

# 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:

**20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December**

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

### Christingle, Carols & Nativity Play

**2.30pm, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December,  
St Martha's Church**

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

### Rehearsal 2: After Mass in St Martha's

Church, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Costumes can be provided:  
Contact Sarah 07926 514784

### From the Finance Committee

The Christmas Collection is your gift to Fr Stephen who does not receive a salary from the diocese but relies on your offerings for Mass Intentions and Sacramental celebrations, plus the two collections at Christmas and Easter. If giving on the day at your Christmas Mass, please use the green envelopes available. Alternatively, please make a BACs transfer using the reference "Christmas". Please note your standing order is for the Parish only.

#### For Mass intentions & other payments:

**BACs: Name: RCD St Mary Magdalene,**

**Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20.**

**(Please add a reference)**

#### Online Offertory via Diocesan Website:

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

### Come, Lord, and save us.

#### Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!

There will be one obvious difference this weekend at Mass. Not with our music, or indeed with our liturgy. No, indeed- it will be me, resplendent in pink- or "rose" as the Ordo says. Today is Gaudete Sunday- "Rejoice" Sunday. Advent used to be seen as a very penitential season, like Lent. We can see vestiges of this in the tradition of people going to Reconciliation before Christmas. It is still a brilliant way of preparing for the festive season, but now we see Advent as a time with its own character. Another vestige is this day, originally, like Laetare Sunday (Be Happy Sunday) in Lent, a time of relaxation of our penitential discipline. This is symbolized by the colour: anyone who has washed purple clothes in a long 60° wash will know that it will fade to pink. It's a lighter day of Advent!

However, given that Advent is not now the same as Lent, what does this mean? Our readings point us in the right direction. Our first reading and Gospel suggest, as we have seen through Advent, the joys, and indeed miracles, which will accompany the arrival of the Messiah, or, more accurately, the risen Lord Jesus. But how, then, is today different from any other day in Advent? I think the key is in our second reading. It tells us to "be patient". Good advice for this season of waiting, but the Greek is a little different: it exhorts us to "be big in spirit"- be big-hearted. We can rejoice today that our Saviour died and rose again to save us- let's also be big-hearted, sharing God's love with everyone whom we meet.

With all my prayers, Fr Stephen.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025

### Christmas Eve

4pm: St Martha

6pm: St Mary Magdalene

### Christmas Day

9am: St Martha

11am: St Mary Magdalene

**Boxing Day (St Stephen)** – 10am: St Mary Magdalene

**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> December** - Usual weekend Masses

**We pray for those who have died:** Neal Sheppard, Sisily Thomas 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, 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).

### **Liturgy & Prayer**

**Prayer for Priests:** Every first Tuesday of the month, after 10am Mass, St Mary Magdalene (Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament and prayer).

### **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 3:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, St Martha's Hall. Info: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto: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.

**Wild Goose Course:** 7.30pm, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, St Martha's hall. Topic: The Spirit convicts.

**Churches Together in Bexhill:** invite you to join in Community Carol Singing at 10.30am, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December in Devonshire Square.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026).** Sunday 18th January, 4pm at St Mark's Church Hall, CTiB 'Prayer for Church and Town.'

**Fairtrade:** Fairtrade Stall on 14<sup>th</sup> December at St Martha's hall, after 9am Mass. No free secondary schools in poorest Malawi. 90 kg bags of Fairtrade rice will pay the fees for a year for a farmer's child. Bags of rice, half kg available (£2.30) at all Masses on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14th December for you to purchase... and you change lives for our poor neighbours.



**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 – 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Bexhill Foodbank (not our GA)

**Weekly Collections: 7<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Offertory: £961.79 / GA: £195.00 / Second Collection: £443.79

**SO November:** £609.90 / GA: £3202.00

### **Formation & Sacraments**

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

For those on the course. Next Session: 17<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

**Confirmation:** Next Session: **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> December, 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.

**Service of Music and Prayer from Taize:** 4pm, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, St Thomas of Canterbury & English 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.

### **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.

<b>Saturday 13th December</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Bunyan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Gerardo Di Mascio RIP

### THIRD (GAUDETE) SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

*Isa 35:1-6a, 10, Jas 5:7-10, Mat 11:2-11*

#### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mick Hanson RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
St Martha's Church	2.30pm	Christingle Service

**Second Collection: Bexhill Foodbank  
(not our GA)**

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Monday of 3<sup>rd</sup> Week in Advent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Edna & Fred Herring RIP Inc. Baptism Isla Milner

#### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Tuesday of 3<sup>rd</sup> Week in Advent</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Patrick Joseph Cunningham RIP

#### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>17 Dec</b>	<b>'O Sapientia' / O Wisdom</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-

#### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>18 Dec</b>	<b>'O Adonai' / O Lord</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Hanson & Driscoll Families Living & Deceased

#### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>19 Dec</b>	<b>'O Radix Jesse / O Rod of Jesse</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>No Mass</b>	-

#### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>20 Dec</b>	<b>'O Clavis David' / O Key of David</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Noreen Corness RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

*Isa 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mat 1:18-24*

#### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

St Martha's Church	<b>21 Dec</b>	<b>O Oriens' / O Dawn of the East</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Bob & Peggy Redding RIP

**Second Collection this week: Christmas Flowers (GA)**

**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.

#### Next Church Clean: 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December

Both Churches please, in readiness for Christmas. 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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4.

#### Out of hours:

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