

# 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

### *Happy Easter!*

*Fr Stephen, Deacon Simon,  
along with  
Bonita our Administrator,  
wish all Parishioners,  
a Happy and Holy Easter.*

#### **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.

5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**EASTER SUNDAY & 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Easter Sunday:

**This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice in it and be glad.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter:

**Give praise to the Lord, for he is good,  
his mercy endures for ever.**

#### **Easter Sunday**

Surrexit Dominus vere, Alleluia! Or- The Lord has truly risen! This traditional cry of Catholic greeting sums up the joy of this most holy day. Indeed week- Easter has one of the remaining liturgical "octaves"- each day until the second Sunday is like another Easter Day. Indeed season- from now until Pentecost we are living in the Easter season. This pivotal, joyous moment of our faith needs more than just one day!

Why? Because Jesus has shown us that our salvation is assured through faith in him and his forgiveness. He came for this purpose- that, out of his overwhelming love for us, he wanted to save us from our sins. We can try to ask why he needed to do this in this way, but perhaps the closest we can get to an answer is to say that God knew that we would need something so radical, so obviously radical, so that we would really realise that we are saved.

It would not be enough to celebrate today and then return to normal. We need this long period of joy to celebrate this overwhelming gift, and to process what it means- how it changes every element of our lives; how it is a source of such joy; how much we need this.

Let's enjoy this period of pure celebration, and let this joy percolate through every part of our lives, so that the new light of Easter can illumine and cleanse every part of our being.

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**

**Divine Mercy:** Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, which is the last day of the Easter Octave. The Divine Mercy picture will be on display on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at both churches, allowing people to venerate it. For more information go to: [The Divine Mercy](#)

**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 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)

### **Help Needed**

**HUG:** The Bexhill Homeless Unity Group are looking for a garage for potential storage of furniture etc for guests. Also, a willing person and van or similar for transportation of goods if / when needed.

If you can help, please contact [bexhillhug@gmail.com](mailto:bexhillhug@gmail.com) or Pauline on 07881642331.

**Bexhill Foodbank:** They are looking for more volunteer drivers to help at the Bexhill and Battle Foodbank. [info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk), or 01424 322541 and leave a message for a call back. You can download their application form from their website - <https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>

**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.

**One Collection this Sunday:** Easter Clergy- The Easter Collection is your gift to Fr Stephen, who does not receive a salary but relies on your generosity.

**Weekly Collections 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Offertory: £1078.52 / GA: £695.60

**March SO:** Offertory: £896.30 / GA: £4112.00

### 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.

**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.

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

<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Triduum</b>	<b>Holy Saturday</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Blessing of the Baskets
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions of Request

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

St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30pm	RCIA Group, People of the Parish
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**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION**

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

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

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April - There will be no weekday Mass**

**We warmly welcome Fr Terry Martin & Fr Paul Jennings this weekend**

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Easter Saturday</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

**SECOND "LOW" SUNDAY OF EASTER YR A**

*Acts 2:42-47, 1 Pt 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31*

<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Tom Bogan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Private Intention
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Monday after 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls

<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Tuesday after 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Kavungum Family RIP

<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Wed after 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	

<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Thursday after 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	David Herring RIP

<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Friday after 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Kaye Ford GE

<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Octave</b>	<b>Saturday after 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Reg Chapman RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Jack & Louis Over
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm – 5.50pm	Confessions on 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*

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
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 Maintenance (GA)**

**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.

*Surrexit Dominus vere: Alleluia!*