

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

2026 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.

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 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

20th & 27th September 2026
25th & 26th SUNDAY OT YR A

25th: The Lord is close to all who call him.

26th: Remember your compassion, O Lord

The season is changing- thank goodness, at least for those of us who suffered through the sweltering summer heat! The autumn is beginning to spread its early chill and waning sunlight, at least in the early morning. Perhaps it is why our readings lead us over the next fortnight towards reflecting on salvation, as both nature begins its yearly retreat and thus we may begin to reflect on the eternal.

The Gospel for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time is one of great hope, tinged with a slight caveat. In the parable of the workers turning up until the eleventh hour (by the way, the Roman Empire had a system of dividing the day from sunrise to sunset into twelve hours, so the eleventh hour is roughly 5pm- almost at the end of the working day), we are reminded that, whenever we repent and believe in the Gospel, as we say on Ash Wednesday, we are welcomed by God with the same promise of salvation- of eternal life. The sting in the tale is for those who did this before- they should not resent those who came later.

On the 26th Sunday, we have a different parable of the vineyard. This is the story of the one who said they would do God's work, and didn't, as opposed to the one who refused, but actually did it. Perhaps this more ominous, or at least cautionary, tale can remind us that it can be easy to say we will do God's work, but balk at what is asked of us. Here we must turn to God and ask his help. Meanwhile, as humans, we can be proud and avoid declaring ourselves for God, but we know that He will be delighted if we still follow him.

So we can have the joy that salvation is available for all who truly seek it. God loves us when we turn to him- whenever it is. He will also help us to follow him, if we truly desire to do it.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

We pray for those who have died:

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

Child Led Mass. 4th October, 9am, St Martha's church. We will be celebrating our Parish feast of "**Our Lady of the Rosary**" and observing "Harvest Festival". Children are invited to help lead the congregation in saying the Rosary before Mass. Children who wish to read at this mass can practice with Sarah after the 9am Mass 27th September. All parishioners are invited to donate food to the food bank and bring it on the 4th October.

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. This annual event will also be attended by Bexhill Mayor.

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.

20th Sept - Second Collection: Evangelii Gaudium formerly Mission Sunday (not our GA)

27th Sept – Second Collection: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day (not our GA)

August SO: Offertory: £657 / GA: £3006

Parish Collections 13th September: Offertory: £983.32 / GA: £195.00 / 2nd Collection: £892.65

Formation & Sacraments

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): Applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmbehill.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://stmmbehill.co.uk/we-journey-together/>

First Holy Communion 2027: This course 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: Applications are now closed. For those who have been accepted on this year's course, you will be aware the first session is 23rd September.

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://stmmbehill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/> or telephone 01424 210263 opt, 4.

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3: Monday 12th October, 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 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	
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)

Mon 21st Sept – 10am Sat 26th Sept - No Masses
As Fr Stephen will be in Leuven.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Eze 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mat 21:28-32

Saturday 26th September	Vigil	
St Martha's Church	3.00pm	SVP Mass for Sick & Housebound
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iolanda Forte RIP
Sunday 27th September		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Bill Austin RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Bartolomeo Visconti RIP
11.00am	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: CAFOD Harvest Day (not our GA)

Mon 28th Sept – 10am Sat 3rd Oct - No Masses
As Fr Stephen will be in Leuven.

Saturday 3rd October	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OT YR A

Isa 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Mat 21:33-43

Sunday 4th October		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Tony Pryor RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Joseph Bates RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: Church Maintenance (our Gift Aid)

**For emergencies ie. Last Rites, while Fr Stephen is in Leuven,
please contact St Leonards, Battle or Hastings Parish.**

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.