

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

30th March 2025

Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent, C

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Is this a Fast, to keep
The larder lean,
And clean,
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
Or rag'd to go
Or show
A downcast look or sour?

No; 'tis a Fast to dole
Thy sheaf or wheat
And meat,
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife.
From old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent,
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

Robert Herrick: To keep a True Lent

We have heard, since the reading from Joel on Ash Wednesday, the refrain that a true Lent involves a change of heart, rather than just a particular form of penitential practice. As can be seen from this poem, that is hardly a new idea!

Today is Laetare Sunday- literally Be Happy Sunday! This is an excellent day to relax and take a slight break from our Lenten penances, but moreover it gives us the golden opportunity to check that we are keeping the best Lent we can.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: David Meyer, Margaret Donaldson, Susan Thomas, Bernadette Laibach, David Colquhoun 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 Prish Updates:

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

Liturgy & Prayer

Funerals: Margaret Donaldson, 11am, Friday 4th 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): 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, please.

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 24th April - 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; select the appropriate category. **GIFT AID:** Some collections are Gift Aid-able.

Second / Retiring Collection this Sunday: Knights of St Columba Appeal

Weekly Collections 23rd March: Offertory: £917.01 / GA £159 / 2nd Collection: Bexhill Foodbank: £558.86

Formation & Sacraments

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

Adult Baptisms & Receptions & Confirmations: All candidates should attend Confessions before Easter, on a Saturday, or they can attend Bishop Richard's Reconciliation Service, see front page. 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://stmmmbexhill.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://stmmmbexhill.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://stmmmbexhill.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.

Newman Association Eastbourne and Bexhill: Thursday 10th April, 7.30pm - 9pm. Deacon Simon Kirkdale, will speak about the Diaconate and the role of the Deacon in today's Church. Christ the King Parish Room, 3 Princes Road, Eastbourne BN23 6HT. More info: Alex Mthobi 07957632208.

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 29th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm

Ferial

Saturday of the Third Week in Lent

Oliver Kearney RIP
Confessions on request
Confessions on request
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
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am
St Martha's Church	11.00am

John Jones RIP
Michael Hargan GE
Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Knights of St Columba Appeal – (not our GA)

Monday 31st March

Ferial

Monday of Fourth Week in Lent

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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Nicole & Maurice Pilard GE

Tuesday 1st April

Ferial

Tuesday of Fourth Week in Lent

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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Michael McElligott RIP

Wed 2nd April

Ferial

Wed of the Fourth Week in Lent

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass
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Thursday 3rd April

Ferial

Thursday of Fourth Week in Lent

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass
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Deanery Reconciliation Service with Bishop Richard at Our Lady of Ransom Eastbourne. 7pm.

Friday 4th April

Ferial

Friday of Fourth Week in Lent

St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am
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Requiem Mass of Margaret Donaldson RIP

St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30pm
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Stations of the Cross

Saturday 5th April

Ferial

Sat of the Fourth Week in Lent

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am
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Confessions on request

St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm
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Confessions on request

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm
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Nuala Moores RIP

FIFTH (PASSIONTIDE) SUNDAY OF LENT C

Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, John 8:1-11

Sunday 6th April

Sunday

St Martha's Church	9.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am
St Martha's Church	11.00am

Keith Bourne RIP
People of the Parish
Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: HUG (not our 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.

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](#)