

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

Latest Deanery Update

As the new larger parishes come into being across the Diocese, clergy are encouraged to embrace opportunities for delegation, including developing the skills and gifts of lay staff and volunteers to enable the clergy to focus on their primary mission and achieve balance in their life and ministry. This will also engage and empower laity into new roles and ministries. The new parishes will make decisions collectively. The key will be working in synodality. This emphasises relationships, collaboration and listening to the voices of all. To enable our clergy to lead, and for communities and parishioners to feel connected and involved, there will need to be some new structures, roles, teams, and communication channels.

Diocesan Pastoral Team

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

21st June 2026

TWELFTH SUNDAY OT Yr A

In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.

On Monday this week we will celebrate the feast of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More. John Fisher was Bishop of Rochester. He was keen to reform areas in which the Church had stumbled into disrepute, but was absolutely against the Lutheran Reformation in Germany, and indeed was the only English Bishop to oppose Henry VIII in his split from the Church. He believed passionately that the Church, under the authority of the Holy Father, was God's Church, and that no earthly concerns should be allowed to diminish it.

Thomas More was Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor. He was not unaware of the realities of government, and indeed had been Henry's right-hand man. He too opposed Henry over his taking power over the English Church. Again, he sought to put God's interests before those of the world. Both Thomas More and John Fisher would pay the ultimate price for standing up for God against human power.

Few of us (I hope!), if any, will be asked to make that ultimate call for the Gospel. And yet Jesus makes it totally clear in today's Gospel. If it comes to a situation where we can court worldly popularity by marginalising God, or we can enrage the world by proclaiming the Gospel, we must choose the latter route. Let us hope and pray that God will give us the grace and assistance to proclaim the Gospel without fear, and to endure joyfully the world's indifference or worse. Truly then will we be proclaiming the joy and love of God.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Margaret Davey 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, Angela Burden.

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. 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: Our next children led mass will be on Sunday 21st June. We will be joined by children who have recently made their First Holy Communion, and they will be celebrating their "Going forth" Mass.

Prayer for Priests: Every first Friday of the month, after 10am Mass, St Mary Magdalene (Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament and prayer).

Prayer Ministry Training Hub Session, "Set the Captives Free" - 10.45am – 3.30pm, Saturday 18th July 2026, Holy Redeemer hall, St Leonards. This is a key training course for anyone who wants to grow in confidence or is discerning a call to offer Prayer Ministry in their parish or in a prayer group. The teaching is rooted in Jesus' mission "to proclaim liberty to captives" (Luke 4:18), the day includes - teaching on ministering with humility, discernment, but also in authority; Practical workshops to allow confidence and growth in this ministry; Developing expectant faith and to listen to the Holy Spirit; Safeguarding expectations.

Registration essential, please remember to bring your lunch. For more information – text Ghislaine 07491 477773.

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: *Day for Life (not our GA)*

Collections 14th June: Offertory: £919.71 / GA: £287 / 2nd Collection: £200 / GA: £160

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

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 13th July, 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. We are having a talk about Indian Weddings and Saris on Monday 6th July. CWL are holding a Strawberry Tea on Sunday 19th July at 2.30pm in St Martha's Hall. Tickets will be available after Masses from 5th July. Adults £5 / Families £10.

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/>

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.

Journey to becoming the New Parish: Ultimately the new Parish will be overseen by a Priests Team, moderated by Fr Kevin Dring. They will work closely with a Leadership Team of clergy and lay reps, and with Hub Pastoral Teams of clergy and lay representatives from across our churches, in the development of our Pastoral Plan and our shared mission. The West Hub covers Eastbourne, Polegate, Hampden Park, Hailsham, and the East Hub covers St Leonards, Hastings, Bexhill, Battle and Rye. East Hub Secretary: Elizabeth Fitch stleonards@abdiocese.org.uk 01424 602077. West Hub Secretary: Cheryl Wood eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk 01323 723222. Deanery Website: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

Saturday 20th June	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	No Confessions
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Capaldi Family

12th SUNDAY OT YR A

Jer 20:10-13, Rom 5:12-15 & Mt 10:26-33

Sunday 21st June		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Jerry Edouard RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Day for Life (not our GA)

Monday 22nd June	Feast	Ss John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs
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St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Nan McElroy RIP
Tuesday 22nd June	Ferial	Tuesday in 12th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Francis Augustine RIP
Wednesday 24th June	Solemnity	The Birth of St John the Baptist
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
Thursday 25th June	Ferial	Thursday in 12th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Mr Alan McLachlan
Friday 26th June	Ferial	Friday in 12th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Sr Imelda GE (For Services to the Parish)

Saturday 27th June	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Private Intention
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Molly O'Shea

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Acts 12:1-11, Tim 4:6-8, 17-18 & Mt 16:13-19

Saturday 27th June	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Gerardo Di Mascio & Di Mascio Brothers RIP
Sunday 28th June		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mick Hanson RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Peter's Pence (not our 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

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.

Financial Support for Young Lourdes Helpers: The Knights of St Columba have generously provided some funds to support your costs. To apply, please email eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk, by **20th June**.