

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

Postponed due to hot weather!

St Mary Magdalene Feast Day

Celebration: will be next Sunday 19th July, after 11am Mass. Refreshments in the porch and grounds.

St Martha's Feast Day Celebration will take place in the Hall after 9am Mass, 26th July. Please bring any religious memorabilia looking for a new home. There will be a box at the back of the Church next Sunday to collect Statues, Rosaries, Books, Pictures etc. Also come along on the day and see the story of a Family Bible spotted on St Martha's Table last year, and researched by a parishioner, is now back with the very grateful descendants of a Victorian emigre Railwayman.

Bexhill Foodbank Summer Picnic

Project: We will provide food parcels to any local family that needs us, and alongside that, we want to provide a picnic cool bag, full of snacks, sandwich items, juice cartons, fruit and some fun outdoor summer toys and suncream to ensure the kids can stay safe in the sun. Non-perishable donations welcome. Thankyou.

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

12th July 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

After two millennia of Christianity, and after at least a millennium and a half of it being the state religion in most of western Europe, it can be difficult to imagine just how revolutionary it must have seemed to those who heard the Gospel as something brand new.

As St Paul observes in today's second reading, it seems that the known world at the time was longing for something different. Ancient Greece had long since seen a decline in belief in the pagan gods, with many turning to philosophy as a form of faith. In Rome, there was lots of interest in "new" gods. We know that worship of Dionysus had grown over the previous two centuries at the time of the coming of Christ, and indeed people were increasingly worshipping Egyptian gods such as Isis, or near eastern ones like Cybele and Mithras. Interestingly, the worship of Mithras included a belief in a form of heaven. Clearly, people were desperately looking for something different.

The Gospel of Christ, of course, was the right answer to these questions. Today's Gospel reading shows us just how different faith in the triune God was- no other pagan religion offered the opportunity for such depth of understanding as that symbolised by the seed that fell deep into rich soil and was nurtured. Christianity offered so much- depth of philosophical understanding, the afterlife as we now understand it, forgiveness, guidance by the Holy Spirit, joy, a God who actually cares for his people (unlike the pagan gods, who were believed not to care about people, but just to be appeased).

Let us try to recover that new joy that our ancestors experienced so long ago, and know the true wonderful depths of our faith.

With my prayers, Father Stephen

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 this Sunday 12th July.

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: Sea Sunday (Stella Maris) (not our GA)

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need.

Collections 28th June: Offertory: £933.74 / GA: £188.00 / 2nd Collection: £757.63

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: This is cancelled due to the hot weather: 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. 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.

Synodality: Pope Leo is actively encouraging the growth of synodality as the way forward for the global Church as seen in his encyclical Magnifica Humanitas. If you are interested in finding out more about synodality you are warmly invited to an Introductory Course to be led by the Synod Group from the parish of the Good Shepherd in the locality soon. It consists of 5, one and a half hour sessions. For more information contact churchgroup33@aol.com (Carmen Gomez)

Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team Vacancy: Paid Part-Time Chaplain Role, closing date 1st August. For more information go to: www.bhct.org.uk/join-our-team

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 Conor Harvey

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

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

Saturday 11th July	Vigil	
Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Yseult Phillips RIP

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)

Monday 13th July	Ferial	Monday in 15th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Private Intention
Hastings Cemetery	2.15pm	Funeral Younes Soltana RIP

Tuesday 14th July	Ferial	Tuesday in 15th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Holy Souls

Wednesday 15th July	Memorial	St Bonaventure, Bishop, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-

Thursday 16th July	Ferial	Thursday in 15th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	PM Daniel & Susan Daniel GE (Wedding Anniversary)
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Baptism & FHC Edie & William Tomasetti

Friday 17th July	Ferial	Friday in 15th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Requiem James Green RIP

Saturday 18th July	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Inc. Baptism Marley Munro
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Arabella Finch

ST MARY MAGDALENE YR A

Wis 12:13, 1619, Rom 8:26-27, Mat 13:24-43

Saturday 18th July	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Livia Knoll RIP

Sunday 19th July		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Monica Whillson White RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Bexhill Foodbank Summer Picnic Project (not our GA)

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"

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.