# 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

**25th October 2026**

**30th SUNDAY OT YR A**

**I love you Lord, my strength.**

### The Month of the Holy Souls

### Blessing of the Graves:

Bexhill Cemetery, Turkey Road.

12.30pm, Monday 2nd November

**Blessing of the Memorial Garden**

12.15pm, Saturday 7th November

During November we pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially those in our funeral books of remembrance: *'Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen'.* We invite you to place a photograph of a loved one you are grieving for on the Pieta Side Altar (St Mary Magdalene) or Our Lady's Side Altar (St Martha's) up until 20th November so we can pray for them.

The photographs from St Martha's will be transferred to St Mary Magdalene where we will celebrate our Annual Bereavement Mass at **2.30pm on Saturday 21st November**. Please attach contact details on the back of the photograph/frame in case you cannot collect it following the Bereavement Mass.

### 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

**habemus Episcopum!**

It has been a singular week for me. When you get to my age, there aren't many totally new experiences that happen to you, but what occurred on Monday in Arundel Cathedral was just that: the first time I have witnessed the ordination of a Bishop- and, what is more, our Bishop, Stephen.

The liturgy is fascinating, because at once it is reminiscent of the ordination of a Deacon or priest, and yet subtly different. Bishop Stephen prostrated himself in total submission to God in front of the altar, just where I did so five summers ago. The consecrating Bishops, Archbishop John, Cardinal Vincent and Archbishop Richard sat in front of the altar, just where then-Bishop Richard sat with Deacons Duncan and Stephen (now Fr Stephen of Clifton Diocese) at my priestly ordination.

But so much was different. There are broadly two theories of holy orders- that Bishop, Priest and Deacon are different, separate orders, and that a deacon is a priest with restricted faculties and functions, and a priest a Bishop similarly restricted- in other words, a Bishop has the fullness of the priesthood. Monday's Mass, for me, strongly tended towards the latter- whereas, for example, a priest is anointed with chrism on his hands- for service- Archbishop John poured chrism over Bishop Stephen's head. Also, Bishop Stephen proceeded to celebrate the Mass after his ordination- I think Bishop Richard might have looked askance if I had tried that!

It all goes to show that Bishop Stephen is now our High Priest, as the prayers suggested, leading us, serving us, and caring for us. Let's all play our part in working with him under his leadership and with his love. His episcopal motto is "veritas in caritate"- truth in love. Let us take that as our watchword as we work with him and under his leadership to further the Gospel in Sussex and Surrey.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

**We pray for those who have died:** John Gramme, Joan Matthews, Neil Crossingham, Margaret Hargan, John Fitzpatrick 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 form 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:** ***Church Boilers Maintenance (GA)***

**Parish Collections 18th October:** Offertory: £951.15 / GA: £225.00 / 2nd Collection: £292.50

## Formation & Sacraments

**Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6):** Applications submitted via the website: https://stmmbexhill.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://stmmbexhill.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***.

***Update:*** **Church Tours For all First Holy Communion Candidates and their Parent/Carers:** *Please note the change of dates*: As part of the " I Belong" Course, Sarah Surman will conduct A Tour of the Church after each of the weekend Masses: 7th & 8th November. Please meet with Sarah at the front of the Church.

**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://stmmbexhill.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.

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| **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*

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| **Saturday 24th October** | **Vigil** | |
| Mary Magdalene Church | 5.30pm–5.50pm | Confessions on Request |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 6.00pm | Deceased members of 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)***

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| **Monday 26th October** | **Ferial** | **Monday in 30th week OT** |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Nenita Ramos GE (Fast Recovery) |
| **Tuesday 27th October** | **Ferial** | **Tuesday in 30th week OT** |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Anne Pitt-Payne GE |
| **Wednesday 28th October** | **Feast** | **Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles** |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | ***No Mass*** | No Mass |
| **Thursday 29th October** | **Ferial** | **Thursday in 30th week OT** |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 6.30pm | Nicolas Szalek RIP |
| **Friday 30th October** | **Ferial** | **Friday in 30th week OT** |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Anne Pitt-Payne GE |
| **Saturday 31st October** | **Opt. Mem** | **Saturday Memorial of the BVM** |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.00am | Sandra McMeekin RIP |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 10.30am | Confessions on Request |
| Memorial Garden | After Mass | Burial of Ashes Kathleen Holloway |
| St Martha's Church | 12.30pm | Baptism Gabriele Di Paolo |

## ALL SAINTS YR A

*Rev 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 Jn 3:1-3, Mat 5:1-12a*

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| **Saturday 31st October** | **Vigil** | |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 5.30pm–5.50pm | Confessions on Request |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 6.00pm | People of the Parish |
| **Sunday 1st November** | | |
| St Martha's Church | 9.00am | Holy Souls |
| St Mary Magdalene Church | 11.00am | Neil Crossingham RIP |
| St Martha's Church | 11.00am | Syro-Malabar Mass |

***Second Collection this week: Church Boilers Maintenance (GA)***

**Gentle Reminder:** Clocks go back at 2:00 am on Sunday 25 October

***"St Mary Magdalene, St Martha, and all the Saints, pray for us"***

### 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.