

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

13th September 2026
24th SUNDAY OT YR A

Second Collection this Sunday **Education Sunday**

As part of this special Sunday when we pray for the mission and Catholic ethos of our schools, and in particular St Mary Magdalene Primary School and St Richard's, as the two Catholic schools in our parish, we take a second collection to fund both the Arundel & Brighton Education Service and the national Catholic Education Service.

2025 Parish Annual Mass Count

For our annual Parish and Diocesan statistics, we kindly ask our **welcome teams to count all parishioners and record on the documents provided**, for the last two weekends of September and the first two weekends of October:

19/20, 26/27 Sept
& 3/4 & 10/11 Oct.

Thank you.

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

**The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

Peter's at it again in this week's Gospel. Rather, of course, as we've thought about before, Jesus is using him and his quite natural human reluctance to forgive those who have hurt him to make an important point- here, of course, that we should always forgive.

Today's first reading- and this is not uncommon for Sirach- actually speaks on two levels. It reminds us that Jesus is speaking in a long tradition of emphasising forgiveness. He is, however, making it clear that this tradition in the thought of ancient Israel is to be a key part of the New Covenant. This is similar to the idea of heaven- not unheard of in the thought of the ancient Near East, but not the mainstream idea of the afterlife until the teaching of Jesus.

However, this reading also emphasises the psychological virtue of forgiveness- that it is healthier for our mind to forgive. This is not surprising- while the Gospel message is often radically different from human behaviour, it is also psychologically helpful- to have peace in our heart and soul is both virtuous and better for our wellbeing.

So the message of our readings today is really, I think, a reminder of forgiveness as part of our call to holiness, but also an exhortation to do what is in fact psychologically better for us- to allow peace in hearts, as well as to allow virtue in our souls.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

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.

We pray for those who have died: Pauline Crunden, Doris Nicholls 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

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

Social & Pastoral

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.

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>

Three Churches in Little Common: St Martha's Hall **11am Wednesday 16th September** The theme, inspired by Fr Stephen's last Sunday's homily, will be Love. All are welcome to this short service – a few hymns, readings and prayers, followed by refreshments and a chat.

HUG Volunteers Needed: To make tea & coffee on Monday or Thursday morning from 8am - 11.30am at St Barnabas Church. If you can help, please email bexhillhug@gmail.com

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: Education Sunday (not our GA)

Parish Collections 30th August: Offertory: £895.01/ GA: £179.00

Parish Collections 6th September: Offertory: £983.32 / GA: £195.00 / 2nd Collection: £892.65

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: This is now full; applications are now closed. It is imperative parent / carers attend **every** monthly session, and regular Mass attendance is **fulfilled**.

Confirmation 2027: Applications are now open. Application forms are available online from the Confirmation page on the Parish Website and from Church porches.

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:** Due to unforeseen circumstances this has been postponed until 7th November at 7-30pm. On Saturday 26th September CWL will instead have a Quiz, Bingo and Ploughman's evening at 7-30pm. Tickets £6, on sale after Sunday Mass. If anyone would like a refund for the original Pimm's evening, please return the ticket or keep it until Saturday 7th November."

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 of 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	
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)

Monday 14th September	Feast	Exultation of the Holy Cross
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Private Intention
Tuesday 15th September	Memorial	Our Lady of Sorrows
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Pat & Ann Kitterick GE
Wednesday 16th September	Memorial	Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian
St Mary Magdalene Church	-	No Mass
Thursday 17th September	Ferial	Thursday in 24th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	KT Cherian & Mariamma Cherian RIP
Friday 18th September	Ferial	Friday in 24th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Margaret Hargan GE
Saturday 19th September	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20c-24,27a, Mat 20:1-16

Saturday 19th September	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Buckle Family
Sunday 20th September		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Liz O'Rourke Andres RIP & Michael O'Rourke
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Francesco Russo RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (not our GA)
(formerly Home Mission Sunday for England & Wales)

Fr Stephen – Leuven

There will be no weekday Masses during weeks commencing:

Monday 21st Sept & Monday 28th Sept,

as Fr Stephen will be in Leuven for lectures.

He will however, return at the weekends, for the Weekend Masses.

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.