

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

St Mary Magdalene Choir

I am delighted that we are beginning to build up the choir again and are now going to start having regular practices. We will meet at 6 pm on Fridays in St Mary Magdalene church, for an hour, once a fortnight, starting on Friday 22nd May. We would love more singers and musicians so this would be a great time to join. You can contact me on 07815182189 / megsmart82@aol.com or just turn up on the evening.

Margaret.

St Mary Magdalene Church

Sunday 11am Mass

More volunteers needed for the following: Welcomers / Stewards / Money Collectors, if you can help, please email the parish office. We are very grateful for the wonderful volunteers we currently have, but we do need more to balance out duties. There is no heavy lifting, just simple house duties to complete before and throughout the Mass. All roles are very fulfilling, so please do help if you can.

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

17th May 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Yr A

**I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.**

In John's Gospel the term "the hour" is important. Throughout much of it, Jesus says that his hour has not yet come. Today, he says it has arrived. He is of course speaking about the time of his crucifixion and Resurrection. The wonderful, terrible, joyous moment when Jesus becomes the sacrifice is of course at the heart of every Mass, when that sacrifice is brought once more to our minds and hearts as the priest follows Jesus' commands at the Last Supper.

Today, the hour for the next part of Jesus' glorification and our salvation has already come. On Thursday, we remembered that wonderful moment when Jesus ascended to heaven, reminding us that he is truly God and King, going to his throne at the right hand of God the Father. The plan of our salvation becomes clearer as we see the next stage brought to life in our Ascension Day Mass.

Now we are once again preparing to bring to life in our liturgy the next stages of our salvation: the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which shows how God helps us by his guidance in the world; Corpus Christi, when we remember that he is truly with us, body, blood, soul and divinity in the Blessed Sacrament; and Trinity Sunday, when we see how we are taken up into the love of God the Father, Son *and* Holy Spirit.

Today we wait for those great solemnities. However, we are not just waiting. We have the example of the disciples united in prayer after the Ascension in our first reading. Let us take this example, being united as the Body of Christ, receiving him truly in the Eucharist, and ready for all the ways in which he will support, nourish and inspire us to serve him in this world, and follow him to the next.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: John O'Brien, Margaret Davey, Paul Balzan 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, Peter Day.

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

St Mary Magdalene Church, Sunday 11am Mass: More volunteers needed for the following:

Welcomers / Stewards / Money Collectors, if you can help, please email the parish office.

Child Led Mass: 21st June and 12th July, 9am St Martha's.

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/>

CTiB Open Air Community Hymn Singing: you are invited to join at 4 pm on Sunday 17 May, 21 June and 19 July at the Coronation Bandstand, De La Warr Parade. See posters in church.

Three Churches in Little Common Meeting: 11am, Wed 20th May, St Martha's Church Hall. All are welcome to these informal meetings with our neighbour churches – Little Common Methodists and St Mark's. A short service followed by refreshments and a chat.

Pentecost Novena: If you would like to pray this, please follow this link:
<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-to-the-holy-spirit>

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: *World Communications – Supports the Church's apostolate in the mass media. (Not our GA)*

Weekly Collections 10th May: Offertory: £768.25 / GA: £197.00 / Confirmation: £396.56 / GA: £10.00

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. Certificate presentation, film and pizza.

First Holy Communion 2026: For those who have completed the course: FHC Mass – 3pm, 6th June & 3pm, 13th June, St Martha's

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 8th June, 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. On 1st June at 7-30pm, there will be a talk about Bexhill Caring Community.

KSC Charity Quiz Update: 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. More info & Tickets: David 07771 757367 / Sean 07874 061235. All welcome. *A few tickets have accidentally been printed with 7.45pm; please ignore these, the correct time is 2pm!*

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, **RSVP by 12 Sept**, Judith Bourne: jbpm08@hotmail.com

Saturday 16th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Elizabeth Francis 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	People of the Parish

Saturday after 6th Sun Easter

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YR A

Acts 1:12-14, 1 Pt 4:13-16 & Jn 17:1-11a

Sunday 17th May

St Martha’s Church	9.00am	Mike Boakes RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Martin Malone RIP
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: World Communications Sunday (Not our GA)

Monday 18th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00	John Peace RIP
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Tuesday 19th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls
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Wednesday 20th May

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
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Thursday 21st May

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Divinia Stephen GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Bap & FHC Fletcher & Jovie Holford

Friday 22nd May

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	Fr Stephen in Crawley
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Saturday 23rd May

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Evelyn Rodway RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Rosie Blyth
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm – 5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Ray Ford GE

PENTECOST YR A

Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 & Jn 20:19-23

Sunday 24th May

St Martha’s Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Lilian Bates RIP
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese for Diocese of Chulucana, Peru (GA)

Financial Support for Young Lourdes Helpers: Are you or your child 15 to 25 and already booked to go on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this July as a red shirt, purple shirt or young helper? The Knights of St Columba have generously provided some funds to support your costs. To apply, please email eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk, providing your name, age and contact phone number, deadline 20th June 2026.

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.