

# 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

### Caring for our Church Clean

**17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Volunteers are kindly asked to stay behind after Masses to clean both Churches please.

### Health & Safety at Mass

Please may we remind all parents to keep their children with them throughout Mass. Thank you.

### 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.**

### The Parish Office

The best way of contact continues to be by email only:

[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

To contact Fr Stephen:

[stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk)

Sylvia Cousins Safeguarding:

[sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1.bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OT YR A**

**In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.**

Among my small collection of religious pictures, I have a rather unusual one. It combines faith with my interest in railways! It's called "The Up and Down Lines", and it's a poster from the Railway Mission. You can see it at <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co8040404/the-up-and-down-lines>. In railway use, the up line is usually the line going towards the nearest major city- so, if you board a train at Bexhill going towards London, you are on the up line, but the reverse is true- if you're coming home, you are on the down line. That's not what it means here! Here the up line is the path to heaven, and the down line goes somewhere not so pleasant! What it shows is the path of virtue which will get us to heaven (and the opposite...).

In our Gospel today, we see through the parable of guests at the wedding feast that the first stage is to accept the Gospel. We need to, as we have done, accept the salvation of Jesus Christ. This is vital- as in the Shema Yisrael of the Old Testament, firstly we need to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

However, we need to continue in this love, and share this love with all those whom we meet. It's not quite as clear cut as in the poster- we can find ourselves changing the points, as it were, onto different tracks which take us away from the straight path- or, in railway terms, the "through route". We need the support which comes through weekly attendance at Mass and through prayer and fellowship to keep us on the route to heaven. God has given us in the sacraments, and particularly in the Mass, what we need to keep on the route to salvation. Let's use what God has given us to do all we can to ensure our salvation.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** John Gramme, Joan Matthews, Neil Crossingham, Margaret Hargan 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](http://www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk).

**Autumnal Deanery Magazine:** [autumn-2026-deanery-magazine.pdf](http://autumn-2026-deanery-magazine.pdf)

### **Liturgy & Prayer**

**Altar Servers:** Volunteers are needed to become Altar Servers at all Masses, at both St Mary Magdalene and St Martha's. You need to have received your First Holy Communion. Full training will be given. Please contact the parish office or speak to Andrew.

**Sacristy Volunteers Needed at St Mary Magdalene Church:** Volunteers needed to help to set up the Altar for Mass and to clear up afterwards. This is a very rewarding role to do. Please contact Barbara for more details: 07749 835879.

**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.

**A Day with Saint Carlo Acutis & Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition:** The Catholic Parish of Adur Valley warmly invites you to a special day in honour of Saint Carlo Acutis on **Saturday 17 October 2026** at St Peter's, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5WG. The day will include Mass, talks by Anna Johnstone (Guardian of Saint Carlo Acutis' First-Class Relic and former Governess to the Acutis family), prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, veneration of the relic, and the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. You are welcome to attend all or part of the day. Tea and coffee will be available; please bring a packed lunch. The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, created by Saint Carlo Acutis, will remain open at St Peter's from 17 October to 1 November.

**Diocesan Lighthouse Event:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November at St Martha's Church in Bexhill. 11:30am – 5:00pm. This year, we are hosting a Lighthouse Event, organised by the CDSC, the Catholic Charismatic body of our Diocese. It is a day of renewal, where we gather again as a family of faith for a powerful day centred entirely on the name of Jesus, the name that heals, restores, and brings hope. Inspiring teaching, praise, prayer, testimonies, healing ministry, fellowship, and the joyful, life-giving Holy Spirit. Normal Masses will continue in St Mary Magdalene Church.

**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: PACT Prison Advice & Care Trust** (not our GA)

**Parish Collections 4<sup>th</sup> October:** Offertory: £914.42 / GA: £230.00 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: £426.16

### 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 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. First Session: 5pm, 11<sup>th</sup> October, St Martha's Hall.

**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 next session is 21<sup>st</sup> October.

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

**Home Visits:** If 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

**Fairtrade Breakfast:** Fairtrade breakfast on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October, after 9am Mass, St Martha's Hall. Including fairtrade Lemon Muffins and a Raffle. Raffle prizes welcome, hall set up at 8.30am. This annual event will also be attended by Bexhill Deputy Mayor.

**Next SVP Tea at 3:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, St Martha's Hall. Info: [bexhill@svp.org.uk](mailto: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 Pimm's, Canapes and Music Night with The Shady Ladies:**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm in St Martha's Hall - tickets £10, on sale after Sunday Masses.

CWL events recently raised £370.41 in aid of Foodbank, Warming up the Homeless, St Michael's Hospice.

**Eastbourne & Bexhill Newman Association:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm-8.30pm. Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Grange Road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU. Talk by Dr Anthony Bracuti: What do young people think about the future of the Church? Dr Anthony Bracuti is a molecular biologist researching into social behaviour in nature.

|                                         |                 |                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b> | <b>Opt. Mem</b> | <b>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</b> |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                | 10.00am         | Helen Elms RIP                      |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                | 10.30am         | Confessions on Request              |

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OT YR A

*Isa 25:6-10a, Phil 4:12-14, 19-20, Mat 22:1-14*

|                                         |               |                        |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b> | <b>Vigil</b>  |                        |
| Mary Magdalene Church                   | 5.30pm–5.50pm | Confessions on Request |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                | 6.00pm        | Dina Green GE          |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>   |               |                        |
| 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 this week: PACT Prison Advice & Care Trust (not our GA)**

|                                          |                 |                                             |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>    | <b>Memorial</b> | <b>St Wilfrid, Bishop</b>                   |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | <b>No Mass</b>  | No Mass                                     |
| <b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>   | <b>Ferial</b>   | <b>Tuesday in 28<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>   |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 10.00am         | Noreen Corness RIP                          |
| <b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b> | <b>Ferial</b>   | <b>Wednesday in 28<sup>th</sup> week OT</b> |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | <b>10.00am</b>  | Elsie Dadswell RIP                          |
| <b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>  | <b>Memorial</b> | <b>St Teresa of Jesus and Avila</b>         |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 11.00am         | Requiem John Gramme RIP                     |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 6.30pm          | Ray & Kaye Ford GE<br>(Wedding Anniversary) |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 6.30pm          | Baptism & FHC Harriet Mercer                |
| <b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>    | <b>Ferial</b>   | <b>Friday in 28<sup>th</sup> week OT</b>    |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 10.00am         | Private Intention                           |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 7.15pm          | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament          |
| <b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>  | <b>Memorial</b> | <b>St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop</b>       |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 10.00am         | Romulo Sarigumba RIP                        |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                 | 10.30am         | Confessions on Request                      |

## TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OT YR A

*Isa 45:1, 4-6, Thess 1:1-5b, Mat 22:15-21*

|                                         |               |                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b> | <b>Vigil</b>  |                                                          |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                | 5.30pm–5.50pm | Confessions on Request                                   |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                | 6.00pm        | People of the Parish                                     |
| <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>   |               |                                                          |
| St Martha's Church                      | 9.00am        | Mike & Diane Richardson<br>(Diamond Wedding Anniversary) |
| St Mary Magdalene Church                | 11.00am       | Gerard McNamara RIP                                      |
| St Martha's Church                      | 11.00am       | Syro-Malabar Mass                                        |

**Second Collection this week: World Missions Sunday (MISSIO) (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](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

01424 210 263 opt 4.

### **Out of hours:**

[stephen.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.

**Caring for our Church Clean: 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October:** Volunteers are kindly asked to stay behind after all Masses to clean both Churches please.