

# 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

### First Holy Communion:

1<sup>st</sup> Confessions:

4pm in St Mary Magdalene Church on:

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

No appointment necessary. Confessions will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring your course book to show Fr Stephen your progress.

### 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, selecting the appropriate category. **GIFT AID:** Some collections are Gift Aid-able.

**The Parish Office:** will be closed for

Annual leave: 29<sup>th</sup> Dec – 13<sup>th</sup> January.

Routine admin will be dealt with when

Bonita returns from holiday. The Parish

Answerphone will not be monitored during this time.

Parish Office email:

[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

To contact Fr Stephen:

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

For emergencies only - ie Last rites, please call 07872 396683

### Supply Clergy – We Welcome:

Fr Terry Martin – 6pm, Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> January

And Fr Paul Jennings –

9am & 11am 4<sup>th</sup> January

**28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 & 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**The Holy Family, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Christmas & The Baptism of the Lord**

### The Holy Family:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.

### Second Sunday of Christmas

The word became flesh and dwelt among us.

### The Baptism of the Lord

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

### The Journey of the Magi, by TS Eliot.

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter."  
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.  
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.  
All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

**God bless, Fr Stephen and Deacon Simon.**

**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](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.

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

**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.'

**Sussex Catenians:** A Catholic organization for men and their families in Hastings & Bexhill. More info: <https://sussexcatenians.org/>

### **Formation & Sacraments**

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

Next Session: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm, 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/>

**Confirmation:** Next Session: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January – 'The Holy Spirit and His Gifts'.

**Marriage:** 12-months' notice required. Please contact the parish office if getting married in autumn 2025.

**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.



<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> 10.00am	<b>Monday in 1<sup>st</sup> week in OT</b> Noreen Corness RIP
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Mary Magdalene	<b>Ferial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>Tuesday in 1<sup>st</sup> week in OT</b> -
<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Mary Magdalene	<b>Ferial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday in 1<sup>st</sup> week OT</b> -
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>Thursday in 1<sup>st</sup> week OT</b> -
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> 10.00am	<b>Friday in 1<sup>st</sup> week OT</b> Jesus Youth Jubilee Yr 2026
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b> 10.00am	<b>St Antony, Abbot</b> Marion Cox RIP
Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Marie Dineen RIP

### **SECOND SUNDAY IN OT C**

*Is 62:1-5, Cor 12:4-11 & Jn 2:1-11*

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Martha's Church	<b>Sunday</b> 9.00am	<b>Peace Day</b> People of the Parish
Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Margaret McNamara GE
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

#### **Second Collection: Pax Christi (not our GA)**

<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> 10.00am	<b>Monday in 2<sup>nd</sup> week in OT</b> Marion Cox RIP
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>Tuesday in 2<sup>nd</sup> week in OT</b> -
<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr</b> -
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>Thursday in 2<sup>nd</sup> week in OT</b> -
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> 10.00am	<b>Friday in 2<sup>nd</sup> week in OT</b> Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b> 10.00am	<b>St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Dr</b> Clare Langan-Cheasty & Family
Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Belle Faber
Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Nevill Austin Jr RIP

### **THIRD SUNDAY IN OT C**

*Neh 8:204a, Cor 12:12-30 & Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21*

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> St Martha's Church	<b>Sunday</b> 9.00am	People of the Parish
Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Bernadette Price GE
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

#### **Second Collection: Lepra (not our GA)**

<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b> 10.00am	<b>Ss Timothy &amp; Titus, Bishops</b> Dennis Driscoll RIP
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> 11.00am	<b>Tuesday in 3<sup>rd</sup> week in OT</b> Fr Stephen Ortiger RIP
<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Dr</b> -
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Ferial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>Thursday in 3<sup>rd</sup> week in OT</b> -
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b> Mary Magdalene Church	<b>Memorial</b> <b>No Mass</b>	<b>St John Bosco</b> -

### **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)

#### **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.

#### **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.

<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St John the Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Edna Herring RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
<b>THE HOLY FAMILY, A</b>		
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<i>Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21, &amp; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23</i>
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Janella Mathew GE (Birthday)
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
<i>Second collection Christmas Crib Collection A &amp; B Crisis Fund (not GA)</i>		
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Horner RIP
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> day in the Christmas Octave</b>
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Winn Yeo RIP
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> day in the Christmas Octave</b>
St Mary Magdalene	-	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Solemnity</b>	<b>Mary, Mother of God</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday before Epiphany</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Burke Family GE & RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Louis-Xavier Marceau GE
<b>2ND SUNDAY CHRISTMAS</b> <i>Sir 24:1-2, 8-12, Eph 1:3-6, 15-18, Jn 1:1-18</i>		
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Joseph Hagan GE
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
<i>Second Collection: Parish Charity Fund (GA)</i>		
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	-	<b>No Mass</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Solemnity</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Chapman RIP
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	-	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Requiem Yvonne Gibbs RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Elizabeth Francis RIP
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	10.00am	Cyril Hanson RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Patrick & Joyce O'Dolan RIP
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	12.30pm	Baptisms Sophie & Ella Freeman
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Burke Family Living & Deceased
<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b> <i>Is 42: 1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38 &amp; Mt 3:13-7</i>		
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Peter Chapman RIP
<i>St Martha's Church</i>	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
<i>Second Collection: Friends of the Holy Land (not our GA)</i>		

**Sacrament of the Sick****Urgent Visits**

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