

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

19th April 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Yr A

Oh Lord, you will show me the path of life.

**HOLY HOUR THIS SUNDAY
ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH
4.30pm, Sunday 19th April
For the Dignity of Human Life.**

All welcome.

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales will hold a Holy Hour to pray for the promotion of a culture of life in our lands. This is to present a unified, prayerful front to offer this petition to Our Lord for the dignity of life from conception to natural end and to pray that assisted suicide will not become law. In a Lenten statement, the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend John Sherrington, reaffirmed the Church's principled objection to the Terminally Ill (Adults) End of Life Bill, and urged Catholics to pray for parliamentarians debating the Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords. Archbishop Sherrington, the Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Bishops' Conference, asked for a special prayerful focus on those who are suffering near the end of their lives and those who care for them

The Parish Office

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

Those of a certain age may remember that a certain fizzy beverage used to advertise itself as "the real thing". Now, our newsletter is not sponsored- other drinks are available. However, the advert was very clever, because it plays on the idea that we, as humans, know what is genuine. That is quite true- we know when products, and more particularly people, are being "real"- we just have that sense that we can recognise something or someone being really genuine.

Today's Gospel shows that, albeit sometimes needing a hint to work it out, we can recognise the genuine nature of people and events. It describes the so-called "Road to Emmaus"- where people are on their way home from Jerusalem, trying to process what they have experienced with Jesus' crucifixion and Resurrection. Jesus appears among them- after his Resurrection, he appears suddenly, showing that he is God and has miraculously and truly risen.

The travellers then look back on his appearance with them. The translation is not unduly poetic- the Greek really does speak of their hearts burning. They knew instinctively that they were really in the presence of the risen Lord.

We too can know that experience. We can sense when Christ is with us, both in the Blessed Sacrament and among us when we pray. Let's follow the example of those travellers- let us really know the presence of the Risen Lord in our lives- he truly is really with us, really risen from the dead, really journeying with us wherever we go.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: John O'Brien, Sarah Wilson 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, 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.

New Parish Update: One of the great joys of Easter is welcoming new adult members into the Church through reception of the Sacraments. There's been a definite pattern of increase this year across parishes, praise God! This shows how important it will be, as we move forward into new closer ways of working together, to focus energy and resources on **evangelisation** (rather than traditional parish maintenance!). There is a great hunger and thirst all around us to know Christ and to experience true belonging and community. As we listen to the Acts of the Apostles over Eastertide, we hear of the very human struggles, just as we have, but above all the power of the Holy Spirit at work to build the Church. Happy Easter to everybody across our 15 deanery churches! *Fr Kevin.*

Liturgy & Prayer

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

Life in the Spirit Seminar: In support of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, every Thursday evening 7.30pm from 16th April to 4th 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.

Unbound UK Prayer Course: The next course started on 10th March. The meetings will take place every Tuesday and last for 14 weeks. For more information go to: <https://www.unboundprayer.com/>

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.

Second Collection this Sunday: Church Flowers (Gift Aid). As we have triple celebrations to consider with Confirmation Mass, Ascension Day and Pentecost.

Weekly Collections 12th April: Offertory: £758.37 / GA: £200.00 / Second Collection £162.45 / GA: £100

Gift Aid Statements: if you wish to receive a Gift Aid statement, please email Bonita who will email you your statement (or post if necessary).

Formation & Sacraments

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

Next Session: 29th April, 7pm, St Martha's Hall. Certificate presentation and celebration.

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

First Holy Communion 2026: The next meeting for FHC candidates - 6.30pm, 12th May, St Martha's Hall. This will be the Rehearsal in St Martha's Church, for children and their parents/ carers.

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.

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3: Monday 11th May, 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. After 9am Mass, 26th April - National Information Morning and Cake Sale in St Martha's Hall. After the May Procession and 9am Mass, 3rd May there will be a Sausage Sizzle in St Martha's Hall.

Bexhill Foodbank: They no longer require egg boxes, as they now have plenty, thank you. Volunteer drivers needed to help at the Bexhill and Battle Foodbank. info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk, or 01424 322541 or application form: <https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>.

SVP South Sudan Appeal Event: Saturday, 25th April at 12 noon at Holy Redeemer Church Hall, Upper Church Road, St Leonards on Sea, TN37 7AS. £5 entry and children under 12 are free. Buffet lunch is included. There will be entertainment, raffle, Table sale, cake sale, Irish Coffee / tea / coffee / cold drinks.

Saturday 18th April	Octave	Saturday after 2nd Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Reg Chapman RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions of Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Jack & Louis Mitchell
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions of Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Joseph Thomas RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YR A

Acts 2:14, 22-23, 1 Pt 1:17-21 & Lk 24:13-35

Sunday 19th April		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Jane Chapman RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Church Flowers (GA)

Monday 20th April	Octave	Monday after 3rd Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	<i>Fr Stephen in Crawley</i>
Eastbourne Crematorium	1.00pm	Funeral Sarah Wilson RIP
Tuesday 21st April	Octave	Tuesday after 3rd Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Herring RIP
Wednesday 22nd April	Octave	Wed after 3rd Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 23rd April	Solemnity	St George, Patron of England
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Liz O'Rourke Andres RIP Inc Baptism & FHC Josep Steers
Friday 24th April	Octave	Friday after 3rd Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Michael Pitt-Payne GE
Saturday 25th April	Feast	St Mark, Evangelist
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Frank Horner RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Beau Mephram
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm – 5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Clemy Monstratt RIP & Mavis March RIP

FOURTH 'GOOD SHEPHERD' SUNDAY OF EASTER YR A

Acts 2:14A, 36-41, 1 Pt 2:20b-25 & Jn 10:1-10

Sunday 26th April		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Sophie Taylor RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Education of Future Priests (GA)

Surrexit Dominus vere: Alleluia!

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

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

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.