

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.

SVP Bereavement Mass 2.30pm Saturday 22nd 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 27th Oct – end Nov. Photographs will be transferred to St Mary Magdalene's on Friday 21st Nov, ready for the Mass on 22nd 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.

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**

or by 01424 210263 opt.4

To contact Fr Stephen:

stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

ALL SAINTS Yr C

2nd November 2025

Such are the people who seek your face,
O Lord.

Father Stephen's Update

I have always been very flattered by having the name Stephen. Carrying the name of the first Christian martyr- especially given how flattering he is portrayed in the Acts of the Apostles- is rather nice (even though I am really named after my great uncle).

It is a great joy of our Catholic faith that we have connections with the saints in heaven. It could be the saints after whom we are named. It could be our parish patron saints- and we have three wonderful ones in Our Blessed Lady, St Mary Magdalene and St Martha.

It could be our local saints. Sussex is particularly rich in local saints. St Philip Howard can inspire us with his quiet heroism under persecution. St Richard of Chichester gives us an example of devotion to the Gospel (and ensuring priests behave properly- a suitable inspiration at least for me!). St Cuthman, St Wilfred- we are very fortunate to have such holy people from our county.

We can be inspired by any saint. Many people have a special feeling for St Pio of Pietrelcina. In Saint Mary Magdalene's, we have a window, dedicated to the CWL, commemorating more of the Forty Martyrs, Saints Margaret Clitherow, and Margaret Line, whose heroic support of the faith has inspired so many.

Of course, they can inspire us, but we also believe that saints can intercede for us- bringing our prayers and needs to God in heaven. Therefore we can have a very personal relationship with any saint, and can ask them to help us in our prayers.

And yet, wonderful as our relationship with our heavenly friends is, there is another dimension to the feast of All Saints. You will know that, to become recognised as a saint, there is a process, involving recognition of two miracles, one for someone to be declared blessed, and one to be canonised as a saint. Today we also can honour those whose miracles have never been known, but whose heroic virtue is known to God.

This means that also we can remember today that we too are all called to be saints. We can try to imitate the wonderful deeds of the saints. God wants all of us to respond to our unique vocation- our calling from him- and to try to act as saints. After all, the word saint comes from the Latin word *sanctus*, and many of you will know that word from the Mass- it means simply “holy”. Peter notes that Jesus asks us all to “be holy, as I am holy” (1 Pet 1:16). In other words, let’s all aim to be saints- it is our calling from God.

With my prayers, Father Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Sr John Oglivie, Colin Andrews RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, Margaret Hitchman, David Spooner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, Cecilia 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.

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 10th November, St Martha's Hall. Info: bexhill@svp.org.uk All Welcome.

Catholic Women's League (CWL): Meet at 7.30 pm on 1st Mon. of the month, in St Martha's Hall. Contact: 211717 or 221803.

The Newman Association: Father Charles Ezejide will speak on 'Tension between faiths in Nigeria'. Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU. Monday 10th November 7:30 -9 pm. All welcome.

Christian Voices, the Musical Drama Group, next play is "Test of Faith":

11am, Sat, 15th November, Christchurch Methodist Church Hall (10am Refreshments)
10am, Sun, 16th November, St Peter's Community Centre. 2pm, Sat, 29th November in St Michael's Church, Glassenbury Drive. 10.30am, Sun, 30th November, Little Common Methodist Church. All performances are in aid of The Friends of Lossie Long who are dedicated to helping older people in Bexhill. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



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 – 2nd Nov: Holy Souls (GA)

Weekly Collections: 26th Oct: Offertory: £1176.07 / GA: £128.00 / Second Collection: £586.23

Formation & Sacraments

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

Confirmation: Applications for 2025/26 are now closed. Next Session: 9th 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 11th November, 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](#) 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, 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 1st November	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Norma Green GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism of Odichinaka Ugo Ikebudu
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

ALL SAINTS*Rev 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 Jn 3:1-3, Mat 5:1-12a,***Sunday 2nd November**

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

Second Collection: Holy Souls (GA)**Monday 3rd November**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Denis, Mary, Johanna O'Sullivan RIP
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Tuesday 4th November

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop
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Wednesday 5th November

Eastbourne Crematorium	12 noon	Ferial
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Thursday 6th November

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
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Friday 7th November

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ferial
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Saturday 8th November

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Opt. Mem
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St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
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St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
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CONSECRATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA*Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Pl 3:9c-11, 16-17, Jn 2:13-22*

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Ann Ford RIP
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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY*2 Macc 12:43-45, Rom 14: 7-9, 10c-12, Jn 6:37-40***Sunday 9th November**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
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St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	For those Fallen in War
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St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Blessing of the Memorial Garden
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St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
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Second Collection: Church Flowers (GA)

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.

**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.