

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

This weekend **2nd / 3rd 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

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

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

3rd May 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Yr A

**May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.**

My ego is going through the roof. Stephen turns up again in Acts this Sunday, "full of the Holy Spirit". We have already seen his martyrdom at weekday Mass. It's not even as if I am named after the Protomartyr (first Christian to give their life for the faith), but I am still excessively proud of the reference.

In fact, Stephen is the first example of someone who understands that Jesus being "the way, the truth and the life", and furthermore being God (Jesus echoing the Old Testament name of God whenever he says "I am..."), means that following Jesus is the most important thing in life, even if that means making the ultimate sacrifice. The Good News of our salvation overshadows absolutely everything.

On Monday this week we celebrate the feast of the English Martyrs. These were the women and men who gave their lives under terrible persecution in England at the time of the Reformation. We have a wonderful example in the co-patron of our Diocese, St Philip Howard, scion of a powerful family, and a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, who gave all that up for a life of suffering in the Tower of London, never flinching from his commitment to God's Church and Gospel. I am writing this across the aisle in St Mary Magdalene's from the CWL window, honouring Saints Margaret Clitherow and Ward, who both gave their lives for their faith.

May we always be inspired to recognise Jesus as the only true foundation of our lives, being encouraged by the witness of our fellow countrywomen and men who trod that way, knowing that truth, and so gained eternal life.

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.

Liturgy & Prayer

Child Led Mass: 3rd 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. Future Child led mass 21st June and 12th July

Pray in May with Mary. Rosary Workshop: Sunday 3rd 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 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: CAFOD South Sudan Crisis (not our GA)

Weekly Collections 26th April: Offertory: £938.60 / GA: £195 / Second Collection £208 / GA: £345.07

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

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

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 the May Procession and 9am Mass, 3rd May there will be a Sausage Sizzle in St Martha's Hall.

KSC Charity Quiz: 2pm, Saturday 23rd 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.

Filsham Road Convent of Our Lady Old Girls' Association Annual Reunion – Saturday 19 September, at the Convent of Our Lady, 120 Filsham Road, St. Leonards on Sea, TN38 0PE. If you would like to attend, please **RSVP by 12 September**, Judith Bourne: jbpm08@hotmail.com

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YR A

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

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

Second Collection: CAFOD South Sudan Crisis (not our GA)

Monday 4th May	Feast	The English Martyrs
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00	Margaret Keep Family GE
Tuesday 5th May		Tuesday after 5th Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Giovanni Licata RIP
Wednesday 6th May		Wed after 5th Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 7th May		Thursday after 5th Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Margaret Malone RIP Inc Baptism & FHC Zack Begley-Mahon.
Friday 8th May		Friday after 5th Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Reji Varghese GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	7.00pm	Deanery Confirmation Mass
Saturday 9th May		Saturday after 5th Sun Easter
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joseph Thomas 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	Adam Clarke RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YR A

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Pt 3:15-18 & Jn 14:15-21

Sunday 10th May		
St Martha’s Church	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

No Second Collection

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.

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.