

# 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 07815 182189 / [megsmart82@aol.com](mailto: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](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)

24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**PENTECOST Yr A**

**Send forth your spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.**

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.

“Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.”

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God . . .

If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ”

The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: “charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.”

#### *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

This weekend, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. This commemorates the fulfilment of Jesus’ promise that, after his Ascension, he would, along with God the Father, send us another “paraclete”. The Greek here (for once!) doesn’t really help- Pentecost comes from the Greek “penteconta”, which just means “fifty”- fifty days after Easter. “Paraclete” is more obscure- literally “called alongside”, which could indicate the Holy Spirit coming from both God the Father and God the Son. What this tells us is that two persons of the Trinity are sending us the third. Why?

Well, it’s partly to fulfil Jesus’ promise that he would not leave us as orphans- God will continue to guide us. As we can see from the Catechism, we can see that God wants to give us gifts, and through them fruits- he wants us to be equipped to do his work of love.

It is interesting that God wants us to be “docile”. The word has a rather negative connotation in English- “oh, my very old dog is just docile these days- he hardly does anything”. Actually, this isn’t the meaning in the Catechism. It comes from “doceo”- I teach- in Latin- God wants us to be teachable- ready to receive his teaching. Let’s all pray that we will be ready to allow God the Holy Spirit to teach us God’s way of love and salvation.

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](http://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:** 21<sup>st</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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/>

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

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

**Congratulations:** to Christina Lucey for her dedication and support to Cafod campaigns over the last 25 years, who at 9am Mass, St Martha's, on 31<sup>st</sup> May, will be presented with a Papal Apostolic Blessing, with Diocesan Cafod Representative Jenny Finlayson in attendance.

**CAFOD:** If you would like to know anything regarding CAFOD and their campaigns, please go to their website where you will find any information you require: <https://cafod.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:** *Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese for Diocese of Chulucana, Peru (GA)*

**Weekly Collections 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Offertory: £979.95 / GA: £191.00 / World Communications: £ 167.76

**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

**First Holy Communion 2026:** For those who have completed the course: FHC Mass – 3pm, 6<sup>th</sup> June & 3pm, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> June, 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. On 1st June at 7.30pm, there will be a talk about Bexhill Caring Community.

**KSC Charity Quiz Update: 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. 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!*

### 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)

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Saturday after 7<sup>th</sup> Sun Easter**

**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)

**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.

**PENTECOST YR A**

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

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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

**Second Collection:**

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

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00	<b>Memorial</b> <b>Mary, Mother of the Church</b>
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**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	<b>Memorial</b> <b>St Philip Neri, Priest</b>
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**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	<b>Feast</b> <b>St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop</b>
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**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	<b>Feast</b> <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest</b>
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St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Edna Herring RIP
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St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Bap & FHC Aida-Grace Gooch & Spencer Gooch
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**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	<b>Ferial</b> <b>Friday in 8<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
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**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	<b>Opt. Mem</b> <b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
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St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Paul Balzan RIP
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St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Confessions on Request
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St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm – 5.50pm	Baptism James Matthews
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St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Confessions on Request
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St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
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**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY YR A**

*Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9, 2 Cor 13:11-14 & Jn 3:16-18*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Peter & Gloria Lindsay-Vail RIP
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St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Jan Jankowski RIP
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St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass
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**Second Collection: Catechetical Programs (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](mailto:eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk), providing your name, age and contact phone number, deadline 20th June 2026.