

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

Next Church Clean

18th & 19th October

Both Churches please.

Now that the first stage of the restoration is complete at St Mary Magdalene, we can resume the monthly clean of our churches, by our wonderful volunteers; the more the merrier, the quicker the clean.

Thank you.

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.

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

To contact Fr Stephen:

stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

12th October 2025

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OT C

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

In my mother's generation, there were a whole range of illnesses which stalked the land: whether it be tuberculosis or rheumatic fever (some will remember the isolation hospitals where patients lived often for years with treatment largely involving fresh and cold air), bronchitis, or whooping cough. It was an age where terrible, life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses were so often a great fear. The twin breakthroughs of antibiotics and vaccination have made these things largely of the past, at least in western societies (though we remember only too well the fear and loss caused by Covid).

It is therefore sometimes difficult to relate to the fear caused by leprosy in the ancient world. This caused sufferers to be doubly afflicted: both by the horrible disease and by a perfectly understandable and yet very troubling for the sufferers' desire by most people to shun them.

One group who are afflicted in a particular way and are often shunned by society are those who are in prison. In the past, I have helped as a volunteer with prison ministry, and I noted how much the prisoners received from meeting the love of God in the prison chapel at Mass. On Prisoners' Sunday, let us pray that they may know God's help in their lives.

Of course, we might forget the absolute joy which those afflicted would feel at discovering that God has helped and saved them by healing and love. Even from our fortunate position, let's see where God is helping us, and give thanks to him for his loving care.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Donough Moloney, Sr John Ogilvie, Thomas Buckley, Brother Brian Butler, IC, John Burton 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.

Inauguration of First New Parish: last week Brighton & Hove Deanery became the first New Single Parish – we will follow soon! To see an uplifting short 3-minute video of the Inauguration go to www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/a-new-parish-for-arundel-brighton *Fr Kevin Dring - Moderated Parish.*

Liturgy & Prayer

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: Our next child led mass will be on Sunday 2nd November, 9am at St Martha's church, when we celebrate the feast of All Saints. Children are invited to join in the entry procession wearing a halo, reminding us that we are all saints. Halos provided. Children will also help by doing the readings and bidding prayers.

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 7pm on 1st Mon. of the month, in St Martha's Hall. Contact: 211717 or 221803.

CWL raised £209.82 from the Harvest Festival Celebration and there were 8 crates of grocery products donated for the food bank. Thank you to all for your support.

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".



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 – 12th Oct: PACT Prison Advise & Care Trust (not in our GA scheme)

More info: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>

September SO: Offertory: £610 / GA: £4527

Weekly Collections: 5th Oct: Offertory: £1154.79 / GA: £190 / Second Collection: £696.01

Formation & Sacraments

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

Applications for RCIA 2025/26 are now closed. Next Session: 15th October, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

Confirmation: Applications for 2025/26 are now closed.

First Holy Communion 2026: For baptised Catholic children or children who have been received into the Catholic church. Applications are now closed. The first parents meeting for *accepted candidates* will be on 7th October 6.30pm, St Martha's Hall.

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.

School Governor Recruitment Appeal Information:

A & B Diocesan website: [Home | Arundel & Brighton Diocese](https://www.arundelbrightondiocese.org.uk/)

Bosco Trust link for Governor recruitment: [Become a Governor - Bosco Catholic Education Trust.](https://www.bosco.org.uk/governor-recruitment/)

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.

And Volunteers needed to open and close the Repository for the 11am Mass. Thank you.

Saturday 11th October	Ferial	Saturday in 27th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Bartlett / Connor Families
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.15pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Mrs Bridie McDonagh RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OT C

Kings 5:14-17; 2 Tim 2:8-13, Lk 17:11-19

Sunday 12th October

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Liz O'Rourke Andrés RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish

Second Collection: PACT Prison Advise & Care Trust (not in our GA scheme)

Monday 13th October

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Elsie Dadswell RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Funeral Thomas Buckley RIP

Tuesday 14th October

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Paul Epsom GE
--------------------------	---------	---------------

Wednesday 15th October

St Martha's Church	No Mass	St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Dr
Thursday 16th October	Ferial	Thursday in 28th week OT

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Noreen Corness RIP
--------------------------	--------	--------------------

Friday 17th October

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	The Kelly Family GE
Saturday 18th October	Feast	St Luke, Evangelist
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Anne & Michael Pitt-Payne GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	2.00pm	Memorial Service for Giles Day RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

St PHILIP HOWARD, PATRON OF THE DIOCESE

Wis 3:1-9; 2 Cor 4:7-15, Mt 10:17-22

Sunday 19th October

St Martha's Church	9.00am	World Mission Day
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Gerard McNamara RIP

Second Collection: MISSIO - World Missions (not in our GA scheme)

Please note: Next Sunday our Mass will be the Mass of St Philip Howard, Co-Patron of the Diocese and not 29th Sunday OT C. Please note the different readings above.

When our parish Car Parks are full, please park legally off-site. Do not move cones protecting pedestrian & fire access. Off-site, please do not park on double yellow lines, obstruct driveways / pavements and be considerate to others.

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.