

# 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

### Presbytery Open House Day Take & Donate Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 12 noon – 4 pm

As the presbytery has now been sold, we are in the process of clearing. We would like to invite all parishioners to an open house clearance day. You are welcome to look around and take anything you would like for a donation to the parish. Cash, cheque, or card payments available.

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

The Mass with Anointing will be followed by tea and cake in the hall afterwards. Next of kin are encouraged to bring their loved ones who need the sacrament to this Mass. If you need a lift, contact Chris Jones 07783 598238 asap.

### The Parish Office

Due to our lone working policies, the parish office is open to those with appointments. Please contact the Parish Office by email: [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

or by 01424 210263 opt.4

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

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

Fr Stephen will be on his summer break:

4<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### Sundays in September

We welcome Fr Hugh Seenan this weekend, then, Fr Chris Benyon for 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> Sept & 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> Sept.

**23<sup>rd</sup> OT C, Exaltation of the Cross, 25<sup>th</sup> OT C**  
**7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

23<sup>rd</sup>: Oh Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Exaltation of the Cross: Never forget the deeds of the Lord.

25<sup>th</sup>: Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

As we go through times of change  
it is nice to reflect on this following poem:

### THE GATE OF THE YEAR by Minnie Louise Haskins

'God Knows'

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.*

*And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

*So heart be still:*

*What need our little life*

*Our human life to know,*

*If God hath comprehension?*

*In all the dizzy strife*

*Of things both high and low,*

*God hideth His intention.*

*God knows. His will*

*Is best. The stretch of years*

*Which wind ahead, so dim*

*To our imperfect vision,*

*Are clear to God. Our fears*

*Are premature; In Him,*

*All time hath full provision.*

*Then rest: until*

*God moves to lift the veil*

*From our impatient eyes,*

*When, as the sweeter features*

*Of Life's stern face we hail,*

*Fair beyond all surmise*

*God's thought around His creatures*

*Our mind shall fill.*

**We pray for those who have died:** Brendan Dillstone, Donough Moloney 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, Terence Phillips.

**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>

**Vacancy at Arundel & Brighton Diocese Head Office - St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley:** Finance Manager, full time based at St Philip Howard Centre (some Hybrid Working opportunity). Info and how to apply can be found at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers>.

**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. Tickets and information will be sent to attendees directly by the organisers.

**Cathedral Mass for Altar Servers: Sat 27 September, 12 noon at Arundel Cathedral:**

Parent / Carers contact Fr Aaron to confirm attendance; [aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk) Bring a cassock, cotta or an alb, if possible. Holy Mass will be followed by light refreshments.

### **Liturgy & Prayer**

**Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October; 2<sup>nd</sup> November; 23<sup>rd</sup> November. 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](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 8<sup>th</sup> September, 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 Collections** - 6<sup>th</sup> Sept: White Fathers Mission Appeal. (not in our GA scheme).

14<sup>th</sup> Sept: Education Sunday (not in our GA scheme). 20<sup>th</sup> Sept: Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (not in our GA scheme)

**August SO:** £621 / GA: £3332

**Weekly Collections: 31<sup>st</sup> August:** Offertory: £838.78 / GA: £125 / Second Collection: £370.59 / GA: £130

### **Formation & Sacraments**

**Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations:**

Applications for RCIA 2025/26 are now closed. Those who have completed the 'pre-catechumenate' and have had their interview with Fr Stephen will have received a 'welcome letter'.

**Confirmation:** Applications for 2025/26 are now open and will close on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Please find application form on the parish website or in church porches.

**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 or in the porch of both churches.

**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/>

**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.

**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. 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. Thank you.

**Fairtrade Fortnight starts with a Fairtrade Breakfast:** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, after 9am St Martha's Mass, in the hall. All offers of cakes, raffle prizes and assistance are warmly welcomed, contact Jack if you can help: [jackdoherty@sky.com](mailto:jackdoherty@sky.com)

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



While Fr Stephen is away, for the Sacrament of the Sick please contact neighbouring parishes or Hospital chaplaincy.

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Anne Pitt-Payne GE

*This weekend at all Masses, we warmly welcome  
Fr Hugh Seenan from Missionaries of Africa (The White Fathers)*

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OT C

Wis 9:13-18, Phil 9b-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Henry Chapman RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

*Second Collection: White Fathers Mission Appeal (not our GA scheme)*

**There will be no weekday Masses Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Sept – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept**

<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Patrick Keegan RIP

*This weekend and next, at all Masses, we warmly welcome Fr Chris Benyon*

## EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Num 21:4b-9, Phil 2:6-11, Jn 3:13-17

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>Education Sunday</b>
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Bill Austin RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

*Second Collection: Education Sunday (not in our scheme)*

**There will be no weekday Masses Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept – Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept**

<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Andrew Kim Taegon</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased members Buckle Family

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OT C

Amos 8:4-7, Tim 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13

<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>		<b>Evangelii Gaudium Day</b>
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Stewart & Susan McNamara RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

*Second Collection: Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (not our GA scheme)*

<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Monday in 25<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene	No Mass	-
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Pius of Pietrelcina, 'Padre Pio'</b>
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	KT Cherian & Mariamma Cherian RIP
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>
St Mary Magdalene	No Mass	-
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Thursday in 25<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Holy Souls & FHC Misha Cevantes
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Friday in 25<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Matthew Hargan GE

### Weekday Mass and Reconciliation (a selection)

St Mary, Star of the Sea, Hastings - High Street, Hastings. Take bus numbers 100/101/321 from Hastings Station and alight on Old London Road at the Market Cross. Mass: 10am except Mondays. Confessions: after Saturday 10am Mass.

Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne - Grange Road, Eastbourne. Take the train to Eastbourne and walk up by the library or take the 99 bus and walk up South Street.

Mass: 11am (10am Saturday). Confessions: after Saturday 10am Mass.

Christ the King, Langley A259 at Seaside roundabout beyond Asda. Take the 99 bus and alight at first stop after roundabout. Mass: Tuesday 10am; Friday 12 noon. Confessions: after Friday 12 midday Mass.

St Thomas of Canterbury, St Leonards Magdalene Road. Park on road. Take the train to St Leonards Warrior Square, but beware the steep climb. Take the 100 bus from Hastings Station to the Fire Station. Mass: Thursday and Friday 10am.

Holy Redeemer, Hollington Sedlescombe Road near junction with Harrow Lane. Car park behind church. Take the 100 or 321 bus towards Conquest Hospital and alight at bottom of Harrow Lane. Mass: Monday, Tuesday and Saturday 10am.

In addition, St Michael and All Angels, Battle has a Tuesday evening Mass.

Please confirm times before travelling.

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