

# 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

### Monthly Churches Clean

This weekend 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> February after all Masses, please. The more the merrier, the quicker the clean. Thank you.

### First Holy Communion Update

There will be

**First Reconciliations**

**at 4pm in St Mary Magdalene Church**

**on: Mondays: 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February.**

No need to book.

Confessions will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

FHC Mass date can be booked after Reconciliation.

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

To contact Fr Stephen:

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

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

[sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.

8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**FIFTH SUNDAY OT YR A**

**A Light rises in the darkness for the upright.**

One of the most interesting views you can see in this part of the world is the town of Rye, up on the hill, as you approach from the east. Particularly at night, when the lights of the town seem to hover in the sky, surrounded by sepulchral darkness, it stands out almost as a beacon, shining light all around it.

It has always reminded me of one of the images in today's Gospel- the idea, probably more familiar to an ancient near Eastern audience, where fortified hill towns were a way of ensuring the community's safety, is used here to remind us of the image enshrined in our parish motto- to let our light, the light entrusted to us by Christ, shine out and illumine the darkness, just as Jesus for John is the light which the darkness of the world cannot overcome.

At first sight, the connection with salt may seem odd, but it is referring to the idea that salt, a vital preservative before the advent of refrigeration, also adds piquancy- extra flavour. Jesus here uses two things absolutely normal in the ancient world and shows how they can also give an extra dimension of holiness. This idea reaches its peak in the Eucharist, where we use bread, wine and water- the core ingredients of a simple ancient meal- and, by God's consecration, they become truly the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus.

So really Jesus calls us today to take our nature, the bad elements of our life, and give them that added dimension of holiness by using them for Christ. Let's all seek to give that extra dimension of faith to everything we do.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** Thomas Williams, Jack Mawas (aka Jimmy), Neville Austin Jr, Harry Beeney, Yseult Phillips 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, Bridget Bailey.

**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).

**Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas:** Our next Child led mass will be 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bexhill@svp.org.uk)

### Social & Pastoral

**Next SVP Tea at 3:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 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 26<sup>th</sup> February, St Martha's hall. Topic: The Spirit convicts.

**Bexhill Foodbank:** They are looking for more volunteer drivers to help at the Bexhill and Battle Foodbank. [info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk), or 01424 322541 and leave a message for a call back. You can download their application form from their website - <https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>

**World Day of Prayer: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am, Little Common Methodist Church, Hill Ave, TN39 4SG.** Annual 'Service for Everyone' hosted by '3 Churches in Little Common'. This year the Service, prepared by Christian Ladies from Nigeria.

**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 – 8<sup>th</sup> February – Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund:** Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual diocesan calendar, with hundreds of members of our community of faith visiting the Grotto together each year.

**Weekly Collections 1<sup>st</sup> Feb:** Offertory: £1023.55 / GA: £170.00 / Second Collection: £269.35

### Formation & Sacraments

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

For those on the course. Next Session: 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm, St Martha's Hall.

Please pray for our Catechumen for Baptism & Candidates for Reception, who now deepen their appreciation of the Catholic faith. The next event is the Rite of Election with Bishop Richard on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, at Arundel Cathedral.

**Confirmation: Next Session:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February – 5pm, St Martha's Church and Hall.

**First Holy Communion 2026:** The next parents meeting for FHC candidates - 6.30pm, 10<sup>th</sup> February, St Martha's Hall. See front page for Reconciliation information.

**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.

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Deceased Langan, Aherne & Cheasty Families
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
Memorial Garden	After Mass	Burial of Ashes of Yvonne Gibbs RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	William & Veronica Hayes RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	Church Clean (Transept)

**FIFTH SUNDAY OT YR A**

*Is 58:6-10, 1 Cor 2:1-5 & Mt 5:13-16*

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Margaret Hanson RIP
St Martha's Church	After Mass	Church Clean (whole Church)
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Allana McNamara GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	Church Clean (nave & porches)
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund (GA)**

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Monday in 5<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Leona Stephen GE
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Scholastica, Virgin</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>No Mass</b>	No Mass Fr Stephen in Crawley
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Wednesday in 5<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	<b>No Mass</b>	-
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Thursday in 5<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
<b>Hastings Cemetery</b>	11.00am	Funeral Thomas Williams RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Sheila Sheldon RIP
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Friday in 5<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mark Taylor RIP
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>Ss Cyril, Monk &amp; Methodius, Bishop Patrons of Europe</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Pushpam Joseph 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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OT YR A**

*Sir 15:15-20, 1 Cor 2:6-10 & Mt 5:17-37*

<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Cronin & Dreland GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Mary Horner RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Church Boilers Maintenance**

**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)

**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.

**Lost Property:** We still have full boxes of lost property at both Churches, and they are constantly growing! We will keep them for one more week, after which we will take the items to the Charity shop. Thank you.