

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

Update: Next Church Clean

The next church clean will now be next weekend: 5th / 6th July.

Diocesan Festival of Hope

20th September (Ardingly)

The Diocese will be gathering to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese, the Jubilee Year of Hope, and the Pastoral Plan with its call to Mission. Sadly, space is limited. Each parish has a small number of tickets allocated via its parish priest. Thanks for your understanding.

The whole Diocese will be prayed for, and those attending will be encouraged to share back in their parishes the fruits of the day's reflections.

Fr Kevin Dring. Moderator Elect.

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

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

29th June 2025

SAINTS PETER & PAUL SUNDAY, C

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

It is, as I have mentioned almost every Sunday of late, a coincidence that every Sunday for about a month has been a great feast of the Church. By coincidence, this year, as holy days which occur near a Sunday are moved to that Sunday, we have another great feast: St Peter and St Paul. I mentioned on Tuesday that there are but a few saints who get more than one feast day. These two are in that category. Why?

Well, to begin with, they are saints instrumental in the very beginning of the Christian faith. However, there is more than that, I think. What can they both tell us?

St Peter is the great example of someone who is on a path of learning. From the lakeside in Galilee, through to his time learning what it means to be a disciple, he learns so much. He has to understand that leadership means service; that forgiveness is unlimited. He must then learn that he ought not to deny Christ, but that Jesus will always forgive him. The humble fisherman from the unfashionable end of the Holy Land becomes the first Pope, and is constantly forgiven when he gets things wrong.

St Paul is the great example of someone, meanwhile, whose faith is turned round. We must never forget that the Saul who approves of Stephen's killing believes in God, and thinks he is doing exactly the right thing. It will take a literal journey- to Damascus- for him to learn that he is called to preach Christ to the Gentiles- ie the whole world.

God uses people who are in the right place to do his work. The humble nature of Peter is vital to show the world that God loves everyone. Paul is a Roman citizen- his embrace of Christ cannot be ignored by the powers that be. What they show is that all of us are called, whoever and wherever we are, to do his work in the world.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Tracy Cross 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, Kate Brignall, Sally Moore.

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>

Deanery Newsletter March / Moderated Parish Updates:

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

Safeguarding Training

Training is available online through our Diocesan Safeguarding team: safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk.

Liturgy & Prayer

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: 20th July - All are welcome to bring children / grandchildren.

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. **Choir members and musicians needed for 11am St Mary Magdalene's**, all ages, and all instruments welcome, please talk to Margaret Smart.

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 17th July - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery.

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 14th July, 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. On Monday 7th July there will be a talk from HUG (Homelessness Unity Group.) CWL have cancelled the strawberry tea but will be holding a **Summer Cake Sale** after 9am Mass on 13th July, St Martha's Hall. "Donations of cakes very welcome and also please come and purchase them." All proceeds go to St Michael's Hospice.

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, 12.30pm - 4pm, at Holy Redeemer Church Gardens & hall. See posters. Free tickets in church porches.

Parish Fundraising Discussion: after 9am Mass on Sunday 6th July, St Martha's hall, share ideas for prospective projects. All Welcome. If unable to attend, you can email any ideas to the parish office.

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: Peters Pence - This annual collection supports the Holy Father's charitable works, humanitarian initiatives, and the needs of the Universal Church.

Weekly Collections 15th June: Offertory: £899.24 / GA: £ 290.00 / Second Collection: £454.04 / GA: £185.00

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 Mary Magdalene 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

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 20th July. Do come dressed in your First Holy Communion outfit if you wish. This replaces the normal 9am refreshments, as the hall is not big enough to accommodate both events.

Applications for 2026 will open in August. Check back here then, and listen to announcements at Mass.

Confirmation: Applications for 2025 will open in September. Check back here then.

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 28th June	Memorial	The Immaculate Heart of Mary
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mariyakutty Esthappan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Mariyakutty Esthappan RIP

SAINTS PETER & PAUL SUNDAY, C

Acts 12:1-11, Tim 4:6-8, 17-18, Mat 16:13-19

Sunday 29th June

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Robert Ffrench RIP & the Ffrench Family
St Mary Magdalene Church (Church Clean after Mass)	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Peters Pence (not GA)

Monday 30th June

St Mary Magdalene Church	Memorial	St Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr
	No Mass	-

Tuesday 1st July

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Deceased Elms / Chapman / Horner Families
	Feast	Consecration Arundel Cathedral

Wednesday 2nd July

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial	Wednesday in 13th week OT
	No Mass	-

Thursday 3rd July

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	St Thomas, Apostle
		Veronica Hargan GE Inc. FHC Madison & Jack Burrows

Friday 4th July

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Wednesday in 13 th week OT
		Derek Rowe RIP

Saturday 5th July

St Mary Magdalene Church	Memorial	The Immaculate Heart of Mary
	No Mass	-
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism of Freddie Earwaker
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church (Church Clean after Mass)	6.00pm	Gordon Phillips RIP

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OT C

Isa 66:10-14c, Galatians 6:14-18, Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

Sunday 6th July

St Martha's Church (Church Clean after Mass)	9.00am	Mick Hanson RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church (Church Clean after Mass)	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Foodbank – Schools Summer Picnic (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".

Cafod Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope – Cancel Debt Petition – They will be collecting signatures, after Masses. The world is currently facing one of the most severe debt crisis in history. 54 countries – from Kenya to Sri Lanka – are facing debt distress. This jubilee year people are uniting in solidarity to demand action on to the debt crisis.

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.