

# 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

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

## FIFTH 'PASSIONTIDE' SUNDAY OF LENT A

**Sacred Paschal Triduum in  
St Mary Magdalene**

**Maundy Thursday  
7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Good Friday – 3pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
7.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Cleaning for Holy Week & Easter**

Volunteers are asked to stay behind this weekend after all Sunday Masses to clean our churches in time for Holy Week. Thank you.

### **From the Finance Committee**

The Easter Collection is your gift to Fr Stephen, who does not receive a salary but relies on your generosity. The Easter collection makes up 25% of his yearly income. If you have a standing order with the parish, this is your parish offertory and cannot be transferred to Fr Stephen. If giving online, please make a separate payment, with the reference '**Easter**'. Alternatively, use a 'Green Envelope' or the Dona Machine on the day. Thank you.

### **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)

**With the Lord there is mercy,  
in him is plentiful redemption.**

If people are saying one thing in light conversation at the moment, it's "How this year is moving on"! And so of course it is. The blossom is out on the trees. The nights are edging warily in retreat before the lengthening days. The sun, vanquished by the winter winds, returns to shine on spring days.

The life of the local church moves on too. Locally, we now have received the proceeds of the sale of the Presbytery and Hall at St Mary Magdalene's, and the former Sidley site. We can now begin to plan the further maintenance of St Mary Magdalene's and the repairs to St Martha's. Across the current Deanery and incipient new parish, we are continuing, notwithstanding the inevitable delay to its formation until we have a new Bishop, to work together and prepare the way for the future preaching of the Gospel in coastal East Sussex.

Perhaps of course the most important moving forward is in our Lenten journey. The traditional start of Passiontide comes this weekend, with the most visible element being the veiling of our statues. Our Gospel this weekend doesn't state it clearly, but Jesus visits Bethany on his way to Jerusalem, ready for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Jesus shows us, indeed, what will happen in the Triduum by bringing Lazarus in love back to life. Indeed, one of our patron saints has an important role in Jesus' saving love here, just as another will play a vital part in Holy Week. We are on the most important journey we could be- towards the joy of the Resurrection. Let's continue this journey, and all the journeys we are on, together in faith and joy.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** 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, Sian Stevens, John O'Brien, Kate Brignall, Sally Moore, Terence Phillips, 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](http://www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk).

### Liturgy & Prayer

**Child Led Masses at 9am St Marthas:** Our next Child led mass will be on Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, St Martha's Church. All are Welcome.

**Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene: Maundy Thursday** – 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> April,  
**Good Friday** – 3pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April & **Easter Vigil in the Holy Night** – 7.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

**Service of Music and Prayer from Taize:** 8pm, Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea. If you would like to help lead the music you are requested to attend a practice beforehand at 7 pm.

**Life in the Spirit Seminar:** In support of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, every Thursday evening 7.30pm from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> May, St Martha's hall, Little Common. This journey over seven sessions is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Jesus and to experience anew the abundant power of His Holy Spirit. Each session includes inspiring teaching from excellent speakers, personal testimonies, small-group sharing and prayer. For more info or to register online: [www.abcharismatic.org](http://www.abcharismatic.org).

**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 – 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Easter Flowers (GA)**

**Weekly Collections 15<sup>th</sup> March:** Offertory: £1047.28 / GA: £195.00 / Second Collection: £404.85

### Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: 25<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> April – 5pm, St Martha's Church and Hall.

**First Holy Communion 2026:** The next parents meeting for FHC candidates - 6.30pm, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> March, St Martha's hall. Topic: The Spirit & Our Lady

### Social & Pastoral

**Next SVP Tea at 3:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, St Martha's Hall. Info: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto: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. CWL are holding an Easter Egg Raffle on Palm Sunday for which tickets are on sale after Sunday Mass at a £1.00 per ticket. All profit will go to CWL Charities.

**Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Association:** invite you to a talk by Kathryn Anderson on 'Women of Nigeria and the World Day of Prayer'. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm, the Parish Room, Grange road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU. More Info: Alex 07957 Barbara 01424 219788.

**CTiB Prayer Walk 3rd April,** 9.15am (for a 9.30am start) on The Boulevard (the path between the lawns on the west side of De La Warr Pavilion), ending at the Town Square.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30- 5.50pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass

**Saturday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

Ian McLelland RIP
Confessions on request
Baptism Anya Sophia Quinn
Confessions on request
Deceased Leppard Family (Church Clean Transept)

**FIFTH (PASSIONTIDE) SUNDAY OF LENT A**

*Ezk 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11, & Jn 11:1-45*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	After Mass	(Church Clean Whole Church)
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Winn Yeo RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	(Clean Nave & Porches)
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Easter Flowers (GA)**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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**Ferial**

**Monday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

Madiparayil Family RIP

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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**Ferial**

**Tuesday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

Bridget Bailey GE

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass
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**Solemnity**

**The Annunciation of the Lord**

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**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm
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**Ferial**

**Thursday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

Kathleen & James O'Mahoney RIP

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
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**Friday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

Joseph Thomas RIP

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30-5.50pm
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm

**Saturday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

Jo Driscoll RIP  
Confessions on request  
Confessions on Request  
Yseult Phillips RIP

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD A**

*Mt 21:1-11 & Is. 50:4-7, Phil. 2:6-11 & Mt 26:14-27:66*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Peggy & Bob Redding RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**No Second Collection this week**

**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.

**Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene**

**Maundy Thursday - 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

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**Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - 7.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April**