttenden RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>

*Second Collection: Bexhill Foodbank (not our GA)*

**Deanery Reconciliation Service with Bishop Richard: Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 7pm at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne.** The Bishop, to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope, will be leading a Lenten Service of Reconciliation in every Deanery. Please come and support this important prayer opportunity as we move together towards becoming a new Single Parish. This will replace the Thursday Mass at St Mary Magdalene, on this day.

**CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year:** <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/resources> for Big Lent Walk sponsorship form.

## 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.