

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

Monthly Churches Clean

Next weekend 11th / 12th July

after all Masses, please.

The more the merrier, the quicker the clean. Thank you.

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

5th July 2026

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

**I will bless your name for ever,
my God and king.**

Message from the Diocese

My dear brothers and sisters,

With the greatest possible joy, I am delighted to pass on to you the news that the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed Father Stephen Wang, until now the Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome, as the Sixth Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. Bishop-Elect Stephen will receive episcopal ordination and take canonical possession of the Diocese at some point in the second half of October, until which time the See remains vacant.

Yesterday, I was able to have a zoom call with Bishop-Elect Stephen. With all the energy and zeal for which he is known, it is fair to say that he is greatly looking forward to taking up this new ministry, to which the Lord has called him. It seems to me that, in God's Providence, we are truly blessed to have been granted the gift of such a Shepherd.

Many of you, I'm sure, will already be familiar with our Bishop-Elect through the outstanding Sycamore catechetical courses being used in a good number of our parishes RCIA and other catechetical programmes.

With the assurance of my prayers and every good wish.

In Domino, Canon Jonathan Martin,

JCL Diocesan Administrator

Herewith a message to us all from Bishop-elect Stephen.

He has also recorded a video message for parishes which can be watched here: <https://vimeo.com/1206416223>

We pray for those who have died: Margaret Davey, James Green 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: *Venezuela Earthquake Crisis Appeal (Cafod) (not our GA)*

You can help those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives.

Collections 28th June: Offertory: £921.46 / GA: £175.00 / 2nd Collection: £258.17

June SO: Offertory: £615 / GA: £3791

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).

Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for £630.91 raised for Christians in the Holy Land, at a time when they are most vulnerable. Please continue to remember our work in your prayers, giving our brothers and sisters strength to continue.

Formation & Sacraments

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmmbexhill.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://stmmmbexhill.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://stmmmbexhill.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.

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

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

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

Saturday 4th July	Vigil	
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 Fr Stephen's Priestly Ordination
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Venezuela Earthquake Crisis Appeal (Cafod) (not our GA)

Monday 6th July	Ferial	Monday in 14th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Terence & Josephine Dolan RIP
Tuesday 7th July	Ferial	Tuesday in 14th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Peter Koe RIP
Wednesday 8th July	Ferial	Wednesday in 14th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 9th July	Ferial	Thursday in 14th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	HUG Deceased
Friday 10th July	Ferial	Friday in 14th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joseph Thomas RIP
Saturday 11th July	Feast	St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Ciara & Caleb Davey GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Connor Harvey

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Isa 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Mat 13:1-23

Saturday 11th July	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Yseult Phillips
Sunday 12th July		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Evelyn Rodway RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Sea Sunday (Stella Maris) (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.

Christian Voices, the Musical Drama Group: next play is "In the Eyes of God".

Based on the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector: 11am, Saturday 11th July, Christchurch Methodist Church Hall (Refreshments 10am); 10am, Sunday 12th July, St Peter's Community Centre; 11am, Saturday 18th July, Catsfield Village Hall (Coffee & Cake 10am); 10.30am, Sunday 19th July, Little Common Methodist Church. All performances are in aid of "Warming Up the Homeless"