

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

National Tour of Relics 2025

The relics of St Andrew, St Columbia & St Margaret of Scotland, will be displayed for veneration at: St Wilfrid's Church, South Rd, Hailsham, BN27 3JG: Wednesday 27th August. Starting with the Rosary at 9.30am, Holy Mass at 10am and Holy Mass at 7pm. Arranged by Knights of St Columba, all welcome at any time.

Fatima Relics

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue & Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco are visiting Arundel Cathedral, 8th November, 10am – 4.30pm.

See posters at back of churches and on our website:

[national-tour-of-relics-2025.pdf](#)

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

17th August 2025
TWENTIETH SUNDAY OT, C

Lord, make haste to help me!

The Gospel this weekend reminds us of the unpalatable truth that our faith, far from uniting us, frequently causes divisions, where some members of our family and friends may accept Jesus, while others scorn them for it. Taken by itself, that might lead us to despair, but let's think about the hope which God has put into our world as well.

Before the Prince Regent made Brighton turn from a fishing community into a fashionable resort, our part of the world was somewhat off the beaten track. When the railway came through Bexhill in the 1840s, it was a small rural community around where the Town Hall now stands. Over the intervening years, the community grew, spreading itself towards the coastline and welcoming visitors. By the 20th century, it was ready for such grand visions of the future as the De La Warr Pavilion- and St Mary Magdalene's, of course. The community spread west and north, with Little Common and Sidley developing from small foundations.

If our town has grown into such a wonderful place, we can think of the hope which engendered such developments. Hope is the great gift which God wants to give us- not despair. As we go forward into new and perforce unknown territory, let's ask God for renewed hope that, no matter what hurdles lie ahead, we may rejoice to see his Spirit guiding us into the future.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

Cathedral Mass for Altar Servers - Sat 27 September at 12

noon at Arundel Cathedral: Fr Aaron Spinelli, the Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen, invites diocesan altar servers to a Mass led by Bishop Richard. Parent/Carers email Fr Aaron to confirm attendance: aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk bring a cassock, cotta or an alb, if possible. Refreshments provided after Holy Mass (bring packed lunch).

We pray for those who have died:

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.

Diocesan Festival of Hope (Ardingly) 20th 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.*

A Day with Mary: Saturday 30th August, Arundel Cathedral. 9.30am – 4.30pm. A day of instruction, devotion & intersession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. Full timetable on poster displayed in church porches and on our website: [a-day-with-mary.pdf](#)

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.

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 8th September, St Martha's Hall. Info: bexhill@svp.org.uk All Welcome. The SVP would like to thank our fellow parishioners for their generosity with the second collection in aid of the SVP. It will help us continue our work in the parish and local community.

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: Cafod Gaza Crisis Appeal.

Weekly Collections: 10th August: Offertory: £924.70 / GA: £190 / Second collection: £259.94 / GA: £137

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 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.

Ride and Stride: 13th 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.

They are grateful for all your donations.

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



Saturday 16th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Thanksgiving for Priests
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

Opt. Mem
Saturday Memorial of the BVM
TWENTIETH SUNDAY OT C

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10, Heb 12:1-4, & Lk 12:49-53

Sunday 17th 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 (not GA)

Monday 18th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	Monday in 20th week OT
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Tuesday 19th August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Tuesday in 20th week OT
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Wednesday 20th August

St Mary Magdalene	-	St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor
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Thursday 21st August

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	St Pius X, Pope
St Mary Magdalene Church	During 6.30pm Mass	Anne-Marie Norman Thanksgiving
St Mary Magdalene Church	During 6.30pm Mass	Baptism, FHC Harry & George Cox

Friday 22nd August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	The Queenship of the BVM
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Saturday 23rd August

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Ralph Adam RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY OT C

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10, Heb 12:1-4, & Lk 12:49-53

Sunday 24th August

St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Regino Wahn RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	During 11am Mass	Baptism Noran Warnakulasooriya
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.

Annual SVP Mass for the Sick and Housebound
3pm, Saturday 27th September, St Martha's.

The Mass with Anointing takes place at St Martha's on 27th September at 3pm followed by tea and cake in the hall afterwards. We would encourage next of kin where possible to bring their loved ones who need the sacrament to this Mass. If anyone would like to come and may need a lift, please contact Chris Jones on 07783 598238 as soon as possible.