

# 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

20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](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)

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

[sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Wonersh, 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 Deeprose 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](http://www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk).

### **Safeguarding Training**

Training is available online through our Diocesan Safeguarding team: [safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

### **Social & Pastoral**

**The Wild Goose Course: 3<sup>rd</sup> Session** - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at the presbytery.

**Next SVP Tea at 3pm:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 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. 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: 13<sup>th</sup> July:** Offertory: £991.89 / GA: £250 / Second collection: £549.552

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

### 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 2026:** For baptised Catholic children or children who have been received into the Catholic church. Applications are now open (closing date: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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:

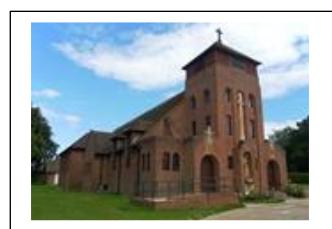
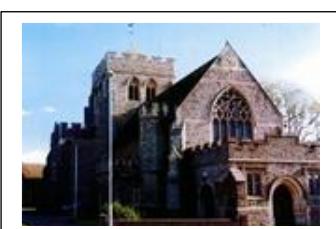
<https://stmmrbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone 01424 210263 opt, 4.

**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](http://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,



<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	<b>Baptism Jude Wilson</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> August**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	<b>St John Mary Vianney, Priest</b>
		Elizabeth Francis RIP

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	<b>Tuesday in 18<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
		Gaynor Mitchell GE

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

St Mary Magdalene	-	<b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b>
		No Mass

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

St Mary Magdalene Church	11am	<b>Thursday in 18<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
		Requiem Margaret & Robert Redding RIP

**St Mary Magdalene Church**

6.30pm	People of the Parish
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**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	<b>St Dominic, Priest</b>
		Holy Souls

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	<b>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Martyr</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Priests Intentions
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Confessions on Request

6.00pm	People of the Parish
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**NINETEENTH SUNDAY OT C***Wis 18:6-9, Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 & Lk 12:32-48***Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Second Collection: Church Maintenance (GA)**

**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.

**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.