

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

Church Clean

St Martha's Church

After Mass, this Sunday.

Whole church please.

Thank you in advance.

And thank you to all those who cleaned
St Mary Magdalene Church, beautifully,
last weekend.

Christingle, Carols & Nativity Play

2.30pm, Sunday 14th December,

St Martha's Church

Calling all children to be Angels,
Shepherds and Kings for the Nativity Play.

Recruitment: see Sarah after Mass on
Saturday / Sunday 23rd November

Rehearsal 1: After Mass in St Martha's
Church, Sunday 7th December

Rehearsal 2: After Mass in St Martha's
Church, Sunday 14th December

Costumes can be provided:

Contact Sarah 07926 514784

The Parish Office

Due to the upheaval due to the sale of
the presbytery and hall,
contact for the next week
will be by email only:

bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

To contact Fr Stephen:

stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

30th November 2025

**In his days shall justice flourish,
and great peace for ever.**

lux in tenebris

The dark nights are upon us. Rain, wind and even a little snow are pummelling us. The weak winter sun rises fleetingly over the horizon, and returns swiftly to leave us in night and cold. The trees hang bare, mere shadows of their summer glory. Coat collars are turned up as we brace ourselves against the chill.

You might be forgiven for thinking that the Church is sharing in this barren winter. Suddenly the colour of mourning is everywhere. We do not sing God's glory, but beg forgiveness and then speed to the Collect in Mass.

In fact, Advent was originally seen as a penitential season, preparing for the Lord's nativity just as we spend time with Jesus in the desert in Lent to prepare for the Resurrection. However, Advent is subtly different. We do reflect on how we need to prepare for Christmas, and it is a very good thing to come to Reconciliation, especially if our lives are too busy for regular Confession at other times.

But there is something else truly wonderful in Advent. God knows that we are mired in midwinter, both literally and in the struggle of our earthly pilgrimage against the blandishments of the world. We are given that glimpse of hope: the light which came into the world two millennia ago, a foretaste of the salvation he brought to us; the light which is truly with us on our altar; the shining glory for which we wait even now to return. The darkness can never overcome that light, and we can and must cleave to that light of salvation. Let us prepare a way for that light this Advent, and always.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Angela McKeating 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.

Liturgy & Prayer

Lost Property: St Martha's Church has a large amount of lost property which is all displayed in the porch on the shelf.

Prayer for Priests: Every first Tuesday of the month, after 10am Mass, St Mary Magdalene (Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament and prayer). First one – Tuesday 2nd December.

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 1.30pm (*change of time for this one!*): Monday 8th December, 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.

CWL Christmas Sale: Sunday 14th December, after Mass, in the hall, CWL are having a Christmas Cake and Christmas Gifts (made by CWL) Sale. Any Cakes donated by Parishioners to the sale will be most welcome (please include list ingredients). All Proceeds from the Sale go to HUG.

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

Wild Goose Course: 7.30pm, Thursday 18th December, St Martha's hall. Topic: The Spirit convicts.

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 – 30th Nov: Sacramental Programme Fund (GA)

Weekly Collections: 23rd Nov: Offertory: £780.41 / GA: £277.00 / Second Collection: £186.64 / GA: £90.00

Formation & Sacraments

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

For those on the course. Next Session: 3rd December, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

Confirmation: Next Session: **Saturday 13th December** Rehearsal and Preparation for the Parish Advent Service: 6pm - 8pm St Martha's Church and Hall.

First Holy Communion 2026: The next parents meeting for *accepted candidates* will be on 16th December, 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.

Service of Music and Prayer from Taize: 4pm, Sunday 14th December, St Thomas of Canterbury & Englis Martyrs, Magdalen Rd, St Leonards. TN37 6ET. Anyone who would like to help lead the music is asked to come to a practice beforehand at 3pm in the Church. All Welcome.

Cafod: Join the online webinar about cafod about their activities this year.

https://www.bigmarker.com/conferences/a288a19845e4/registration_modal

Mass Intentions: Don't forget that every Mass celebrated in the parish can be offered for either the repose of the soul of your departed loved ones, or for the well-being and good intentions of yourself, or your family and friends. We have availability in the coming months, both on Sundays and weekdays. If you would like to book a Mass Intention (suggested donation £10) please email the parish office.

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| Saturday 29th November | Ferial | Saturday in 34th Week OT |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Priests Intentions |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.30am | Confessions on Request |
| Memorial Garden | After Mass | Burial of Ashes Cherry Berkely |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 12.30pm | Baptisms Mila & Harlan Kelly |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 5.30pm | Confessions on Request |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 6.00pm | Tim Phillips GE |

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

Isa 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14a, Mt 24:37-44

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| Sunday 30th November | | |
| St Martha's Church | 9.00am | Minerva & Anthony Spiteri RIP |
| St Martha's Church | After Mass | (Church Clean Whole Church) |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 11.00am | People of the Parish |
| St Martha's Church | 11.00am | Syro-Malabar Mass |

Second Collection: Sacramental Programme Fund

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| Monday 1st December | Ferial | Monday of 1st Week in Advent |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Dennis Connor |
| Tuesday 2nd December | Ferial | Tuesday of 1st Week in Advent |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Ron Brazier GE |
| Wednesday 3rd December | Memorial | St Francis Xavier, Priest |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | No Mass | - |
| Thursday 4th December | Ferial | Thursday of 1st Week in Advent |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 6.30pm | Barry Mayo RIP |
| Friday 5th December | Ferial | Friday of 1st Week in Advent |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Priests Intentions |
| Saturday 6th December | Ferial | Saturday of 1st Week in Advent |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Priests Intentions |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.30am | Confessions on Request |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 5.30pm | Confessions on Request |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 6.00pm | Priests Intentions |

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

Isa 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12

RCIA SERVICE OF ACCEPTANCE DURING ALL SUNDAY MASSES

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| Sunday 7th December | | |
| St Martha's Church | 9.00am | People of the Parish |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 11.00am | Tony Stephen GE |
| St Martha's Church | 11.00am | Syro-Malabar Mass |

Second Collection this week: HUG

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.

Parking at St Mary Magdalene Church: We would like to warn you in advance that there will be changes in the car park. We are also in the process of having a new water supply to St Mary Magdalene Church, which unfortunately, will cause further disruption in the car park. Please be aware. Thank you.