

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

8th March 2026

THIRD 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. Many thanks for all your support for our global neighbours. Jack Doherty.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church & Hall, Sidley.

Please note we no longer own OLR Church & Hall Site.

Neither we, nor the Diocese, have any responsibility for the property now.

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

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts.’

It's been a wet winter, and no doubt many of you will have been enjoying the foretaste of summer which we have been lucky to have. Together with the lengthening evenings (I am writing this in St Mary Magdalene while the Church is bathed in gorgeous evening sunlight), we are enjoying the feeling that the dark and cold months are behind us, and spring is hastening on to a fruitful summer.

This is a reminder too that we are growing in our faith in the sunlight, as Lent hastens also towards the glorious light of the Paschal candle at the Easter Vigil- the new light of the Resurrection of Our Lord. This weekend too is a time of growth, as we welcome our RCIA community to Mass for their First Scrutiny.

So it seems perhaps odd that our readings take us back to water, reminding us of the winter rains, but in fact this reminds us that God uses the everyday things of life in a special way. Indeed, it must have been a day of heat when the Samaritan women stood at the well.

And yet it is not just a simple matter of thirst. We do and should thirst for our Lord, but it is more than that. So many of our RCIA community will be baptised at the Easter Vigil, and we are reminded of our Baptism, where God uses the symbol of being washed clean to show us our new life in Christ.

Truly water, like the bread and wine transformed in the Most Holy Eucharist, is a symbol of how God transforms every part of our lives, just as he uses the season moving on in sunlight to show us the victory of light over darkness. Let's rejoice that we are washed clean, and transformed into his holy people.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Yseult Phillips, Veronica Bennett, 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, 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 – 8th March – Church Maintenance

Weekly Collections 1st March: Offertory: £906.69 / GA: £194.00 / Second Collection: £790.43

February SO: Offertory: £622 / Gift Aid: £3107

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.

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.

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

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

Saturday 7th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Irene Herring RIP
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	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP

Saturday in 2nd Week of Lent

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)

Monday 9th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ferial
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Tuesday 10th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10am	Ferial
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Wednesday 11th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	Ferial
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Thursday 12th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Ferial
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Friday 13th March

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ferial
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Saturday 14th March

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

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)

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.