

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

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

Cleaning for Holy Week & Easter

Volunteers are asked to stay behind next 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

To contact Fr Stephen:
stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:
sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

15th March 2026

FOURTH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT A

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

This weekend is Laetare Sunday- "Be Happy" Sunday. The most obvious manifestation of this is that, for one of only two Sundays in the year, I shall be resplendent in salmon pink. If you have ever washed a purple garment repeatedly on a 60 degree wash, you will know that it fades to pink. That is today rather the point- pink is the lighter version of purple, and Laetare Sunday is a lighter day in Lent. God loves us so much that he knows Lent can be a hard time for us, and so he gives us this day when we can relax a bit- perhaps have a very good meal with one or two treats (especially important for our mothers to do, as it coincides with Mothering Sunday!).

It is also a reminder of the Easter joy to which we are headed. The Gospel today focuses on the man who was born blind. It emphasises the sheer miracle that Jesus can heal someone who has never been able to see. Sadly, it also emphasises the scepticism and fear of the Pharisees- they simply won't and can't admit what this means, as it undermines their own situation.

This is because the wonderful miracle shows clearly that Jesus is God. Who else could perform such a joyous act? It furthermore reminds us that this is what God wants for us- to show us such love, such care, not because of any earthly reason, but out of pure joy in helping his people. The Pharisees are shown to be totally in the wrong- they will not participate in this divine love.

Let's rejoice and "be happy" on this special Lenten Sunday- that God loves us so much that he gives us this special time of rest in the season, and that we can more clearly see the utterly wonderful love that we shall receive once more through Paschal joy in Holy Week and Eastertide.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Veronica Bennett, Lynne Coward, Bernadette Neale 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, 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 4th 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).

Caring for our Church - Cleaning for Holy Week & Easter: Volunteers are asked to stay behind after all Sunday Masses of 5th Sunday of Lent (21st & 22nd March) to clean our churches in time for Holy Week. Thank you.

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 – 15th March – SVP

Weekly Collections 8th March: Offertory: £1074.46 / GA: £251.00 / Second Collection: £163.98 / GA: £100

Formation & Sacraments

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

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

First Holy Communion 2026: The next parents meeting for FHC candidates - 6.30pm, 14th 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 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 13th April, 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.

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.

Men's Way of the Cross - Over the cliffs and through the night: Friday night 20th March to Saturday morning 21st March. An event for men, organised by the Parish of Christ the King. Full information, including route details and how to confirm your attendance, is available at www.menswayofthecross.co.uk

Saturday 14th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Private Intention
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30- 5.50pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	David McGurk RIP & Louis Rosenau RIP

Saturday in 3rd Week of Lent

FOURTH ‘LAETARE’ SUNDAY OF LENT A

Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:1-2, 5-8, & Jn 9:1-41

Sunday 15th March

St Martha’s Church	9.00am	Neville Austin Jr RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Peter Chapman RIP
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: SVP (not our GA)

Monday 16th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ferial
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Monday in 4th Week of Lent

Yseult Phillips RIP

Tuesday 17th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Feast
Eastbourne Crematorium	10.30am	
St Mary Magdalene Church	12 noon	

St Patrick, Bishop, Missionary

Richard Bassett RIP
Funeral Bernadette Neale RIP
Thanksgiving Service Marie Gilpin RIP

Wednesday 18th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	<i>No Mass</i>	Ferial
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Wednesday in 4th Week of Lent

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Thursday 19th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Solemnity
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St Joseph, Spouse of BVM

Joey Gadstone RIP

Friday 20th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ferial
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Friday in 4th Week of Lent

Frank Horner RIP

Saturday 21st March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Saturday in 4th Week of Lent
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Ian McLelland
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Confessions on request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30-5.50pm	Baptism Anya Sophia Quinn
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Leppard Family
St Mary Magdalene Church	<i>After Mass</i>	(Church Clean Transept)

FIFTH (PASSIONTIDE) SUNDAY OF LENT A

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

Sunday 22nd March

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

Second Collection: Easter Flowers (GA)

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.

CAFOD: From Jack Doherty - Big thanks for all walkers and generous sponsors for Cafod challenge. Stations of the Cross, 7.30am, Friday 20th March, St Mary Magdalene Church, on theme of Cafod and Fairtrade. Join some of our Lent Walkers at 7.15 at Devonshire Sq/ post office for final lap to St Mary Magdalene to Walk the Stations of the Cross.