

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

New Parish Open Meeting

Postponed

This meeting will now be rescheduled to a later date, to be advised.

Apologies for any inconvenience.

Safeguarding Training

All volunteers in a ministry requiring a DBS check are expected to undertake training when taking up their role. It is also recommended that this is refreshed regularly. Training is now delivered mostly online through our Diocesan Safeguarding team and may be accessed by contacting:

Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk.

Safeguarding training is also open to any parishioner who would like to sign up using the above address.

Sylvia Cousins

(Parish Safeguarding Representative).

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

11th May 2025

FOURTH 'GOOD SHEPHERD' SUNDAY OF EASTER, C

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

In our Gospel Acclamation today, we hear Jesus proclaiming "I am the good Shepherd". Whenever he uses this "I am" introduction in John's Gospel, he is reminding us that he is God. Here he is showing us that, as God, he cares so much that he wants to guide us gently, like a shepherd does his flock.

This weekend, we have the pleasure of the company of Father Chris, a great example of how God has continued to send us shepherds to care for us. We also have the joy of praying for Pope Leo: the Holy Spirit has newly sent us a new shepherd. God in his love continues his care for us. We will later this summer welcome two new priests to our Diocesan family in Gary and Scott.

The call to be shepherds continues. This is a great day to wonder how we too might be called to shepherd God's people. Whether we are called as ministerial priests, permanent Deacons, religious women and men, Nurses, teachers, catechists, mothers, fathers or any role, God calls us to shepherd his family. If you would like guidance, please ask myself, Father Chris, Deacon Simon, or any priest or deacon. If we can guide you to your call, we'll be delighted.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

St Mary Magdalene Church Maintenance

The works on the outside of the church have now commenced and the scaffolding is being erected. The duration of these works is approximately 5 - 6 months. There will be some disruption in the Memorial Garden, but care is ensured to protect the plots; once the scaffolding is complete, it will be accessible at weekends & evenings, other times, access is not recommended.

We pray for those who have died: Kathleen Holloway, Margaret Mayland, Lorraine Gill, Elizabeth Milbu, Elizabeth Gravell, Gary Gravell, Richard Marshall 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, John O'Brien, Kathleen Brignall.

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

Monthly Churches Clean: Next weekend 17th / 18th May, after all Masses, please.

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: 8th June. All are welcome to bring children / grandchildren to support these Masses.

Annual Leave: Fr Stephen will be on his post-Easter break from Thursday 8th May to Saturday 17th May, arriving back in time to celebrate the Vigil Mass. Masses for 4th Sunday of Easter will be celebrated by Fr Chris Benyon. No weekday Masses during this period.

Volunteers Needed for Welcomers at weekend Masses at St Mary Magdalene church: We are of course enormously grateful for all the hard work of our welcomers: however, we are aware that this is a hard job, and would like more people to come forward, as numbers are sparse. Please call the parish office if you can help.

Volunteers Needed for help in the Repository at St Mary Magdalene on Sunday mornings: Please call the parish office if you can help.

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 15th May - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery.

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 12th May, 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.

Jumble Sale: 10am – 2pm, Saturday 17th May, at Concordia Hall, Parish of the Good Shepherd, St Leonards. In aid of SVP & Afternoon Tea.

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.

Retiring Collection this Sunday: Education of Future Priests

Weekly Collections 4th May: Offertory: £804.50 / GA: £35.00 2nd Collection: £115.68 / GA £3.00

Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: Thursday 22nd May with 6.30pm Mass & 7th Talk, focusing on Mystagogy

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmbexhill.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://stmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

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

Confirmation: Next Session: **Sunday 18th May:** Topic – The Creed.

Marriage: 12-months' notice required. Please contact the parish office if getting married in Spring 2026.

Home Visits: you need a non-urgent sacramental or pastoral visit, please use the form:

<https://stmbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone 01424 210263 opt. 4.

Volunteers Needed: Flower Arrangers to join the St Martha's Team, contact Susanne 07827 292024. If you are a regular at St Martha's, you may wish to step forward and help volunteer to arrange the flowers; this would be on a rota basis.

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage 2025 "Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope" which will take place from the **9 - 23 August**. Walking across the Surrey Hills and along the Sussex coast, this year's route will visit every deanery in the Diocese. To book your place: <https://thepilgrims.org.uk/wp/2025-jubilee-pilgrimage-of-hope-join-us-and-spread-the-word/>

Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition: Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne. 25th April/14th May.

Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum: 13th May 7pm – 9pm, St Martha's Hall. "Considering Universal Spirituality" A Ceremony of Light, followed by three members of our Forum – Marie Miller, Mark Bishop and Gabriella Aluna - reflecting on Universal Spirituality. See posters.

CAFOD: 'Jack says a huge thank you for the generous donations received for the 250Km Big Lent Walk Challenge, total now £710 for Cafod's projects in Kenya, Afghanistan and earthquake zone.



Saturday 10th May	Ferial	Saturday in 3rd week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

FOURTH 'GOOD SHEPHERD' SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 13:14,43b-52, Rev 7:9,13a,14b-17, Jn 10:27-30

Sunday 11th May

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Noreen Corness RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: *Education of Future Priests (Gift Aid)*

Monday 12th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial	Monday in 4th week of Easter
	No Mass	-

Tuesday 13th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial	Tuesday in 4th week of Easter
	No Mass	-

Wednesday 14th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	Feast	St Matthias, Apostle
	No Mass	-

Thursday 15th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial	Thurs in 4th week of Easter
	No Mass	-

Friday 16th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial	Friday in 4th week of Easter
	No Mass	-

Saturday 17th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial	Saturday in 4th week of Easter
	No Mass	-
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Martin Malone RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	<i>Church Clean (Transept)</i>

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 14:21b-27, Rev 21:1-5a, Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Sunday 18th May

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mick Hanson RIP
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	After Mass	<i>Church Clean (whole church)</i>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
<i>St Mary Magdalene Church</i>	After Mass	<i>Church Clean (nave & porches)</i>
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: *Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese – to help Diocese of Chulucanas in Peru. (Gift Aid)*

Important notice about our car parking, particularly at St Martha's

Please do not insult or ignore our parish car-park wardens, they are there as a Health & Safety issue. Moreover, they are volunteers working very hard to serve the community. Do not move cones protecting pedestrian & fire access.

When our Parish Car Parks are full Off-site, please do not park on double yellow lines, obstruct driveways / pavements and please be considerate to others. Little Common public car park costs £1.30 for 4hrs; please do not enter the public car park via the exit which is marked with "no-entry signs". Thank

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.