

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:

1st Confessions:

4pm in St Mary Magdalene Church on:

Monday 9th February 2026 and

Thursday 12th 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: 29th Dec – 13th 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

To contact Fr Stephen:

stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk

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

Supply Clergy – We Welcome:

Fr Terry Martin – 6pm, Sat 3rd January

And Fr Paul Jennings –

9am & 11am 4th January

28th December 2025 & 4th & 11th January 2026

**The Holy Family, 2nd 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.

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.

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'.

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 7th January, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmmbexhill.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://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

Confirmation: Next Session: Sunday 11th 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://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone 01424 210263 opt, 4.

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen O'Brien.

Parish Deacon: Rev. Simon Kirkdale.

Administrator: Bonita Osmond. Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins



Monday 12th January	Ferial	Monday in 1st week in OT
Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Noreen Corness RIP
Tuesday 13th January	Ferial	Tuesday in 1st week in OT
St Mary Magdalene	No Mass	-
Wed 14th January	Ferial	Wednesday in 1st week OT
St Mary Magdalene	No Mass	-
Thursday 15th January	Ferial	Thursday in 1st week OT
Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Friday 16th January	Ferial	Friday in 1st week OT
Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Jesus Youth Jubilee Yr 2026
Saturday 17th January	Memorial	St Antony, Abbot
Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Marion Cox RIP
Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Marie Dineen RIP
SECOND SUNDAY IN OT C		
<i>Is 62:1-5, Cor 12:4-11 & Jn 2:1-11</i>		
Sunday 18th January	Sunday	Peace Day
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Margaret McNamara GE
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
Second Collection: Pax Christi (not our GA)		
Monday 19th January	Ferial	Monday in 2nd week in OT
Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Marion Cox RIP
Tuesday 20th January	Ferial	Tuesday in 2nd week in OT
Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Wed 21st January	Memorial	St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr
Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 22nd January	Ferial	Thursday in 2nd week in OT
Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Friday 23rd January	Ferial	Friday in 2nd week in OT
Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday 24th January	Memorial	St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Dr
Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	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		
<i>Neh 8:20-24a, Cor 12:12-30 & Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21</i>		
Sunday 25th January	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Bernadette Price GE
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
Second Collection: Lepra (not our GA)		
Monday 26th January	Memorial	Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Dennis Driscoll RIP
Tuesday 27th January	Ferial	Tuesday in 3rd week in OT
Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Fr Stephen Ortiger RIP
Wed 28th January	Memorial	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Dr
Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 29th January	Ferial	Thursday in 3rd week in OT
Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Friday 30th January	Memorial	St John Bosco
Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-

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

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.

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	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 GA)

Monday 29th December	Feast	St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Horner RIP

Tuesday 30th December	Octave	6th day in the Christmas Octave
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Winn Yeo RIP

Wednesday 31st December	Octave	7th day in the Christmas Octave
St Mary Magdalene	-	No Mass

Thursday 1st January	Solemnity	Mary, Mother of God
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	No Mass

Friday 2nd January	Memorial	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass

Saturday 3rd January	Ferial	Christmas Weekday before Epiphany
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

2ND SUNDAY CHRISTMAS Sir 24:1-2, 8-12, Eph 1:3-6, 15-18, Jn 1:1-18

Sunday 4th January	Sunday	
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Joseph Hargan GE
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Parish Charity Fund (GA)

Monday 5th January	-	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church		
Tuesday 6th January	Solemnity	The Epiphany of the Lord
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Chapman RIP

Wednesday 7th January	-	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church		

Thursday 8th January	9.30am	Requiem Yvonne Gibbs RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Elizabeth Francis RIP

Friday 9th January	10.00am	Cyril Hanson RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church		

Saturday 10th January	10.00am	Patrick & Joyce O'Dolan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptisms Sophie & Ella Freeman
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Burke Family Living & Deceased

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Is 42: 1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38 & Mt 3:13-7

Sunday 11th January		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Peter Chapman RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Friends of the Holy Land (not our GA)

Sacrament of the Sick

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