

# 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

**The Assumption**  
**Holy Day of Obligation:**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August.**

Masses for the Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven.

Fr Stephen will celebrate a *vigil* Mass:

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August,**  
**6.30pm at St Mary Magdalene.**

*And*

**On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August:**  
**10am, St Mary Magdalene.**

*Also*

Fr Richard will celebrate an  
evening Mass for all the parishes  
in the east of the Deanery:

**7.30pm, Our Lady Immaculate &  
St Michael, Battle. TN33 OEG.**

We are reliably informed that there  
is free parking in Mount Street  
carpark after 7pm.

### **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)

**10<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
**NINETEENTH SUNDAY OT, C**

**Blessed the people the Lord  
has chosen as his heritage.**

It's high summer, and I don't want to be the one who reminds everyone that in a few weeks the chill winds of autumn will be blowing along the promenade, but the nights are beginning, ever so slightly, to draw in. No longer is dusk postponed until 9pm, and the mornings too are not dawning at 3am. The cycle of the year is turning.

Darkness has always had an impact on humanity. We are hard-wired to enjoy the light, and fear the darkness (even those of us who prefer the cool, dewy mists of an autumn morning!). When I had the privilege of spending a few weeks with the Mill Hill Missionaries in Kenya, one of the first pieces of advice I was given was never to travel in the hours of darkness. We justly fear for our safety more, even when electric light has changed the nature of the night.

Jesus, knowing, as fully human, our inmost thoughts and fears, knows that we prefer the light. John uses this image to show Christ as the light himself. In today's Gospel, however, it is used differently: we are reminded to keep our light burning. This is of course a reference more fully understood in a world where a tiny light was needed to illumine the utter darkness of the night. It however gives us the realisation that we can do so much by letting our light shine to penetrate the darkness of a world which so often ignores Christ, the true source of light. This gives greater meaning to our parish mission: we must figuratively show the world all we can do, but also literally be beacons in the world, points of hope. Let's bring the light of Christ into our world, as surely as the dawning sun brings light and hope to humankind.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** Paolo Zago 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).

**Diocesan Festival of Hope (Ardingly) 20<sup>th</sup> September:** Celebration for the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese, the Jubilee Year of Hope, and the Pastoral Plan with its call to Mission. Tickets have now been allocated; the organiser will contact those people directly. 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.*

### **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.

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 to help to provide loving care for our churches.

**Weekly Collections: 3<sup>rd</sup> August:** Offertory: £1123.01 / GA: £235.00 / Second collection: £521.37

**July SO:** Offertory: £600 / GA: £3444.50

**Mass Intentions:** Don't forget that every Mass celebrated in the parish can be offered for either the repose of the soul of your departed loved ones, or for the well-being and good intentions of yourself, or your family and friends. We have lots of availability in the coming months, both on Sundays and weekdays. If you would like to book a Mass Intention (suggested donation £10) please contact the parish office

### **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 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://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](http://www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk).

**Ride and Stride:** 13<sup>th</sup> September: Join us for a Sponsored Walk visiting local Churches. Walk as far or as little as you wish. Sponsored money is shared between Sussex Historical Churches Trust and OLR. See Church Noticeboards or call 07749 482033.

**Bexhill Foodbank:** They are need of the following items, please: Sweet treats; Washing up liquid; Dry and wet cat and dog food; Peanut butter; Ketchup; Tinned fish; Porridge; Cooking oil; Sugar.

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



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August**
**Feast**
**St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Martyr**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Irena Hulewicz RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

**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
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Church Maintenance (GA)**
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August**
**Memorial**
**St Clare, Virgin**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Noreen Corness RIP
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**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**
**Ferial**
**Tuesday in 19<sup>th</sup> week OT**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	All Departed Souls
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**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August**
**Ferial**
**Wednesday in 19<sup>th</sup> week OT**

St Mary Magdalene	-	No Mass
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**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August**
**Memorial**
**St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr**

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	People of the Parish
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**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**
**Solemnity**
**The Assumption of the BVM**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	The family of the late Derek Rowe.
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<b>Battle Cemetery Chapel</b>	12 noon	Funeral Paolo Zago RIP
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<b>Our Lady Immaculate &amp; St Michael, Battle</b>	7.30pm	Priests Intentions
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**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August**
**Opt. Mem**
**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Priests Intentions
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Amiyah-Mae Thomas
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Pat & John Billingham RIP

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY OT C**
*Jer 38:4-6, 8-10, Heb 12:1-4, & Lk 12:49-53*
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Second Collection: Cafod Gaza Crisis Appeal**
**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.

**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.