

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

**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

**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.

The Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed:

Tuesday 2nd – Tuesday 8th Sept.

*First Holy Communion applications will
be monitored until closing date.*

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

30th August & 6th September 2026

22nd SUNDAY & 23rd SUNDAY OT YR A

30th: **For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.**

6th: **O that you would listen to his voice!**

'Harden not your hearts.'

Over this Sunday and next, we explore in the Gospel two major facets of our Catholic faith. It is important to note that both Gospel passages seem at first glance negative in tone, but in fact both bring us to important Church teaching.

Firstly, we see Peter getting it wrong again. The figure of Peter is very important in showing us both our human fallibility and how God treats us. Peter cannot cope with discovering the fact that Jesus will die and rise again. His response is very human- he wants to stop this happening. Peter's response is always very human. He, like the other disciples, squabbles about who is most important. He is frightened when Jesus is arrested, and lies about knowing him. He will go on to flee Rome during the persecution of Christians under, probably, the Emperor Nero. And this is the rock of the Church? The first Pope? Well, yes. He is weak in a typical human way. Yet this makes him in fact the perfect rock. He suffers the doubts and mistakes that we all do, and is forgiven, and indeed strengthened and supported by God.

Then we see God expand on forgiveness. If people truly repent of their sins, God will always forgive us, as he does Peter- indeed Peter gets it wrong about that, and Jesus has to show him that he must always forgive. Here we see the foundation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation- whatever sins are forgiven on earth will be forgiven in Heaven. This is why we are all called to regular confession with a priest- God commanded us to seek forgiveness for our sins, and indeed for it to be given.

God knows us better than anyone. He knows we get things wrong, and will always forgive us. Let's be inspired that even, indeed especially, the first Pope needed this, and let us therefore receive that forgiveness regularly.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Pauline Crunden, Doris Nicholls, Pamela Devitt, Paul Wurz 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).

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.

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

Foodbank: Volunteers are needed please for the following vacancies: Team Leader volunteer at Bexhill, Friday morning volunteer at Sidley Hub, Bexhill, Wednesday open shift volunteer at Battle. More info at: <https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>

Fairtrade Fortnight - 21st September – 4th October: This special festival recognises and celebrates farmers and workers in developing countries, highlighting issues of underpayment and exploitation. Join the global movement by choosing Fairtrade-certified products, supporting ethical brands, and spreading awareness.

Fairtrade Breakfast: Fairtrade breakfast on Sunday 11th October, after 9am Mass, St Martha's Hall.

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 / Second Collection *next* Sunday: Education Sunday (not our GA)

Parish Collections 16th August: Offertory: £945.74 / GA: £230.00 / 2nd Collection: £329.84

Parish Collections 23rd August: Offertory: £918.44 / GA: £217.00 / 2nd Collection: £421.27

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/>

First Holy Communion 2027: For **baptised Catholic** children or children who have been received into the Catholic church. Applications are now **open** (closing date: **Friday 4th September**). The application form can be found on the parish website or in the porch of both churches. As the first monthly Session will take place on Tuesday 8th September, please submit your application **asap**.

Confirmation 2027: Applications will soon be open, we will announce in the newsletter and at all Masses.

Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA 2027 - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations: For those who have completed the period of the 'pre-catechumenate' (i.e. you have attended Mass regularly for at least six months) – please contact the parish office for an application form, even if you have already completed one, an updated one is necessary. You will then be contacted to arrange an appointment with Fr Stephen to discuss your application.

Marriage: 12-months' notice required. Please contact the parish office if getting married in Summer 2027.

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: Monday 14th September, 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 Canapés and Pimm's Evening: 7.30pm, Saturday 26th September, St Martha's Hall. Tickets £10 on sale after Saturday evening / Sunday Masses. See posters in Church porches.

Saturday 29th August	Memorial	Passion of St John the Baptist
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Evelyn Rodway RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OT YR A Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Mat 16:21-27

Saturday 29th August	Vigil	
Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	William & Veronica Hayes RIP
Sunday 30th August		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Peter Dolan 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

Monday 31st August	Ferial	Monday in 22nd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	No Mass
Tuesday 1st September	Ferial	Tuesday in 22nd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Jetwin Stephen GE
Wednesday 2nd September	Ferial	Wednesday in 22nd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	No Mass
Thursday 3rd September	Feast	St Gregory the Great, Pope, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Albert Basallo RIP
Friday 4th September	Ferial	Friday in 22nd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Requiem Pamela Devitt RIP
Saturday 5th September	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Jane Chapman
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Olive Hanlon

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OT YR A Eze 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Mat 18:15-20

Saturday 5th September	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Mary Carroll GE
Sunday 6th September		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Arthur Cronin RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Ann Pitt-Payne GE
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

No Second Collection this week

Monday 7th September	Ferial	Monday in 23rd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Sharon Winsor-Shepherd RIP
Tuesday 8th September	Feast	The Nativity of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Henry Chapman RIP
Wednesday 9th September	No Mass	
Thursday 10th September	Ferial	Thursday in 23rd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Patrick Keegan RIP
Friday 11th September	Ferial	Friday in 23rd week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Mammen & Aleyamaa Varghese RIP
Saturday 12th September	Opt. Mem	The Most Holy Name of Mary
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joseph Thomas RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Lyla Sutton

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OT YR A Sir 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Mat 18:21-25

Saturday 12th September	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th September		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mary & Penny Day RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Stuart McNamara & Susan RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: Education Sunday (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.

Welcome back to all our Parishioners who have been on holiday, we hope you are all refreshed.