

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

16th & 23rd August 2026

THE ASSUMPTION & 21st SUNDAY OT YR A

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

Please note:

At the last minute, Fr Stephen has been summoned to Leuven for further exams, so will be away: 22nd / 23rd August.

There will be no 10am Mass on

Saturday 22nd August.

Fr Chris Benyon will be providing us with Supply for the weekend Masses.

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

16th: **On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

23rd: **O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;**

discard not the work of your hands.

One of the advantages (there are some!) of not having a car is that you can see much more of what is around you. After all, if one looks around too much while driving, it can be dangerous! It also allows you to ponder on what you have seen- again, having (only once!) tried praying the Rosary while driving (without beads, I hasten to add!), I know that you must keep your mind on the road ahead!

And so I found myself pondering on a sign I saw outside a church while going by on the bus. It said, "Come as you are". At first, I couldn't get the point of it. After all, I could hardly come to Mass as a tarantula, or as President of the Board of Trade. I just have to come as me- even though many people might prefer it if I wasn't me!

Then I realised that this is a more important idea than that. God welcomes us to the altar as we are. With all our foibles, with all our preoccupations, with all our faults. As Pope Francis said, the Church is not a club for the perfect. It is rather a field hospital- we come just as we are, and, through sacramental Reconciliation in Confession, through the Penitential Rite at Mass, through reception of the Blessed Sacrament, through the intercession of the Saints, particularly of course Our Blessed Lady, assumed into Heaven, we are transformed. We are forgiven, we are loved, we are made more into disciples of Christ.

I will be glad when I am driving again, but even here I must remember that God gives us, just as we are, so many opportunities to come closer to him. Even when we just see a sign from the 328 bus...

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Phil McGowan, Raymond Whedal, Roger Robinson 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.*

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

Thank you to all those who generously donated. We hit our financial target and with the match funding and gift aid we received a fantastic £5,652! We have already started giving out the picnic parcels and families are so delighted; what a wonderful way to bless families in need, alongside their standard food parcels. *Bexhill Foodbank.*

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>

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: HUG (Bexhill & Rother Homeless Unity Group) (not our GA)

Parish Collections 2nd August: Offertory: £1089.25 / GA: £195.00

Parish Collections 9th August: Offertory: £936.85 / GA: £242.00

July SO: £711.71 / GA: £3213.50

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/>

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.

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.

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://stmmmbexhill.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.

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 15th August	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joseph Thomas RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request

THE ASSUMPTION OF B.V. MARY *Rev 11:19a; 12:6a, 10ab, 1 Cor 15:20-27, Lk 1:39-56*

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

Sunday 16th 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)

Monday 17th August	Ferial	Monday in 20th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Elizabeth Francis RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	12 noon	Requiem Mary McGowan RIP

Tuesday 18th August	Ferial	Monday in 20th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Noreen Corness RIP

Wednesday 19th August	Ferial	Tuesday in 20th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	

Thursday 20th August	Memorial	St Bernard, Abbot, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Pat & John Billingham RIP

Friday 21st August	Memorial	St Pius X, Pope
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Dr John Good RIP
Eastbourne Crematorium	11.30am	Funeral Raymond Whedal RIP

Saturday 22nd August	Memorial	The Queenship of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass or Confessions

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OT YR A *Isa 22:15, 19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Mat 16:13-20*

We warmly welcome Fr Chris Benyon at all weekend Masses.

Saturday 22nd August	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP

Sunday 23rd August		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Bill Marsh RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: Mary's Meals (not our GA)

Monday 24th August	Feast	St Bartholomew, Apostle
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Kevin Kelly RIP
Tuesday 25th August	Ferial	Tuesday in 20th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Requiem Roger Robinson RIP

Wednesday 26th August	No Mass	
Thursday 27th August	Memorial	St Monica
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Regino Wahon RIP
Friday 28th August	Memorial	St Augustine, Bishop, Dr
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Veronica Hargan GE
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	
St 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

**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.**