

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 17th April

Good Friday – 3pm on 18th April

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

Deanery Reconciliation Service with Bishop Richard.

Thursday 3rd 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.

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

23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent, C

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

It's funny how slang goes in and out of fashion. You wouldn't, for example, hear many people these days make a mild curse by saying "Heavens to Betsy"! Another phrase which has definitely gone out of fashion is saying "Who do you think you are- the Great I Am?". You could think of that as simply meaning "And how important do you think you are?". However, it really means "Do you really think you are God?".

The people of Israel were very careful about taking God's name in vain. His name in Hebrew was never used- and, as a way round it, the name YHWH was spelt with the wrong vowels (Hebrew is written with only consonants, but vowels sounds were added with special marks). This is where the name Jehovah originated. They would also use Elohim (El in Hebrew means a god, but isn't his name) or Adonai, meaning Lord.

However, God knows that sometimes we need reassurance. God revealed himself to Moses using the form "I am who I am". This means that, whenever this form comes up, we can know that it indicates God. This really comes into its own in John's Gospel. There are a number of "I Am" speeches by Jesus. They all start I am...: so I am the Good Shepherd, I am the Bread of Life, and so on.

They are beautiful by themselves, but Jesus is starting them this way for a reason. In Greek, eimi means I am- as those who know Italian will know, you don't need to say the pronoun. The same is true in Greek- ego, meaning I isn't needed. Jesus uses it, saying ego eimi. This puts emphasis on the I- so I am. And this is because what he is saying is "I am God, and..."- he is echoing God's name as revealed to Moses.

We can have this great reassurance: it is God who is in charge in the Old Testament, and Jesus is God, and so looking after us in the New. As we go through Lent, as we go through life, let's rejoice that God really is caring for us.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: David Meyer, Margaret Donaldson, Susan Thomas, Bernadette Laibach. 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://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/deanery-newsletter-march-2025.pdf>

Liturgy & Prayer

Funerals: David Meyer, 10am, Friday 28th March, at St Mary Magdalene. Margaret Donaldson, 11am, Friday 4th April, at St Mary Magdalene. Bernadette Laibach, 10am, 11th April, at St Mary Magdalene.

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): 28th March (SVP), 4th April (Readers & Welcomers), 11th April (Fairtrade & Cafod). All parishioners are invited and welcome to attend.

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).

Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday: we invite parishioners to have a foot washed during the 8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Maundy Thursday, 17th April. Please submit names to the parish office. We need 12 people.

Singing at the Easter Services: All parishioners are invited to join the parish-wide choir for the Triduum. Please attend practices on Friday 28th March & 4th April, 6pm at St Martha's Hall. Friday 11th April 5.30pm & Monday 14th April 6pm at St Mary Magdalene's Church.

Cleaning for Holy Week & Easter: Weekend of 12th / 13th April - after all Masses, please.

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: 13th April Palm Sunday, 4th May, 8th June. All are welcome to bring children / grandchildren to support these Masses.

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.

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 14th April, 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.

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: Bexhill Foodbank

Weekly Collections 16th March: Offertory £1066.04 / GA £195.00 And 2nd Collection – CAFOD: £1095.91

Formation & Sacraments

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

Adult Baptisms & Receptions & Confirmations: As our Elect & Candidates for Reception prepare for the sacraments, we pray together the 'scrutinies' in preparation to renew our baptismal promises.

Next Session: Thursday 10th April with 6.30pm Mass & their 6th 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: Next Session: **Sunday 27th April:** **Topic – The Creed.**

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>

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 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:



Saturday 22nd March	Ferial	Saturday of Second Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Winn Yeo RIP & RCIA Morning of Reflection for Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Tim Phillips GE

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT C

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

Sunday 23rd March	Sunday	
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>	11.00am	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>
		Second Collection: Bexhill Foodbank (not our GA)
Monday 24th March	Ferial	Monday of Third Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Peter Searson GE
Tuesday 25th March	Solemnity	The Annunciation of the Lord
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	John & Mary Hayes RIP
Wed 26th March	Ferial	Wed of the Third Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 27th March	Ferial	Thursday of Third Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	MG (Martin) McElligott RIP
Friday 28th March	Ferial	Friday of Third Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Requiem Mass David Meyer RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	1.15pm	Requiem Mass Susan Thomas RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 29th March	Ferial	Saturday of the Third Week in Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Oliver Kearney 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	Ewins & McGowan Families

FOURTH 'Laetare' SUNDAY OF LENT C

Josh 5:9a, 10-12, Cor 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday 30th March	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	John Jones RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>
		Second Collection: No second collection

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.

Men's Way of the Cross: 11th April 2025 - Over the cliffs and through the night: Starting from Our Lady of Ransom Church Eastbourne, the last Friday of Lent. An event for men, organised by the Parish of Christ the King. The 2024 event was a great success with amazing contemplative time. There were 28 of us and we enjoyed the breakfast. For more information and full details:

[Men's Way of the Cross: 11 April 2025 | Eastbourne Ordinariate Mission](https://www.orientate.org.uk/parishes/eastbourne/missions/mens-way-of-the-cross)

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.