

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

This Weekend - Church Clean

22nd & 23rd November

Both Churches please, in readiness for
Advent. Thank you.

SVP Bereavement Mass

2.30pm, Saturday 22nd November,

St Mary Magdalene

(note change of venue)

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

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23rd November 2025

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

At the end of the (Church!) year

We are rapidly approaching Advent, and the beginning of the new Church year. It seemed a good time to bring you up to date on where we are with all the changes which we have experienced this year.

The Presbytery and Hall at St Mary Magdalene are now sold, and we are waiting to receive the money for the sale. The site in Sidley will be sold in the New Year. At present, the works to restore St Mary Magdalene, of course a listed building, have made a major dent in the bank account, but, thanks to your generosity, the everyday running of the parish has continued. The only remaining notable expenditure is the "garden office", which has proven to be by far the cheapest permanent solution. When the proceeds of both sales are received, and remaining costs paid, we will once again have a healthy financial situation.

I feel that we should then take stock of our most urgent priorities. Our overriding priority must be the maintenance of both churches. We will look to see what are the most urgent needs both in St Martha's and in St Mary Magdalene's. Now that St Martha's Hall is functioning well as our parish catechetical centre, we will be in a very sound place.

I feel that we have laid the foundations for many years to come of the spreading of the Gospel both in Bexhill and in Little Common.

With all my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Dr Kunguru Isaac Mutiboko, 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

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: Our next Child led mass will be on the feast of Christ the King, 23rd November. To help remind us that we are all Priests, Profits and Kings we are asking children to make a paper crown and bring it to the Child led mass on the 23rd. Children are invited to wear their crown and join in the recessional procession at the end of Mass.

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

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.

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.

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

Wild Goose Course: 7.30pm, Thursday 27th November, St Martha's hall. Topic: The Spirit and the Desert.

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 – 23rd Nov Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund (GA)

Weekly Collections: 16th Nov: Offertory: £936.13 / GA: £207.00 / Second Collection: £516.57 / GA: £93.00

Formation & Sacraments

Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations: Applications for RCIA 2025/26 are now closed. Next Session: 3rd December, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

Confirmation: Applications for 2025/26 are now closed. Next Session: 30th 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 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.

Three Churches in Little Common Meeting: Last for 2025 - St Marks Hall, 11am, Wed 19th November.

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.

Saturday 22nd November	Memorial	St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Priests Intentions
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	2.30pm	Parish Bereavement Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	(Church Clean Transept)

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Sam 5:1-3, Col 1:12-20, Lk 23:35-43

Sunday 23rd November		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Colin Andrews RIP
St Martha's Church	After Mass	(Church Clean Whole Church)
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Alice & Albert Whatling RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	(Church Clean Nave & Porches)
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund (GA)

Monday 24th November	Memorial	St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Children of Deceased Irene & David Herring
Tuesday 25th November	Ferial	Tuesday in 34th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Irene & David Herring RIP
Wednesday 26th November	Ferial	Wednesday in 34th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 27th November	Ferial	Thursday in 34th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	11am	Requiem Dr Kunguru Isaac Mutiboko RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Linda Hall RIP
Friday 28th November	Ferial	Friday in 34th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Priests Intentions
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	Baptism Mila & Harlan Kelly
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Priests Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

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

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

No Second Collection this week.

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.