

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

28th June 2026

SAINTS PETER & PAUL Yr A

**Vigil: Their sound goes forth through all the earth.
Sunday: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.**

This weekend we celebrate another great feast of the Church. A feast that is so important that it would be a Holy Day of Obligation if it were not on the Sunday. A feast commemorating saints who have other saints' days. Why do we have this special feast?

Well, to begin with, they are saints instrumental in the very beginning of the Christian faith. However, there is more than that, I think. What can they both tell us?

St Peter is the great example of someone who is on a path of learning. From the lakeside in Galilee, through to his time learning what it means to be a disciple, he learns so much. He has to understand that leadership means service; that forgiveness is unlimited. He must then learn that he ought not to deny Christ, but that Jesus will always forgive him. The humble fisherman from the unfashionable end of the Holy Land becomes the first Pope, and is constantly forgiven when he gets things wrong.

St Paul is the great example of someone, meanwhile, whose faith is turned round. We must never forget that the Saul who approves of Stephen's killing believes in God, and thinks he is doing exactly the right thing. It will take a literal journey- to Damascus- for him to learn that he is called to preach Christ to the Gentiles- ie the whole world.

God uses people who are in the right place to do his work. The humble nature of Peter is vital to show the world that God loves everyone. Paul is a Roman citizen- his embrace of Christ cannot be ignored by the powers that be. What they show is that all of us are called, whoever and wherever we are, to do his work in the world.

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, John Fitzpatrick.

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.

June Deanery Magazine: [Magazine June 2026 Final.pdf](#)

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: The next children led mass will be on Sunday 12th July. Volunteers for a reading or a bidding prayer, please see Sarah Surman after 9am Mass, 5th July, for a practise.

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: *Peter's Pence (not our GA)*

Collections 21st June: Offertory: £995.68 / GA: £274.00 / 2nd Collection: £224.19

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://stmmbehill.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://stmmbehill.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://stmmbehill.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 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.

A film about the 'Climate Crisis' is to be shown in St Peter's Hall, Old Town, Bexhill on Friday 3rd July at 7.15pm. The film lasts about an hour, with free refreshments, and time for a chat afterwards. It links to Catholic teaching about the stewardship of the earth.

CTiB Open Air Community Hymn Singing: 4pm, 19 July, Coronation Bandstand, De La Warr Parade.

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 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

Vigil: Acts 3:1-10, Gal 1:11-20, Jn 21: 15-19
Sunday: Acts 12:1-11, Tim 4:6-8, 17-18 & Mt 16:13-19

Saturday 27th June	Vigil	
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)

Monday 29th June	Ferial	Monday in 13th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Paul Balzan RIP
Tuesday 30th June	Ferial	Tuesday in 13th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Deceased Members of the Elms, Chapman, Horner Families

Wednesday 1st July	Feast	Dedication of Arundel Cathedral
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-

Thursday 2nd July	Ferial	Thursday in 13th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Margaret Davey RIP

Friday 3rd July	Feast	St Thomas, Apostle
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mary Driscoll RIP

Saturday 4th July	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Margaret Davey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Olive Hanlon

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Zech 9:9-10, Rom 8:9, 11-13, Mat 11:25-30

Saturday 4th July	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Sunday 5th July		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Daniel Tamburo RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Anniversary of St Stephen's Priestly Ordination
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Venezuela Earthquake Crisis Appeal (Cafod) (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.

Please be assured that, in periods of extreme heat, if you will be made ill, you should not come to Mass – the Sunday obligation does not apply, in these circumstances. Keep well and stay hydrated.