

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: This weekend!

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

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

27th / 28th December Usual Masses

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 celebrates, 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/>

Forth Sunday of Advent A and Christmastide.

21st December 2025

4th Sunday of Advent:

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Mass Of Midnight

Today a Saviour has been born to us;
who is Christ the Lord.

Mass of the Day:

All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.

Merry Christmas!

The Parish Clergy: Fr Stephen and Deacon Simon,
along with Bonita our Administrator wish you a

Happy & Holy Christmas.

May 2026, for you and your families,
be 'another year of favour from the Lord'.

And so, we are (nearly, if you're reading this on the 4th Sunday of Advent!) there. Our Advent pilgrimage is over, and we have journeyed to the stable. The Christ Child fills our thoughts. It's no surprise that Christmas is seen as the great feast for little ones. It certainly is: they can see one like them, someone who needs their parents' help and love.

And yet we slightly older people should not think it is only a children's feast. We all sometimes know that feeling of being in need, being desperate for care. We too can really share the sense of being like the Christ Child. Indeed, we should: Jesus asks us to come to him with the simple faith of little ones. Let's all celebrate this moment, when Jesus comes to us as the most in need human as well as God, remembering that this means he will always understand and love us in his need.

God Bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Neal Sheppard, Sisily Thomas, Yvonne Gibbs 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.

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

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3: Monday 12th January, 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.

Wild Goose Course: 7.30pm, Thursday 29th 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 20th December in Devonshire Square.

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

CAFOD: We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to your parish for the generous donations, prayers, and actions in support of CAFOD's work this Jubilee year. In this holy season of Advent, may your parish be richly blessed with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. May the gift of Emmanuel at Christmas remind us that divine love is not distant but intimately present in our world.

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 – 28th Dec: Christmas Flowers (GA)

Weekly Collections: 14th Dec: Offertory: £858.04 / GA: £175.00 / Second Collection: £329.50

Formation & Sacraments

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

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

Confirmation: Next Session: Saturday 11th January – 5pm, St Martha's Church and Hall.

First Holy Communion 2026: The next parents meeting for FHC candidates - 6.30pm, 13th January, 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.

Exploring the Vocation to Teaching in our Diocesan Schools – online event:

Tuesday 13th January, 5.30pm to 6.30pm To book a place, please use the link: abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/vqrcnwzi

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 20th December	20 Dec	'O Clavis David' / O Key of David
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
	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean (Transept)</i>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR A

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

Sunday 21st December

St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean (whole Church)</i>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Bob & Peggy Redding RIP
	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>Church Clean (Nave & Porches)</i>
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Christmas Flowers (GA)

Monday 22nd December	22 Dec	'O Rex Gentium'
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Chapman RIP
Tuesday 23rd December	23 Dec	'O Emmanuel'
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Christine Cunningham RIP

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Midnight: Is 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14 & Lk 2:1-14.

Mass of the Day: Is 52:7-10, Heb 1:1-6 & Jn 1:1-18.

Wednesday 24th December	Christmas	'Mass of Midnight'
St Martha's Church	4.00pm	Sick & Housebound of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro Malabar Mass</i>
Thursday 25th December	Christmas	Day
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Priests Intentions
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Sick & Housebound of the Parish
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>
Friday 26th December	Feast	St Stephen, First Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Brendan Dillstone RIP
Saturday 27th December	Feast	St John the Apostle & Evangelist
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Edna Herring 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	People of the Parish

THE HOLY FAMILY, A

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21, & Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Sunday 28th December	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Janella Mathew GE (Birthday)
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Christmas Crib Collection A & B Crisis Fund (not our GA)

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.