

# 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

31<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY Yr A**

**To be praised and highly exalted for ever!**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God and fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 13:13**

### Latest Deanery Update

Synodality is at the heart of how we will seek to work together in new parish structures. Synodality was developed firmly under Pope Francis, through the 3-year process of the Synod on Synodality and is now firmly promoted by Pope Leo as the way forward for all Church life and development.

### What is synodality?

“Synodality is the walking together of Christians with Christ and towards God’s kingdom, in union with all humanity. Oriented towards mission, synodality involves gathering at all levels of the Church for mutual listening, dialogue and common discernment...Synodality is the path of spiritual renewal and structural reform”.

Synod Final Report §28. *Fr Kevin Dring.*

### 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)

Today we celebrate a great feast of the Church. Hold on, I can hear you say, don't you say that every week at the moment? Well, yes- each Sunday at the moment we see something wonderful in our faith, from the Holy Spirit, to the Eucharist on Corpus Christi. You could say that Trinity Sunday is the linking together of God the Holy Spirit last week and God the Son next week with God the Father today. We can also see these feasts as a preparation for living our faith through the rest of the year in Ordinary Time (which we re-entered last Monday, though you could be forgiven for not having noticed, given all of these great feasts!).

What I think is most wonderful is that we are linking together the three persons of the Trinity- the Father, Son and Holy Spirit- today, and we can see that they are linked together by love. One of the great reasons why the relationship between the Father and the Son uses that language of parent and child is that it reminds us of the love inherent in their link. The Holy Spirit too is linked to both by love, and here more clearly the love is not only within the relationship- it includes us. We need the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all at different times in different ways, and they show each their love for us at different times in different ways.

We are in effect taken up into that relationship of love. Could St Richard of Chichester, whose feast we celebrate on Monday, have endured such difficulties to minister in his Diocese, and then go on to exhort his priests to a holy life, without that love? Could St Alban, the first English Christian martyr, whose memorial is on Friday, have given everything for Christ without it? Let's all marvel and praise God in Three Persons, that we are part of that great Trinity of love. 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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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>

**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: *Catechetical Programs (GA)*

**Collections 24<sup>th</sup> May:** Offertory: £969.59 / GA: £508 / Diocese Missionary Endeavour: £232.08 / GA: £78

**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.

**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/>

### 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)

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Paul Balzan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism James Matthews
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY YR A**

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

<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>		
St Martha’s Church	9.00am	Peter & Gloria Lindsay-Vail RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Jan Jankowski RIP
St Martha’s Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

**Second Collection: Catechetical Programs (GA)**

<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Justin, Martyr</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00	Bridget Hanlon RIP
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Friday in 9<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Fred Herring RIP
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Charles Lwanga, Companions &amp; Martyrs</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Ferial</b>	<b>Thursday in 9<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Tommy Barlow RIP
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>St Boniface, Bishop, Martyr</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Lorraine Gill RIP
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Opt. Mem</b>	<b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b>
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Bijimol Aju GE (Birthday)
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Martha’s Church	3.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm – 5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Yseult & Gordon Phillips RIP

**THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST YR A**

*Deut 8:2-3, 14b-16a, 1 Cor 10:16-17 & Jn 6:51-58*

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>		
St Martha’s Church	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Pat Billingham 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)

**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.

**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.