

# 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

### Key Return for Presbytery & St Mary Magdalene Hall

As the sale of the presbytery and  
St Mary Magdalene hall is now  
imminent; we need to make the  
following request:

Anyone who is possession of hall keys  
or a presbytery key, please put them in  
a clearly marked envelope and post  
through the parish office letter box  
ASAP. Thank you.

**Eyes, Ears and Heart SVP Winter Campaign.** This weekend, Bexhill SVP are launching their Winter Campaign and are inviting parishioners to participate by purchasing or sponsoring a Winter Cold Weather pack(s) to give to people during the colder months. Packs will be available after each mass next weekend and cost £5 each. Please give one or sponsor a pack that will be given to people in need. The pack contains, a thermal hat, gloves, two pairs of socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, flannel and hand warmers. Payment can be by cash, cheque or card.

### 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 if at all  
possible:** [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

or by 01424 210263 opt.4

To contact Fr Stephen:

[stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk)

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

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

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY OT C**

**26<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.**

### Update from Father Stephen

And so, the end is near- well, writing this on the 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of St Mary Magdalene Church, I am happy to say that I only mean that the sale of the Presbytery and Hall in Bexhill is now very near!

What does this mean in practical terms? Firstly, I am happy to confirm that our contact details are **unchanged**. There will temporarily be no physical office, but you will be able to contact Bonita and myself during usual opening hours exactly as you do now. I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to Bonita and all those who have helped with the move. Secondly, from 7<sup>th</sup> November, with the exception of Blue Badge holders, **there will be no public parking at St Mary Magdalene's**. There are often bays available along Sea Road and Upper Sea Road which have two hours' free parking, plus pay and display bays available. You can of course also come by train and the 98, 99, 53 and other buses to the Church.

Where now? We are still finishing the maintenance work on the south and east elevations of the Church, which we legally must do as it is a listed building. We are working on the previously announced plan for a permanent office. Now St Martha's Hall is our catechetical centre, we will be able to function with some normality, and the proceeds of the sales at Sidley and at St Mary Magdalene will enable us to fund ongoing parish expenditure as well as the office. Our offertory collection remains very healthy, as you can see in the newsletter each week, and I am most grateful to you for your continuing generosity which has allowed the "normal" work of the parish to continue unimpeded even as we undertake all this work to make us ready for the future, allowing us to bring the Gospel to Bexhill and Little Common as we have always had the privilege of doing.

With all my prayers, Fr Stephen.

### **SVP Bereavement Mass 2.30pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, St Mary Magdalene (note change of venue)**

Photos for November Remembrance – Side Altars. Ahead of our parish bereavement Mass you are invited to place a photograph of a loved one you are grieving for on the Pieta Altar (St Mary Mags) or Our Lady's Altar (St Martha's) from 27<sup>th</sup> Oct – end Nov. Photographs will be transferred to St Mary Magdalene's on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, ready for the Mass on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. If you are housebound and would like a photograph placed on an altar, please contact the SVP on 07783 598238, who will collect it and return it to you. Please ensure your name and contact details are on the reverse of each photograph.

**We pray for those who have died:** Donough Moloney, Sr John Oglivie, Brother Brian Butler, IC, John Burton, Colin Andrews 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, Veronica Bennett.

**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](http://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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

### **Social & Pastoral**

**Next SVP Tea at 3pm:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, St Martha's Hall. Info: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto: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.

**Ride and Stride:** Stormy weather prevented the sponsored walk for Sussex Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) going ahead on 13 September, but our hardy Quartet plus 3 friends rearranged the walk for 27<sup>th</sup> September. Many thanks to them and the many sponsors who generously contributed £440. Half will go to SHCT and half to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Maintenance Fund. 8 Churches in and around Bexhill, covering approximately 5 miles received a visit.

**Thank you,** Ride and Stride participants, for your efforts and generosity, from all at our Parish.

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



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 – 26<sup>th</sup> Oct: SVP Winter Appeal** (not in our GA scheme)

**Weekly Collections: 19<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Offertory: £1012.25/ GA: £208.60 / Second Collection: £355.10

**MISSIO:** To donate online: [Donate - Missio](#)

### Formation & Sacraments

**Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations:** Applications for RCIA 2025/26 are now closed. Next Session: 5<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

**Confirmation:** Applications for 2025/26 are now closed. Next Session: 9<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm, St Martha's Hall.

**First Holy Communion 2026:** For baptised Catholic children or children who have been received into the Catholic church. Applications are now closed. The next parents meeting for *accepted candidates* will be on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm, St Martha's Hall.

**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.

**School Governor Recruitment Appeal Information:** A & B Diocesan website: [Home | Arundel & Brighton Diocese](#) Bosco Trust link for Governor recruitment: [Become a Governor - Bosco Catholic Education Trust](#).

**Foodbank:** Would like any empty 6-egg boxes to be donated to them. They can be put in the donation basket, or if you collect lots, you can email [info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk), and they will collect on a Tuesday afternoon. Their eggs arrive in large trays, so they need the smaller boxes for distribution.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> October**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm

**Opt. Mem**

**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**

Kay Weir RIP  
Confessions on Request  
Baptism of Ted Albert Voller  
Confessions on Request  
Deceased Pattison & Gilbert Families

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY OT C**

*Sir 35:15b-17, 20-22b; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18, Lk 18:9-14*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Patrick Joseph Cunningham RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: SVP Winter Appeal (not in our GA scheme)**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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**Ferial**

**Monday in 30<sup>th</sup> week OT**

Holy Souls

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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**Feast**

**Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles**

Henry Chapman RIP

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass
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**Ferial**

**Wednesday in 30<sup>th</sup> week OT**

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**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

Eastbourne Crematorium	11am
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm

**Ferial**

**Thursday in 30<sup>th</sup> week OT**

Funeral John Burton RIP  
Luisa S. Cruz  
Inc. FHC Misha Cervantes

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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**Ferial**

**Friday in 30<sup>th</sup> week OT**

Dennis Connor

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm

**Opt. Mem**

**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**

Norma Green GE  
Confessions on Request  
Confessions on Request  
People of the Parish

**ALL SAINTS**

*Rev 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 Jn 3:1-3, Mat 5:1-12a,*

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Liz O'Rourke Andrés RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Anatazia & Zbigniew Zgoblis GE
Bexhill Cemetery	12.30pm	Blessing of the Graves
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Holy Souls**

**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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4.

**Out of hours:**

[stephen.obrien@abdioces.e.org.uk](mailto:stephen.obrien@abdioces.e.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.

**Parking at St Mary Magdalene Church:** As the sale of the presbytery and St Mary Magdalene hall is now imminent, the parking in the grounds will become more limited. We would like to warn you in advance that there will be changes in the car park. Please be aware. Thank you.

**MISSIO:** To donate online: [Donate - Missio](#)