

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

1st March 2026

SECOND 'TRANSFIGURATION' SUNDAY OF LENT A

Message and Invitation from the Holy Father Leo XIV for Lent 2026:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/02/13/260213d.html>

Lent 2026

Celebrate – Family Activity Pack

[Celebrate Lent Pack 2026](#)

Cafod Lent Challenge The Big Lent Walk 2026

From Jack Doherty: Apologies for postponing the walk from St Mary Magdalene towards St Richards due to inclement rainfall; now taking place Sunday 8th March after Mass at 12noon. This Sunday at 10am from St Martha's Church towards Cooden Beach via footpaths on Kewhurst Ave, as far as you can and turn back, community happy support. Many thanks for all your support for our global neighbours. Jack Doherty.

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

**May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.**

Lent, the pilgrimage of penitence, continues. We are brought to the desert, as we mentioned last week. We are brought closer to the reality that we need God's mercy and love, sinners as we are. And yet God knows that we need encouragement- he loves us so much that he encourages us as he forgives us.

St John Henry Newman writes on the Transfiguration, this Sunday's Gospel:

"They glorified God in me."

I SAW thee once and nought discern'd

For stranger to admire;

A serious aspect, but it burn'd

With no unearthly fire.

Again I saw, and I confess'd

Thy speech was rare and high;

And yet it vex'd my burden'd breast,

And scared, I knew not why.

I saw once more, and awe-struck gazed

On face, and form, and air;

God's living glory round thee blazed—

A Saint—a Saint was there!

Off Zante.

January 8, 1833.

St Peter's nervous reaction is very understandable, but we are reminded that God does this to give us hope. Let's take that hope through this pilgrimage, to that other most glorious wonder- the Paschal Mystery of the Resurrection.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Neville Austin Jr, Yseult Phillips, Veronica Bennett, Frank Twambley, Rodolphe Killingbeck, Lynne Coward RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, Margaret Hitchman, David Spooner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, 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: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk.

Liturgy & Prayer

Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas: Our next Child led mass will be on Palm Sunday, 29th March. Children are all invited to join in our Palm Sunday procession.

Singing at the Easter Services: The Parish Choir from St Mary Magdalene and St Martha's will be practicing every Friday during Lent, at 6pm, St Martha's Hall. All parishioners are welcome and invited to join the rehearsals and sing at the Masses at Easter. Margaret Smart & Jo Apicella.

Stations of the Cross: During Lent, every Friday, 7.30pm, 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.

Stations of the Cross: CWL, 11.30am, Friday 20th March, St Martha's Church.

Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene: Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm on 2nd April, **Good Friday** – 3pm on 3rd April & **Easter Vigil in the Holy Night** – 7.30pm on 5th April 2026.

Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday: we invite a representative from the various parish groups (*or indeed any parishioner*) to have a foot washed during the 7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Maundy Thursday, 2nd April. Please submit names to the parish office. We need 12 people.

Prayer for Priests: Every first Tuesday of the month, after 10am Mass, St Mary Magdalene (Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament and prayer).

World Day of Prayer: Friday 6th March, 10.30am, Little Common Methodist Church, 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'*

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

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 – 1st March – CAFOD Lent Fast Day Family Fast Day, helping families in countries like Bangladesh and South Sudan grow food in floating gardens to survive floods, and in places like Zimbabwe use solar-powered pumps to grow crops despite drought.

Weekly Collections 22nd Feb: Offertory: £851.85 / GA: £216.00 / Second Collection: £247.92 / GA: £143.00

Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: 11th March, 7pm, St Martha's Hall. Please pray for our Catechumen for Baptism & Candidates for Reception, who now deepen their appreciation of the Catholic faith.

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.

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/>

Wild Goose Course: 7.30pm, Thursday 27th March, St Martha's hall. Topic: The Spirit & Our Lady

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 7.30pm on 1st Mon. of the month, in St Martha's Hall.

Contact: 211717 or 221803. Following Stations of the Cross 20th March, their Lenten Lunch will be in St Martha's Hall. Tickets on sale from 1st March in the Church porch. All proceeds will go to Cafod.

St Richards Catholic College: An Evening of Irish Music & Dance, 7pm, Saturday 7th March.

Please [click here](#) for more information and booking details.

Saturday 28th February

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-	Saturday in 1st Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	No Confessions	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30- 5.50pm	Confessions on Request	
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	James Spittal RIP	

SECOND ‘TRANSFIGURATION’ SUNDAY OF LENT A

Gen 12:1-4a; 2 Tim 1:8b-10, & Mt 17:1-9

Sunday 1st March

St Martha’s Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Alexander & Lawrence MacDonald RIP
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: CAFOD Lent Fast Day (not in our GA scheme)

Monday 2nd March

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial 12 noon	Monday in 2nd Week of Lent Requiem: Rodolphe Killingbeck RIP
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Tuesday 3rd March

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial 10am	Tuesday in 2nd Week of Lent Kathleen Dobson RIP
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Wednesday 4th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	Ferial <i>No Mass</i>	Wednesday in 2nd Week of Lent -
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Thursday 5th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Thursday in 2nd Week of Lent Ettonnusserril Family RIP
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Friday 6th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Friday in 2nd Week of Lent Pullattu Family RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	12 noon	Requiem: Neville Austin Jr RIP
Bexhill Cemetery	1.00pm	Funeral: Frank Twambley RIP

Saturday 7th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Saturday in 2nd Week of Lent Irene Herring RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30-5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT A

Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8, & Jn 4:5-42

Sunday 8th March

St Martha’s Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Kerrigan Family Living & Deceased
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Church Maintenance (GA)

Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene

Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm on 2nd April

Good Friday – 3pm on 3rd April

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – 7.30pm on 4th April

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.