

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

DOUBLE NEWSLETTER

***Happy Summer Holiday
to all who are away at this time;
and a warm welcome to all our
visitors to the Parish.***

Fr Stephen will be on his summer break: 29th July – 12th August. During this time there will be no weekday Masses, but Sunday Masses will happen as usual.

We warmly welcome
Fr Chris Benyon 1 / 2 August,
and Fr Terry Martin 8 / 9 August.

**Mass for Altar Servers,
Arundel Cathedral,
12 noon, Saturday 12th September**

All Past and present altar servers are welcome. Contact Fr Aaron to confirm attendance:

aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk

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

2nd & 9th August 2026

EIGHTEENTH & NINETEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

18th Sun: **You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.**

19th Sun: **Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.**

And so it is summertime. I hope that we are all enjoying a time of rest and relaxation or at least that we will be doing. I could go down a rabbit hole and talk about the recently released film of Homer's Odyssey, which is clearly going to be one of the talking points of the summer, but you really don't need to know what I think about how classical texts of the ancient world are adapted! Nevertheless, it's a good thing when the cares of everyday life take a back seat for a bit.

I hope and pray that all of you, whether you have already gone away, or are planning to, will have a peaceful and restful time. It is very important that we should be able to have some rest and relaxation. As God knows us so well, he knows that we need that: it is part of his heavenly love for us that we should do so. Even if we are simply staying around in Bexhill - and we are very privileged to live in a beautiful seaside town, with plenty of relaxing things to do, including the odd ice cream on the sea front, or a walk on the promenade – I hope that we will all be able to get the peace and relaxation that we need.

It is also, given how lovely the seaside is, a good time to welcome all our visitors. We all hope that you enjoy being with us, both in the parish and in the town. I would like especially to welcome Father Chris and Father Terry, who will be with us over the next two weekends. It is always lovely to welcome you, and to thank you for all that you do for our parish.

In the creation story in genesis, God rested on the 7th day. As so often in the scriptures, God is showing us how to follow him. Let's do just that, and enjoy our rest, so that we may all be refreshed and relaxed, ready as always to do God's will.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Cathy Smulders, Phil McGowan 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, 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

Annual SVP Mass for the Sick and Housebound: 3pm, Saturday 26th September, St Martha's.

The Mass with Anointing will be followed by tea and cake in the hall afterwards.

Prayer for Priests: Every first Friday of the month, after 10am Mass, St Mary Magdalene (Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament and prayer). *Please note there will not be meetings during August.*

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)

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. All roles are very fulfilling, so please do help if you can.

Wild Goose Prayer Group: *There will be no groups held during August.*

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

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.

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.

No Second Collection this Sunday

Parish Collections 19th July: Offertory: £1057.48 / GA: £139.00 / 2nd Collection: £371.00

Bexhill Foodbank would like to thank all parishioners for their generosity at the recent second collection for the Summer Schools Picnic Project – we raised £328.35.

Bexhill SVP would also like thank parishioners for their generosity at the recent second collection, we raised: £371.00

Results of our recent Parish Finance Audit. The Auditors sent us the following email:

“Following on from the financial audit for 2025 that Moore Kingston Smith carried out earlier in the year I am pleased to be able to send you the audit findings for your parish.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to allow the auditors to visit and answering their queries. Congratulations on your clean audit report which is an amazing achievement that the parish should be very proud of.”

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 10th August, 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.

HUG Volunteers Needed: HUG volunteers are simply amazing and are the life blood of HUG but four of our regular weekly or twice weekly volunteers are in their eighties and realistically cannot go on for ever. We desperately need younger volunteers. Do you have a heart for the client group we serve? Could you cook a full English breakfast for up to forty guests? Are you good at mucking in where needed with a smile. If so, we would love to hear from you. Contact: Pauline at bexhillhug@gmail.com

Saturday 1st August **Memorial** **St Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop**
 St Mary Magdalene Church 10.00am **No Mass or Confessions**

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Isa 55:1-3, Rom 8:35, 37-39, Mat 14:13-21

We warmly welcome Fr Chris Benyon at all weekend Masses.

Saturday 1st August **Vigil**
 Mary Magdalene Church 5.30pm–5.50pm Confessions on Request
 St Mary Magdalene Church 6.00pm Irena Hulewicz RIP

Sunday 2nd August
 St Martha's Church 9.00am Bob Jenkins RIP
 St Mary Magdalene Church 11.00am People of the Parish
 St Martha's Church 11.00am Syro-Malabar Mass

No Second Collection this week.

No Weekday Masses Monday 3rd August – Saturday 8th August.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

1 Ki 19:9a, 11-13a, Rom 9:1-5, 37-39, Mat 14:22-33

We warmly welcome Fr Terry Martin at all weekend Masses.

Saturday 8th August **Vigil**
 St Mary Magdalene Church 5.30pm–5.50pm Confessions on Request
 St Mary Magdalene Church 6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 9th August
 St Martha's Church 9.00am Pamela Bourne GE
 St Mary Magdalene Church 11.00am Bob & Peggy Redding RIP
 St Mary Magdalene Church 11.00am Syro-Malabar Mass

No Weekday Masses Monday 10th August – Wednesday 12th August.

Thursday 13th August **Ferial** **Thursday in 19th week OT**
 St Mary Magdalene Church 6.30pm Private Intention
 St Mary Magdalene Church 6.30pm Inc. Baptism & FHC Freya & James Tiltman

Friday 14th August **Memorial** **St Maximilian Kolbe**
 St Mary Magdalene Church **9.30am** Requiem Catherine Smulders RIP

Saturday 15th August
 St Mary Magdalene Church 10.00am Joseph Thomas RIP
 St Mary Magdalene Church 10.30am Confessions on Request

THE ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Rev 11:19a; 12:6a, 10ab, 1 Cor 15:20-27, Lk 1:39-56

Saturday 15th August **Vigil**
 St Mary Magdalene Church 5.30pm–5.50pm Confessions on Request
 St Mary Magdalene Church 6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 15th August
 St Martha's Church 9.00am Holy Souls
 St Mary Magdalene Church 11.00am Deceased Barlow Family
 St Martha's Church 11.00am Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: HUG (Bexhill & Rother Homeless Unity Group) (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.

**Happy Summer Holiday to all who are away at this time;
and a warm welcome to all our visitors to the Parish.**