

# 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

### Monthly Churches Clean

Next weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> May

after all Masses, please.

The more the merrier,  
the quicker the clean. Thank you.

**New Parish Update:** Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan is not a re-structuring for survival, but the lens through which we view everything, so that our parishes and communities can thrive in the new situation of the change of era. During this time when the world is becoming ever more polarised and the Gospel itself can be weaponised to support ideology, our parishes, however we configure them, have to become that place of truth and calm, able to respond to the restlessness and curiosity that we see around us. For this we need the courage to nudge us out of our comfort zones and to try something new and Spirit-led. Yet none of this is in our own strength, which is why the first pillar of the Pastoral Plan will always be prayer.

*Canon Kieron O'Brien.*

### 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)

**FOURTH (GOOD SHEPHERD)  
SUNDAY OF EASTER Yr A**

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

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

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day on which we think about vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The word "vocation" comes from the Latin word vocare- to call. We of course today pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, particularly in our own Diocese. The Church is a sacramental church- we need people to administer the seven sacraments instituted for our salvation. We of course also pray today for a new Bishop, but today is a day to pray for calling to every order and role in the Church. We are blessed here with a brilliant permanent Deacon in Dcn Simon- let's pray for vocations to the permanent diaconate. We were served so well for so many years by the Rosminians- let's pray for vocations to the religious life.

In fact, we are all called to serve and love God wherever we are. Our common calling through our baptism leads all of us to see where God wants us. Let's echo the prayer of St John Henry Newman, and all ask God to guide us to our particular calling:

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am. I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about. *St John Henry Newman.*

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** John O'Brien, Evelyne Sandrine Rodway 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, Cathy Smulders.

**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 Mass:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 9am, St Martha's Church. Children are invited to join us by leading the May procession and crowning the stature of the Virgin Mary. Any children who would like to do a reading at Mass or read a bidding prayer are asked to see Sarah Surman after the 9 am Mass on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**Pray in May with Mary. Rosary Workshop:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 3pm - 4pm, St Martha's Hall, Come and learn to pray the Rosary. All ages welcome. Children with Parent / Carers. Free Rosaries! Sarah Surman: 07926 514784.

**Prayer for Priests:** Every first Friday 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 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).

**Unbound UK Prayer Course:** The next course started 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/>

### **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](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.

**Second Collection this Sunday:** The Education of Future Priests (GA)

**Weekly Collections 19<sup>th</sup> April:** Offertory: £936.28 / GA: £188 / Second Collection £254.44 / 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: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm, St Martha's Hall. Certificate presentation and celebration.

**Confirmation: Next Session:** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – 5pm, St Martha's Church and Hall. The Deanery Confirmation Mass is 7pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May in St Mary Magdalene.

**First Holy Communion 2026:** The next meeting for FHC candidates - 6.30pm, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> May, 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. After 9am Mass, 26<sup>th</sup> April - National Information Morning and Cake Sale in St Martha's Hall. After the May Procession and 9am Mass, 3<sup>rd</sup> May there will be a Sausage Sizzle in St Martha's Hall.

**SVP South Sudan Appeal Event:** Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**KSC Charity Quiz:** 2pm, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, St Martha's Hall. Tickets: £6 pp / £20 family of four (one person in fulltime education). All proceeds will go to HUG and local SVP. For further information and Tickets, contact: David 07771 757367 or Sean 0787 4061235. All welcome.

<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St Mark, Evangelist</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Frank Horner RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions of Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Beau Mepham
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions of 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*

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
St Martha’s Church	9.00am	Sophie Taylor RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Cathy Smulders GE
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Education of Future Priests (GA)**

<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>Monday after 4<sup>th</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00	Donal O’Donovan RIP

<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>Tuesday after 4<sup>th</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Koozhaplackal Family RIP

<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>St Catherine of Sienna, Virgin, Doctor, Patron of Europe</b>
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St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
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<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>Thursday after 4<sup>th</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Beryl & Harry Carvalho GE 75 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>		<b>Friday after 4<sup>th</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ray Ford GE

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Bridie Campbell RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm – 5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Antonelli Family
St Mary Magdalene Church	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>(Church Clean Transept)</i>

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YR A**

*Acts 6:1-7, 1 Pt 2:4-9 & Jn 14:1-12*

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>		
St Martha’s Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha’s Church	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>(Church Clean Whole Church)</i>
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Gary & Bernadine McNamara GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	<i>After Mass</i>	<i>(Church Clean Nave &amp; Porches)</i>
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: CAFOD South Sudan Crisis**

*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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4.

**Out of hours:**

[stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.