

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

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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest, for collection *next Sunday*.

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Or you can text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.

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

or by 01424 210263 opt.4

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

28th September 2025

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OT C

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

In Homer's great poem *The Odyssey*, Odysseus spends a decade trying to return from the Trojan War to his home island of Ithaca (probably modern Thiaki, and so only really a couple of months' journey at most from Troy, on the coast of modern Turkey). He goes through all sorts of dangers and strange experiences, but he never gives up on his simple desire to see his home, his wife Penelope, and his son Telemachus (not to mention his faithful dog Argus) once again. The word for his feelings in Greek is *nostos*, which gives us the word nostalgia- literally a pain experienced through the desire to come home.

I am feeling something of the same. I am missing all of you, and our two beautiful churches. I am looking forward to being back with you full time, as I shall be from next weekend, though at least I shall be with you this weekend (notwithstanding the fact that I shall have to disappear after the 11am in order to get back up to St Pancras). I love travelling, and yet always miss home when I do.

And yet today's Gospel reminds us not to pay too much heed even to the natural preoccupations of this life, but to focus rather on fidelity to God- a lesson I have not yet over more than four decades fully learned. Let's all seek to follow God's path for us, accepting both the difficulties and God's solace which we know will surely come as we seek to follow him. After all, the only true homecoming will be the final one, when our pilgrimage ends in eternal life with Jesus.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

Our New Parish will operate from **2 Hub centres** (the Eastbourne end and the St Leonard's/Hastings end). We already have an excellent **Leadership Group** up and running in each Hub, made up of clergy and lay reps from each church. When we reach Advent, end of November, we will have a **Single Newsletter** for all churches in each Hub; all our Catechists will be working together across churches to deliver **Sacramental programmes**; we will have **Stewardship Groups** in each Hub, expertise drawn from across our churches, to oversee care of our many buildings in a strategically joined-up way; we will be consulting with you all about revised **New Mass Schedules** in each Hub, taking account of fewer priests and giving good variety of times for everyone. Please keep this work in your prayer, for more info: <https://eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk> God bless, Fr Kevin (on behalf of the clergy team).

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

New Temporary 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.

Liturgy & Prayer

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: 5th October. The Parish Feast of “Our Lady of the Rosary”. Before Mass children and young people will lead us in two decades of the Rosary. The Virgin Mary is often depicted wearing a crown of roses, and traditionally the church honours Mary with roses, as from this we get the word Rosary. The sanctuary will be adorned with roses in her honour. Parishioners are invited to donate roses either bought, or from their gardens, and bring them to St Martha's church at 10.30am on Friday 3rd October. There will be a practice for children after 9am Mass this Sunday.

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

Next SVP Tea at 3pm: Monday 13th October, St Martha's Hall. Info: 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.

Hastings & Rother Interfaith Forum: Tuesday 14th October at 7pm to 9pm. St Michael's Hospice (the Garden Room) 25 Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards TN38 0LB. The topic will be “Understanding Grief”.

Ride & Stride: Postponed from 13th September will now take place Saturday 27th September. Start St Martha's 9.30 am. More Info: 07749 482033

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 – 28th Sept: Church Maintenance (GA)

Weekly Collections: 21st Sept: Offertory: £1117.25 / GA: £218.00 / Second Collection: £205.50

Presbytery Take & Donate: £914.02

Formation & Sacraments

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

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

Confirmation: Applications for 2025/26 are now open and will close on Friday 10th 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 30th 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://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/>

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.

St Richards Catholic College Open Evening: Wednesday 1st 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 be available to sign these SIFs at **4pm on Thursday 9th October, at the Parish Office**. 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, 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.

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

Saturday 27th September

	Memorial	St Vincent de Paul, Priest
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Arabella & Hallie Keane
St Martha's Church	3.00pm	SVP Mass of Anointing
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OT C

Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Tim 6:11b-16, Lk 16:19-31

Sunday 28th 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

Church Maintenance (GA)

There will be no weekday Masses Mon 29th Sept – Sat 4th Oct

Saturday 4th October

	Memorial	St Francis of Assisi
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Kit & Monty Newman-Gill
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OT C

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4, Tim 1:6-8,13-14, Lk 17:5-10

Sunday 5th October

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mary Murphy RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Joseph Bates RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Cafod Harvest Fast Day (not in our GA scheme)

Weekday Masses resume on Monday 6th October

Fairtrade Fortnight: A very big thank you to all who attended / helped. Lovely spirit of support, teamwork and love, making the better world possible. The Mayor congratulates the parish. *Jack Doherty*.

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.

Governor Recruitment Appeal Information:

A & B Diocesan website: [Home | Arundel & Brighton Diocese](http://www.arundelbrighton.org)

Bosco Trust link for Governor recruitment: [Become a Governor - Bosco Catholic Education Trust](http://www.bosco.org.uk). Doreen Cronin is available after Sunday Mass at St Martha's this week to discuss the role further to any interested adults.

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.