

# 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**

**ALL WELCOME!**

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.

**After 9am Mass**

**St Martha's Hall, 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**Fairtrade Breakfast (approx. 30 mins)**

All welcome, including Bexhill Town Mayor. 9<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept is Fairtrade Fortnight and buying Fairtrade items is our Christian response in love and moral choice and a proof of loving Jesus in our neighbour. Help us by making a list of the items and numbers you purchase over Fairtrade Fortnight and put your list in the box in the church porch. You all make a difference. Thank you to all, from Jack Doherty.

### 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)

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OT C**

**Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.**

When Harold Macmillan was asked in an interview what worried him about being Prime Minister, he replied “Events, dear boy, events!”. It is in this spirit that I must apologise to you this weekend. As you know, I have been asked to undertake a course in Canon Law, the law of the Church. I knew that I would need to spend a couple of fortnights over the next few months studying in person at Leuven in Belgium. What I hadn’t realised, until I found the timetable this week, was that the first two-week period starts on Monday!

I would not have chosen for this to come straight after my holiday, meaning of course that there will be no weekday Masses for another two weeks. I shall however return next weekend so that I shall be able to say all the weekend Masses, including the Anointing Mass on Saturday. If this proves practical, I shall do the same the next time this occurs.

In the meantime, please do accept my apologies, and be assured of my prayers while I am away.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

### 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.

**2025 Parish Annual Mass Count:** For our annual Parish and Diocesan statistics, we kindly ask our **welcome teams to count all parishioners and record on the documents provided**, for the last two weekends of September and the first two weekends of October:  
**20/21, 27/28 Sept & 4/5 & 11/12 Oct.** Thank you.

**We pray for those who have died:** Brendan Dillstone, Donough Moloney, Liz O'Rourke Andres, Sr John Oglivie 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>

**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).

**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 13<sup>th</sup> October, 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** are arranging a Harvest Festival Foodbank collection on Sunday 5th October, they will be collecting for the Food Bank over the coming weeks. Items can be left in the porches of both churches. They will also be providing coffee/tea and Harvest Hotdogs, cost £4, and a raffle, after 9am Mass in St Martha's Hall.

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 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sept:** Evangelii Gaudium Sunday. (not in our GA scheme).

**Weekly Collections: 7<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Offertory: £1047.07 / GA: £248.40 / Second Collection: £1175.78

**14<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Offertory: £1039.12 / GA: £211.00 / Second Collection: £349.87

### Formation & Sacraments

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

Applications for RCIA 2025/26 are now closed. Next Session: 1<sup>st</sup> October, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

**Confirmation:** Applications for 2025/26 are now open and will close on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. The application form can be found 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 and will close on 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.

**St Richards Catholic College Open Evening:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 4.30pm - 7.30pm. The principal, Mr Barbar will offer a welcoming address in the school hall at 4.30pm 5.45pm.

**St Richard's Catholic College Supplementary Forms (SIF):** Fr Stephen will make himself available to sign these SIFs at 4pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. This will be on a queue basis, no appointment necessary.

SIF forms need to be downloaded from the College website and be completed before you arrive:

<https://strichardscc.com/> Please remember to bring your sacramental certificates in support of your application, otherwise we cannot sign the form, and if you need a replacement, please contact the parish office where you were baptised or received as a Catholic / made your First Holy Communion – there may be an administrative charge for replacements. **If you attend the Syro-Malabar Mass, you should ask Fr Mathew to sign your SIF forms.** Fr Stephen does not sign SIF forms of non-Catholic Children.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September****Memorial****St Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest,  
Paul Chong Hasang & Companions**

St Mary Magdalene Church

5.15pm

Confessions on Request

St Mary Magdalene Church

6.00pm

Deceased members Buckle Family

*This weekend at all Masses, we warmly welcome Fr Chris Benyon***TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OT C***Amos 8:4-7, Tim 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13***Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September****Evangelii Gaudium Day**

St Martha's Church

9.00am

People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene Church

11.00am

Stewart &amp; Susan McNamara RIP

St Martha's Church

11.00am

Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (not our GA scheme)*****There will be no weekday Masses Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Sept*****Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September****Memorial****St Vincent de Paul, Priest**

St Mary Magdalene Church

12.30pm

Baptism Arabella &amp; Hallie Keane

St Martha's Church

**3.00pm****SVP Mass of Anointing**

St Mary Magdalene Church

5.30pm

Confessions on Request

St Mary Magdalene Church

6.00pm

Olimpio &amp; Iolanda Forte RIP

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OT C***Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Tim 6:11b-16, Lk 16:19-31***Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

St Martha's Church

9.00am

People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene Church

11.00am

Bartolomeo Visconti RIP

St Martha's Church

11.00am

Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Church Maintenance (GA)*****There will be no weekday Masses Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Oct*****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.

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

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**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.