

# 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

29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**PALM SUNDAY Yr A**

### Sacred Paschal Triduum in St Mary Magdalene

**Mauudy 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**

### 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

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)

The Parish office will be closed Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April through to 10<sup>th</sup> April. Fr Stephen will be on annual leave from Easter Sunday afternoon, through to 10am Mass on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

### My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

And so we enter Holy Week. Through Passiontide we have journeyed towards Jerusalem with Jesus, and today we enter Jerusalem. We are in the crowd, waving our palm branches, crying "Hosanna to the Son of David!".

Well, I know we are *holding* our palm crosses in *Bexhill*, but this is the supreme time of the year to try a traditional Jesuit idea of prayer- to imagine yourself into a Gospel scene. We are very much invited this week to participate in the events of Jesus' condemnation, crucifixion, death and resurrection, as it were, in real time.

So today we share the rejoicing of Jesus, our humble Saviour, entering Jerusalem on a donkey. I used to wonder why we did not just have that as today's Gospel, in place of what I always thought of as "the long Gospel". However, it makes sense when one thinks of the crowd shouting hosanna, so many of whom will be manipulated by the Pharisees into screaming, not for Jesus, but for Barabbas. It begins today.

On Thursday, we shall experience the Last Supper, but then something strange. The Mass won't end in any normal way, but we will silently watch in Gethsemane (or St Mary Magdalene's Lady Altar) with Jesus. On Good Friday the liturgy neither starts nor ends normally- it is the starkest, strangest liturgy of the year. Holy Saturday starts in darkness, to be illumined by the new light of Easter, as we welcome the risen Lord. I hope that as many of you as possible will come to all three, as they really make one continuous liturgy. We shall live the terrible sight of His condemnation and death, and the joy of His resurrection, together.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** Lynne Coward. John O'Brien 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

**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 16<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> June, 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).

**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)

**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 – 29<sup>th</sup> March – No Collection this week**

**Weekly Collections 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Offertory: £884.66 / GA: £155.60 / Second Collection: £174.15 / GA: £50

### Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: 15<sup>th</sup> April, 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.

**Wild Goose Course:** 7.30pm, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April, St Martha's hall. Topic: The Spirit & the Eucharist

### 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 13th April, 7pm, Our Lady of Ransom, Parish Room, Grange road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU. More Info: Alex 07957 632208 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.

**Announcements / Newsletter Inserts:** Please note, these will not be accepted unless received by the parish office by Wednesday each week. Thank you.

**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  
If booking taxis or arranging lifts, please be aware Mass may be a little longer.*

**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**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	John & Mary Hayes RIP
--------------------------	---------	-----------------------

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joyce & Patrick O'Dolan RIP
--------------------------	---------	-----------------------------

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Arundel Cathedral	6pm	Chrism Mass
-------------------	-----	-------------

**THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30pm	Diyona Stephen GE Watching until 9.30pm
--------------------------	--------	--

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

St Martha's Church	11.00am	Stations of the Cross for Children with Parent / Carer
St Mary Magdalene Church	3.00pm	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

**Retiring Collection: for the Holy Places of Palestine**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Blessing of the Baskets
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.15am	Confessions

**THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT  
& THE FIRST MASS OF EASTER**

St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30pm	RCIA Group & People of the Parish
--------------------------	--------	--------------------------------------

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION**

*Acts 10:34a, 37-43, Col 3:1-4 (Sequence) & Jn 20:1-9*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Keith Bourne RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Enrik Rrukag RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**One collection Only: Your Easter Gift to Fr Stephen**

**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.

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever  
believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**