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

1st November 2026

ALL SAINTS YR A

Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

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

Father Stephen's Update

I have always been very flattered by having the name Stephen. Carrying the name of the first Christian martyr- especially given how flatteringly he is portrayed in the Acts of the Apostles- is rather nice (even though I am really named after my great uncle).

It is a great joy of our Catholic faith that we have connections with the saints in heaven. It could be the saints after whom we are named. It could be our parish patron saints- and we have three wonderful ones in Our Blessed Lady, St Mary Magdalene and St Martha.

It could be our local saints. Sussex is particularly rich in local saints. St Philip Howard can inspire us with his quiet heroism under persecution. St Richard of Chichester gives us an example of devotion to the Gospel (and ensuring priests behave properly- a suitable inspiration at least for me!). St Cuthman, St Wilfred- we are very fortunate to have such holy people from our county.

We can be inspired by any saint. Many people have a special feeling for St Pio of Pietrelcina. In Saint Mary Magdalene's, we have a window, dedicated to the CWL, commemorating more of the Forty Martyrs, Saints Margaret Clitherow, and Margaret Line, whose heroic support of the faith has inspired so many.

Of course, they can inspire us, but we also believe that saints can intercede for us- bringing our prayers and needs to God in heaven. Therefore, we can have a very personal relationship with any saint, and can ask them to help us in our prayers.

And yet, wonderful as our relationship with our heavenly friends is, there is another dimension to the feast of All Saints. You will know that, to become recognised as a saint, there is a process, involving recognition of two miracles, one for someone to be declared blessed, and one to be canonised as a saint. Today we also can honour those whose miracles have never been known, but whose heroic virtue is known to God.

This means that also we can remember today that we too are all called to be saints. We can try to imitate the wonderful deeds of the saints. God wants all of us to respond to our unique vocation- our calling from him- and to try to act as saints. After all, the word saint comes from the Latin word *sanctus*, and many of you will know that word from the Mass- it means simply "holy". Peter notes that Jesus asks us all to "be holy, as I am holy" (1 Pet 1:16). In other words, let's all aim to be saints- it is our calling from God.

With my prayers, Father Stephen.

We pray for those who have died: Joan Matthews, Neil Crossingham, Margaret Hargan, John Fitzpatrick, Margaret Hitchman, Jean Clifford RIP.

We pray for the sick: Dorothy Smyth, David Spooner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Cecila Weathers, Margaret Carley, Jackie & Laurence Keep, Stephen Doyle, Ron Harbin, Margaret McNamara, Elizabeth Doust, Pat Payne, David Ball, Sian Stevens, Kate Brignall, Sally Moore, Terence Phillips, Jackie Malcolm, Bridget Bailey, Angela Burden.

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 Charismatic Event: Saturday 28th November at St Martha's Church in Bexhill. 11:30am – 5:00pm. Volunteers for refreshments and home-made cakes including allergen listed ingredients: email g_pilard@hotmail.co.uk Normal Masses will continue in St Mary Magdalene Church.

Eastbourne & Bexhill Newman Association: Thursday 19th November - Magnifica Humanitas: Zoom talk by Fr Andrew Pinsent on Pope Leo's encyclical by. Contact bjechlin@btinternet.com for zoom link to watch at home. Or go to OLR Church Hall (Eastbourne BN21 4EU) to watch on the large screen.

SIF Signing for St Peter & St Paul Primary School, Bexhill: 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: ***Holy Soul Masses (not our GA)***

Parish Collections 18th October: Offertory: £804.97 / GA: £255.00 / 2nd Collection: £180.11 / GA: 85.00

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. Volunteers needed to help the team put out tables and chairs on the day, 1-1.30pm and 4.15-5pm contact Chris Jones on 07783 598238 or by email: popsy57@outlook.com

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.

Hastings Council 630 of The Knights of St Columba Meeting: Thursday, 19th November, 7pm**,** Parish Meeting Room, St Thomas of Canterbury, Magdalen Road, St Leonards. Any interested Catholic men are welcome to attend. Contact Flavio 07854 932595.

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

Saturday 31st October	**Vigil**	
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: For Holy Soul Masses (not our GA)

Monday 2nd November		**All Souls**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Joan Matthews RIP
Bexhill Cemetery	12.30pm	Blessing of the Graves
Tuesday 3rd November	**Ferial**	**Tuesday in 31st week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Nicolas Szalek RIP
Wednesday 4th November	**Memorial**	**St Charles Borromeo, Bishop**
St Mary Magdalene Church	***No Mass***	No Mass
Thursday 5th November	**Ferial**	**Thursday in 31st week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Mary Carroll GE
Friday 6th November	**Ferial**	**Friday in 31st week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Patrick Joseph Cunningham RIP
Saturday 7th November	**Opt. Mem**	**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Rogelio & Myrna Granil GE (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
Memorial Garden	12.15pm	Blessing of Memorial Garden

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY YR A

Wis 6:12-16, Thess 4:13-18, Mat 25:1-13

(& Remembrance Sunday)

Saturday 7th November	**Vigil**	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8th 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 Maintenance (GA)**

'Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen'.

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.