

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

Cafod Lent Challenge The Big Lent Walk 2026

Join CAFOD and SCIAF for the Big Lent Walk and raise vital funds for communities around the world. Walk 200km (or any other distance!) wherever you like, and with whomever you like! Your sponsorship can and will change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help to bring life-saving water to communities in places like Ethiopia and Peru. There are some sponsorship forms in the church porches, for those who cannot access the internet, and they can also be found online on the Cafod website:

[TBLW Sponsorship form A4 v2.pdf](#)

Jack Doherty is also organising a Cafod Community Walk around Bexhill on Sunday 22nd February after 11am Mass and Sunday 1st March after 9am Mass. For more information and if you would like to attend, please contact Jack: jackdoherty@sky.com or 01424 214605.

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

15th February 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

The year is certainly moving on. Admittedly, Lent is early this year, but it does seem like we are very quickly going into the different seasons. This Sunday, by coincidence (as this wouldn't every year be the readings for the Sunday before Lent), we are presented with a Gospel which, at first glance, seems very Lenten.

Jesus tells his audience that he has come to fulfil the law, and goes on to present various reminders of the law. In fact, they are more than reminders- he points out that we should not just follow the letter of the law, but do everything we can to fulfil the spirit.

Whilst this sounds rather harsh, it points us towards a good way of looking at our conscience as we approach Lent. Our first reading from Sirach reminds us that we can and should choose to follow God in every way. When we remember that God is not condemning us, but inviting us to seek forgiveness for the times when we have not been able to follow the spirit of God's law, we can see that we can use Lent as a time to seek forgiveness. God will always welcome us when we seek to come back to him. Let's do just that as we enter and journey through Lent.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

Stations of the Cross: During Lent, starting on the first Friday of Lent, 7.30pm, 20th February, St Mary Magdalene Church, led by different groups of our Parish community.

Stations of the Cross for Children accompanied by Parent / Carer: 11am, Good Friday Morning, 3rd April, St Martha's Church. All are Welcome.

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

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 9th March, 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 26th 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, 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 6th 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. *'I will give you rest, Come'*

Three Churches in Little Common: Next meeting 11am, on Ash Wednesday, 18th February, in St Martha's Church Hall.

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 – 15th February – Parish Church Boilers: To help with the continued maintenance for boilers at both churches, to ensure you stay as warm as possible whilst attending Mass.

January SO: Offertory: £587 / Gift Aid: £3384.50

Weekly Collections 15th Feb: Offertory: £854.52 / GA: £140.00 / Second Collection: £218.15 / GA: £140.00

Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: 25th 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 21st February, at Arundel Cathedral.

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

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

Unbound UK Prayer Course: The next course starts on 10th March. The meetings will take place every Tuesday and last for 14 weeks. For more information go to: <https://www.unboundprayer.com/>

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 lots of availability in the coming months, both on Sundays and weekdays. If you would like to book a Mass Intention (suggested donation £10) please contact the parish office.

Saturday 14th February	Feast	Ss Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop Patrons of Europe
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

Sunday 15th February		
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 (GA)

Monday 16th February	Ferial	Monday in 6th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Tuesday 17th February	Ferial	Tuesday in 6th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-

Wednesday 18th February		Ash Wednesday
We warmly welcome Fr Paul Jennings for Supply this morning.		
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Abriella Mathew GE (Birthday)
Deacon Simon will be conducting a Services of Ashes this evening.		
St Mary Magdalene Church	7.00pm	Ash Service Only

Thursday 19th February		Thursday after Ash Wed
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Friday 20th February		Friday after Ash Wed
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-

Saturday 21st February		Saturday after Ash Wed
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YR A

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Rom5:12-19 & Mt 4:1-11

Sunday 22nd February		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Liz O'Rourke Andres RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Francesco Russo RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Church Boilers Maintenance (GA)

Fr Stephen's Studies: Please be aware that for the next fortnight Fr Stephen needs to be in Leuven on weekdays for his lectures for the Canon Law course; there will be no weekday Mass on those days, with exception of Ash Wednesday. Please keep an eye on the newsletter. Please note also that weekday Mass in Hastings is currently very irregular; for St Leonards parish please see their website for Mass times: [Mass – Parish of the Good Shepherd](#) 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.