

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

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

Lone Working

If you need access to St Mary Magdalene Church outside Mass times, please be aware that due to our lone working policy it is important to check with the office or Fr Stephen first.

25th January 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OT YR A

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

"**Sunday of the Word of God**" will be celebrated this **Sunday, 25 January, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time** - the day offers an important opportunity for people across our family of faith to celebrate, study and share the Word of God, with the theme for 2026: "The word of Christ dwells among you" (Col 3:16). Writing in the introduction to this year's handbook, Archbishop Rino Fisichella says:

"The biblical expression chosen for the celebration of the seventh Sunday of the Word of God is taken from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians: 'The word of Christ dwells among you' (3:16). What we receive from the Apostle is not a simple moral exhortation, but the indication of a new way of living. Paul does not ask that the Word be merely listened to or studied; he wants it to dwell, that is, to take up stable residence, to shape our thoughts, guide our desires, and make credible the witness of the disciples. The Word of Christ remains a sure criterion that unifies and renders fruitful the life of the Christian community.

"It is particularly significant that, this year, the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God coincides with the celebration of the Conversion of St Paul, the day that concludes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Word that Christ addressed to Paul on the road to Damascus struck his heart so deeply that it made him the great evangeliser we know. Today it is up to us to ensure that the same Word reaches the ends of the earth, so as to transform the life of all peoples by dwelling among us."

This Sunday's celebration links beautifully with Pope Leo's new series of catecheses on the Documents of Vatican II, starting with "Dei Verbum".

Additional resources for the day can be found on the CBCEW website and The God Who Speaks website.

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, Yseult Phillips.

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). Children who would like to read a Bidding Prayer at this Mass, please see Sarah Surman after the 9am Mass on Sunday 1st February.

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. 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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January 2026).

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 – 25th Jan Lepra: Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life-changing disabilities and even blindness. Evidence shows over 3 million people are living with undiagnosed leprosy. Over 4 million people are living with a life-changing disability caused by leprosy.

Weekly Collections 18th Jan: Offertory: £1067.96 / GA: £180.00 / Second Collection: £258.67

Formation & Sacraments

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

For those on the course. Next Session: 4th February, 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: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/grand-news---new-issue-out-now>

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 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: LEPRO (not our GA)

Monday 26th January	Memorial	Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Dennis Driscoll RIP
Tuesday 27th January	Ferial	Tuesday in 3rd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass (Fr Stephen officiating a funeral at St Mary star of the Sea)

Wednesday 28th January	Memorial	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-

Thursday 29th January	Ferial	Thursday in 3rd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	No Mass

Friday 30th January	Ferial	Friday in 3rd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass

Saturday 31st January	Memorial	St John Bosco, Priest
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Caroline, Patrick A'Herne & Family
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Capaldi Families

FOURTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Cor 1:26-31 & Mt 5:1-12a

Sunday 1st February		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Maria Immacollatta Di Vito RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Hargan Family Living & Deceased
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Racial Justice Sunday (not our GA)

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 Canon Law course. This week it is from Wednesday - Friday 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.

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.