

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

18th January 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF YR A

Safeguarding Training

For those of you who need to complete level 3 Safeguarding Training and would prefer to do this face-to-face, rather than online, a session is being offered in Eastbourne.

This will take place at Our Lady of Ransom church hall on Thursday 29th January, starting with registration at 17.45 and ending at 20.00.

If you are interested, please make direct contact with the organizer, Alison Parsons, via email at sg1.eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk.

Please also let me know if you decide to take up this offer. Sylvia Cousins: sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

The Parish Office

Unfortunately, we are still operating without a complete telephone system, due to the continued upheaval after the sale of the presbytery and hall!

The best way of contact continues to 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

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

We are entering upon lambing season in the countryside. I love, for instance, taking the Ashford train (which I have to do quite a lot at the moment!) and seeing all the little lambs gambolling in the fields, enjoying life in the weak winter sunshine, with their proud mothers, stout Romney sheep, looking on almost with pride.

We know that they are small and vulnerable. We also know, sadly, that they won't be in this state for long. They are innocent, happy and carefree.

In today's first reading, we are reminded of the joy that God has sent us his servant, for the salvation of all of us. We know, as Christians, that this is of course his Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And yet he is greeted quite differently in the Gospel. John uses a greeting very familiar from Mass- Behold the Lamb of God. Why should he associate the King of Glory with those little innocent lambs in the field?

For the original hearers, of course, he is showing that Jesus, as a Lamb, is going to be sacrificed, just as so many lambs were offered to God in the Temple at Jerusalem.

However, for us, we are reminded of that sacrifice in a different way. Jesus, innocent as a Lamb, given that he is like us in all ways but sin, will be offered on the Cross. It is this single sacrifice that we bring to mind in the sacrifice of the Mass. Let us remember, through these words of John, the sacrifice of Jesus for us, and the joy of having God with us as a gentle, loving Saviour.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Thomas Williams, Jack Mawas (aka Jimmy), Neville Austin, Harry Beeney 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, Terence Phillips, Veronica Bennett, Jackie Malcolm.

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).

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: Our next Child led mass will be 8th February. Focusing on our Parish Motto "*You are the Light of the world*". Children are invited to Join Fr Stephen in the entry procession carrying small night (Provided).

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 9th February, 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. CWL made a profit of £390.74 at our Christmas cake/ gift sale on Sunday 14th December. The money will go to HUG. The next CWL meeting on Monday 2nd February will be a Beetle Drive.

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

Churches Together in Bexhill Meeting: 11am, Wednesday 21st January, Little Common Methodist Church. This will be during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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. **Annual Holocaust Memorial Service:** Congress Theatre in Eastbourne at 6.30pm - 8.30pm, 27th January. Free entry, no ticket required.

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 – 18th Jan: Pax Christi (Not our GA). The work of *Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ* – is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Their vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work.

Weekly Collections: Recent amounts to be reported in the next newsletter.

Formation & Sacraments

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

For those on the course. Next Session: 21st January, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

Confirmation: Retreat Day: Sunday 1st February, 11.45 am – 6 pm, Penhurst Retreat Centre.

Next Session: Sunday 8th February – 5pm, St Martha's Church and Hall.

First Holy Communion 2026: The next parents meeting for FHC candidates - 6.30pm, 10th February, 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.

Diocesan Grandparents Newsletter link: [Grand News 4 Advent 2025 v2.pdf](#)

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 17th January	Memorial	St Antony, Abbot
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Marion Cox 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	Marie Dineen RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OT YR A

Isa 49:3,5-6, 1 Cor 1:1-3, Jn 1:29-34

Sunday 18th January		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St 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 OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
Tuesday 20th January	Ferial	Tuesday in 2nd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
Wednesday 21st January	Memorial	St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr

No Mass - -

Thursday 22nd January	Ferial	Thursday in 2nd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Friday 23rd January	Ferial	Friday in 2nd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls

Saturday 24th January	Memorial	St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Clare Langan-Cheasty & Family
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Belle Faber
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Neville Austin Jr (RIP)

THIRD SUNDAY OT YR A

Is 9:1b-4, 1 Cor 1:10-13,17 & Mt 4:12-23

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

Second Collection: LEpra (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.

Fr Stephen's Exams: Please be aware that for the next fortnight Fr Stephen needs to be in Leuven on certain weekdays for his exams for the Cannon Law course. This week it is from Monday - Wednesday and therefore there will be no weekday Mass on those days. Please keep an eye on the newsletter. Please note also that weekday Mass in Hastings and St Leonards is currently very irregular; therefore, if you want to go to weekday Mass, it may be best to go to Our Lady of Ransom in Eastbourne where weekday Mass is usually at 11am. The Church is a 5-minute walk from Eastbourne station and the 99 bus-stop. It also has limited parking.