

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

26th July 2026

ST MARTHA YR A

O Lord, how I love your law!

***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 holiday 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.

St Martha's Feast Day Celebration

This will take place in the Hall after 9am Mass, *Sunday* 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.

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

A patron is one who has been assigned by a venerable tradition, or chosen by election, as a special intercessor with God and the proper advocate of a particular locality, and is honoured by clergy and people with a special form of religious observance. The term “patron”, being wider in its meaning than that of “titular”, may be applied to a church, a district, a country, or a corporation. The word “titular” is applied only to the patron of a church or institution.

New Catholic Encyclopedia: Patron Saints

This weekend we again honour one of our heavenly patrons: St Martha. It is worth today thinking both about her, and about the concept of a patron saint.

That we are giving St Martha “special...religious observance”, as we did last week for St Mary Magdalene, is obvious. A patron saint receives special “promotion” in the liturgical calendar, including moving the day to the nearest Sunday. This shows already their importance in our pastoral life.

They are also our “proper advocate”. This means that, among our national, local and personal saints to which we have devotion, and never forgetting the special and supreme role of Our Blessed Lady, to whom, of course, our parish is dedicated, our patron saints have a particular, special role in bringing our prayers to God. Similarly, they act as our “supreme intercessor”: they are especially devoted to us and our prayers.

St Martha, then, has these special roles, made more acute by her vital role in God's plan of salvation. She it is who receives mercy and understanding from Jesus in her grief, showing how we may all receive mercy and forgiveness. Like Thomas in John's Gospel, too, she gives Jesus an opportunity to teach us about the true joy of salvation.

In all these ways, St Martha is an especially appropriate intercessor and patron. Let us offer our prayers through her to God, and rejoice in her role as our heavenly patron.

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

Lourdes 2026: Please pray for pilgrims from our parish who are in Lourdes with the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

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.

Second Collection this Sunday: *Bexhill SVP (not our GA)*

Parish Collections 19th July: Offertory: £975.07 / GA: £193.00 / 2nd Collection: £328.35

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. The Strawberry Tea, raised £325.68 in aid of Warming Up the Homeless, Bexhill Caring Community, Bexhill Food Bank. Thank you to all involved for their support.

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

Knights of St Columba, Hastings and Rother Council 630: At their recent Charity Quiz, they raised £300 *each* for HUG, SVP Bexhill, Hastings Foodbank, SVP St Leonards. A great result. Thank you to all involved for their support and generosity.

Saturday 25th July

Feast

St James, Apostle

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	John & Clare Keegan RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Wedding Kirsty Hoggins & Thomas Szyzsko

ST MARTHA OT YR A

1 Kgs 3:5-6a,7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Mat 13:44-52

Saturday 25th July

Vigil

Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Baby Angelo Di Mascio RIP

Sunday 26th July

St Martha's Church	9.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection: Bexhill SVP (not our GA)

Monday 27th July

Ferial

Monday in 17th week OT

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Angela Burden GE
Tuesday 28th July	Ferial	Tuesday in 17th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mr & Mrs Saji Stephen GE

Wednesday 29th July

Memorial

Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus

St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
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Thursday 30th July

Ferial

Thursday in 17th week OT

St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	No Mass
Friday 31st July	Memorial	St Ignatius Loyola, Bishop, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass

Saturday 1st August

Memorial

St Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop

St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	No Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	No Confessions

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

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

This week we warmly welcome Fr Chris Benyon, with grateful thanks.

Saturday 1st August

Vigil

St 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.

**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

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and a warm welcome to all our visitors to the Parish.