

# 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

### 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 mostly online through our Diocesan Safeguarding team: [Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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)*.

**Novena of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:** The Novena is accessible on our website, and our Facebook page. You are invited to join parishioners at St Mary Magdalene Church 7.15pm every day of the Novena. The last day will culminate in our consecration to the Holy Spirit at the end of the Vigil Mass Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June.

### 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)

8<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### PENTECOST SUNDAY, C

**Send forth your spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.**

This weekend, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. The name is perhaps a little misleading- the name comes from the Greek pentekonta, which simply means “fifty”- (roughly) the number of days since Easter. What this does show us is that this feast is clearly part of God’s plan- the Resurrection was always meant to lead to Jesus’ ascension to Heaven, and to this feast. This fits neatly with Jesus’ promise that he and the Father would send us another “paraclete”- literally a person “called down together” (by Jesus and the Father), but often translated “comforter” or “advocate”.

This leads us to see something important. The idea of the Spirit of God is not new at the first Pentecost- the “ruach”, or Spirit, of God floats over the waters in the creation story in the Book of Genesis. However, what is new is exactly who the Holy Spirit is. He is, firstly, one of the three Persons of the Trinity- he is “co-equal” with the Father and with Jesus. He has the same importance as they do in the Trinity. This means that our faith in Him can be and must be as sure and absolute as in Them.

However, there is a wonderful, apparently contradictory, part of the nature of the Holy Spirit. As seen in Acts, the Holy Spirit came with the force of a great wind. The power of the Spirit is tangible, and a great comfort as our defender. However, the Spirit is also gentle, working within us to change our lives, comfort us in distress, and show us God’s will for us. In fact, these are both ways in which the Holy Spirit works. So let’s today rejoice that God has given us this great defender, comforter and guide. *veni, Sancte Spiritus- come, O Holy Spirit!*

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** Kathleen Holloway, Margaret Mayland, Lorraine Gill, Elizabeth Milbu, Elizabeth Gravell, Gary Gravell, Richard Marshall, Pauline Moore 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://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/deanery-newsletter-march-2025.pdf>

### **Liturgy & Prayer**

**Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas:** 8<sup>th</sup> June Pentecost Sunday - All are welcome to bring children / grandchildren, and to wear red to symbolise the Holy Spirit, if you wish.

**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 also 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](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

### **Social & Pastoral**

**The Wild Goose Course: 3<sup>rd</sup> Session** - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery.

**Next SVP Tea at 3pm:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 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.

**Save the Date Picnic:** There will be a Jubilee of Hope Summer picnic for all the communities of the St Leonards Hub (Rye, Battle, Hastings, St Leonard's and Bexhill,) on Sunday 6th July, 12.30-4pm, at Holy Redeemer Church Gardens & hall. More details to follow.

**Hastings & Rother Interfaith Forum:** next meeting 7pm-9pm, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Hastings Unitarian Church, 8 South Terrace, Hastings TN34 1SA. Two Guests, a Rabbi and a Bahai will share about their lives through selected scripture, poetry and prose in the spirit of "Desert Island Discs". See posters.

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:** Church Maintenance. Every amount helps going towards the ongoing maintenance of our lovely churches.

**Weekly Collections 1<sup>st</sup> June:** Offertory: £1051.75 / GA: £245.00 / Second Collection: £284.20

**May SO:** Offertory: £712.00 / GA: £3399.50

**Gift Aid Statements:** If you wish to receive a Gift Aid statement please email or phone Bonita who will email you your statement (or post if necessary). **Gift Aid envelopes:** The new boxes will be at St Martha's this weekend. If your box is not there and you require a new box of envelopes, please contact Bonita.

**Gift Aid:** If you are not a gift Aider and would like to consider applying, please contact the parish office. The parish would benefit from an extra 25% from your donation, ie. For every £5.00 you donate we will receive an extra £1.25. If you are not a taxpayer, perhaps you could consider arranging with your bank for a standing order, which is also a good and regular way to make your parish offering.

### Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June - 6.30pm - 8<sup>th</sup> Talk, focusing on Vocation & Certificates presentation.

**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:** The post-Communion 'We Belong' celebration will be after 9am Mass at St Martha's hall on 20<sup>th</sup> July. This replaces the normal 9am refreshments, as the hall is not big enough to accommodate both events.

**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://stmmrbexhill.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.

**Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage 2025 " 9 - 23 August.** To book: <https://thepilgrims.org.uk/wp/2025-jubilee-pilgrimage-of-hope-join-us-and-spread-the-word/>

**Sussex Catenians:** A Catholic organization for men and their families in Hastings & Bexhill. More info: <https://sussexcatenians.org/> or scan the QR opposite,



**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Saturday in 7<sup>th</sup> week of Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Margaret Keep, Jackie & Family GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.45am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Anna Langlois RIP

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Acts 2:1-11, Rom 8:8-17 Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Deceased Di Mascio Family
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Munachimso Onyeabo
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Church Maintenance (GA)

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Mary, Mother of the Church</b>
	10.00am	Nancy & Dom Simmons RIP

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Tuesday in 10<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
	10.00am	Leanne, June, Lionel, Lawrence RIP

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Barnabas, Apostle</b>
	No Mass	-

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Feast</b>	<b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest</b>
	6.30pm	Cronin & Dreland Families RIP and after RCIA group meeting

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Anthony of Padua, Priest, Dr</b>
	10.00am	Reg Chapman RIP

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Votive</b>	<b>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</b>
	10.00am	<b>No Mass</b>

**St Martha's Church**

St Mary Magdalene Church	12 noon	Mass 1: First Holy Communion
	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Ralph Adam RIP

**St Mary Magdalene Church**

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Ralph Adam RIP
--------------------------	--------	----------------

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**

Prov 8:22-31, Rom 5:1-5, Jn 16:12-15

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Jerry Edouard RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Day for Life (not GA)

**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".

**Christian Voices, the Musical Drama Group:** next play is "Lost but Loved" and is based on the parable of the Lost Coin. The play is being performed on:

10.30am, Saturday 14th June in St Michael's Church, Glassenbury Drive.

10am, Sunday 15th June in St Peter's Community Centre.

11am, Saturday 21st June in Christchurch Methodist Church Hall. (Refreshments at 10am)

10.30am, Sunday 22nd June in Little Common Methodist Church.

All performances are in aid of Hastings and Rother Voluntary Association for the Blind. Your support would be greatly appreciated!

**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.