

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

17th & 18th 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.

Episcopal Ordination

of Bishop-Elect Stephen:

Monday 19th October, 12 noon.

Watching the livestream

The Mass of Episcopal Ordination will be livestreamed from Arundel Cathedral here: www.abdiocese.org.uk/livestream, with coverage beginning at 11am. Further resources, including the Order of Service, can be found on the news page of the diocesan website: www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/episcopal-ordination

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

18th October 2026

29th SUNDAY OT YR A

Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.



Image courtesy of Signalhead from Wikipedia; used under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#) licence.

We are about to experience something which I certainly have never seen before: the episcopal ordination of a new Bishop. When Bishop Richard was installed, I was still commuting to London to teach. Monday, for me, is going to be a fascinating day: I shall be effectively transferring my promise of obedience to a new Bishop. When I was ordained Deacon, by Bishop Philip of Portsmouth, I promised obedience to “my ordinary”, but it was definitely Bishop Richard behind it: it wouldn’t have been valid unless he had sent what is called a “dimissory letter”. In any case, Bishop Richard himself ordained me Priest, and I promised obedience to “him and his successors”. So, for me, it is a solemn day on which I transfer that obedience to Bishop Stephen.

However, we are also focusing on the enormous job which he himself undertakes on Monday. It may seem that a Bishop is in sole control of a massive undertaking, and so on one level he is. However, the image which comes to mind for me (perhaps predictably, given my railway interest!) is of a railway signaller. In a traditional signal box, like the one above in Ireland, the signaller is faced with all the levers which control the signals and points. Yet they cannot just do anything. They must know which signals are interlocked- which ones can be safely cleared to allow a train through, and which ones might cause danger. They must work with the other signallers to accept and send on trains. And it is the train, late or on time, running or cancelled, which the public see and need.

Bishop Stephen is taking on the role of servant leader: he will give us guidance and strategy. He will always need to know what his people in Arundel and Brighton need. He will always bear in mind what he can do: he is becoming the supreme law giver of the Diocese, but this does not allow him to do anything: he will work within Canon Law, given by the Church and the supreme law giver for the worldwide Church, Pope Leo. He will care for all of us in love, thinking about what we all need. So, as he takes on this vital role, let’s all, whether we formally make that promise or not, pray for him and commit ourselves to work with him for the progress and good of the Church in Surrey and Sussex.

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.

Autumnal Deanery Magazine: autumn-2026-deanery-magazine.pdf

Liturgy & Prayer

Altar Servers: Volunteers are welcome 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.

Diocesan Lighthouse Event: Saturday 28th 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. Volunteers for refreshments: g_pilard@hotmail.co.uk Normal Masses will continue in St Mary Magdalene Church.

SIF Signing for St Peter & St Paul Primary School, Bexhill.

We have received a number of requests to sign these documents. As Closing date for these forms is 15th January 2027, and with Christmas coming, Fr Stephen has kindly said he would be available for signing on the following: **4pm, Thursday 12th November, at St Mary Magdalene Church.** Please remember to bring with you the child's Baptism Certificate, in order for your form to be signed.

Please note SIF forms from St Mary Magdalene Primary School, and St Richards (for admission in Sept 27) do not need signing.

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 11th October: Offertory: £1010.56 / GA: £160.00 / 2nd Collection: £426.60

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. Next Session: 5pm, 8th November, St Martha's Hall.

Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA 2027 - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations: Applications are now closed.

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

Social & Pastoral

Next SVP Tea at 3: Monday 9th November, 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 Pimm's, Canapes and Music Night with The Shady Ladies:** Saturday 7th November, 7.30pm in St Martha's Hall - tickets £10, on sale after Sunday Masses.

Eastbourne & Bexhill Newman Association: Thursday 19 November: Talk by Fr Andrew Pinsent: *Magnifica Humanitas*. 7pm to 8.30pm. Zoom talk: Meeting ID: 837 7904 6317. Passcode: 047723: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83779046317?pwd=IZV16bCQ2jFayqNbjbFEHMaqMMIkXb.1>

Fr Andrew Pinsent brings together the worlds of cutting-edge science and deep Christian theology. A former CERN physicist and Oxford academic, now teaching in the United States, he is internationally known for his work on virtue ethics, neurotheology, and the second-person perspective in moral formation. **And Tuesday 20 October** - 7pm to 8.30pm. Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Grange Road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU. Talk by **Clare Szanto**: Catholic Social Teaching.

Saturday 17th October	Memorial	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop
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

Saturday 17th October	Vigil	
Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	(Church Clean Transept)
Sunday 18th October		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mike & Diane Richardson (Diamond Wedding Anniversary) (Whole Church Clean)
St Martha's Church	After Mass	
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Gerard McNamara RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	After Mass	(Church Clean Nave & Porches)
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: World Missions Sunday (MISSIO) (not our GA)

Monday 19th October	Solemnity	St Philip Howard
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	No Mass
Arundel Cathedral	12 noon	Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Stephen
Tuesday 20th October	Ferial	Tuesday in 29th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Abinel Aju GE
Wednesday 21st October	Ferial	Wednesday in 29th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	No Mass
Thursday 22nd October	Ferial	Thursday in 29th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Holy Souls
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Baptism & FHC Mia & Ellis Amor-Ford
Friday 23rd October	Ferial	Friday in 29th week OT
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Anne Pitt-Payne GE
Eastbourne Crematorium	10.30am	Funeral Margaret Hitchman RIP
Saturday 24th October	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Matthew Hargan GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptism Eleanor Madria

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OT YR A

Ex 22:21-27, Thess 1:5c-10, Mat 22:33-40

Saturday 24th October	Vigil	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Pattison & Gilbert Families
Sunday 25th October		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Lisa Young GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: Church Boilers Maintenance (GA)

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

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.