

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

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.

Safeguarding Training

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

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

3rd August 2025
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OT, C

**O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.**

As some of you may know, I am going to be doing some online study in Canon Law- the law of the Church- on behalf of the Diocese. It's a good time to mention it because there will be the odd time when I will have to go over to Leuven in Belgium in person, and so will have to cancel Weekday Mass and leave you in the more than capable hands of our wonderful retired priests at weekends. It won't be more than a couple of fortnights a year, plus the odd day.

This is also therefore a good time to think a little about what Canon Law is all about. Pope Francis issued a document called "Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus"- Gentle Judge, Jesus Christ- just under a decade ago. This title sums up how the Law of the Church serves us as the people of God. It exists to allow people to have life in Jesus to the full- to protect, to show mercy, to show love. My rector at Womersley, Mgr Gerry, always said that Canon Law is a tool, not a weapon, and so it is: our Judicial Vicar, Canon Paul, says that it is pastoral- it should work as part of our faith to deepen and enhance it.

My connection with Canon Law is in working with our marriage Tribunal, under Canon Paul. We help people who have often gone through great difficulties and see whether they can be free to marry in the Church, or simply to feel free from difficult situations. If you would like to explore whether you might be able to make use of the Tribunal, please do ask me, or, if you feel more comfortable, any priest. We will be delighted to help. In this way, we can bring God's love and mercy to his people in a very special way.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Tracy Cross RIP, Margaret Redding, Robert Redding, Patricia Deepprose 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, Gaynor Mitchell.

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 Summer / Moderated Parish Updates: [deanery-newsletter-summer-2025.pdf](#)

A few copies are available at the back of church for those without online access.

New Deanery Website & Newsletter: to help with regular communication across our deanery, especially relating to the formation of a single parish, a temporary website has been developed which can be found at www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk.

Safeguarding Training

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

Liturgy & Prayer

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: Please keep an eye on the newsletter for future dates. 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.

St Mary Magdalene Repository: Regular volunteers are urgently needed to open and close and run the repository on Sunday morning.

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 25th Sept - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery.

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 11th August, 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. CWL raised £273.56 at the Summer Cake Sale. All proceeds go to St Michael's Hospice.

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: Bexhill SVP. To help to provide support for local families in need.

Weekly Collections: 13th July: Offertory: £991.89 / GA: £250 / Second collection: £549.552

20th July: Offertory: £1050.05 / GA: £284.20 / **27th July:** Offertory: £984.51 / GA: £190.00

Formation & Sacraments

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 2026: For baptised Catholic children or children who have been received into the Catholic church. Applications are now **open** (closing date: Tuesday 30th September). The application form can be found on the parish website.

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

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/>

New Deanery Website & Newsletter at www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk.

Patron Saints Celebrations

'Thank you everyone, willing helpers and enthusiastic participants, who made our Patron Saints Celebrations such joyful occasions'.



Sussex Catenians: A Catholic organization for men and their families

in Hastings & Bexhill. More info: <https://sussexcatenians.org/> or scan the QR opposite,



Saturday 2nd August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm

Opt. Mem
Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Holy Souls
Baptism Jude Wilson
Confessions on Request
People of the Parish

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OT C
Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23, Col 3:1-5, 9-11, Lk 12:13-21
Sunday 3rd August

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Wendy Champion RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Clare West RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Bexhill SVP (not GA)
Monday 4th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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Memorial
St John Mary Vianney, Priest

Elizabeth Francis RIP

Tuesday 5th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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Ferial
Tuesday in 18th week OT

Gaynor Mitchell GE

Wednesday 6th August

St Mary Magdalene	-
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Feast
Transfiguration of the Lord

No Mass

Thursday 7th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	11am
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Ferial
Thursday in 18th week OT

Requiem Margaret & Robert Redding RIP

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm
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People of the Parish

Friday 8th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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Memorial
St Dominic, Priest

Holy Souls

Saturday 9th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm

Feast
St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Martyr

 Priests Intentions
Confessions on Request
People of the Parish

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OT C
Wis 18:6-9, Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 & Lk 12:32-48
Sunday 10th August

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Pamela Bourne GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Adam Clarke RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Church Maintenance (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.

SVP: Our parish St Vincent de Paul group (SVP) is very busy assisting parishioners and people in our community with a varied number of needs and requests. We are in need of more people to join us to help us with our work and especially with our monthly Tea@3 events. You may even consider becoming a full member to help with visits and support.

If you would like to use your gifts and talents to help those in need, please get in touch for an informal chat. We would love to hear from you, even if you only have a little available time occasionally.

Contact Chris on 07783 598238.