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

29th November 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR B

Bring us back, O God;

let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

As is quite normal, the readings over the last fortnight, particularly at weekday Mass, have led us to think about the eschaton- the "end" – which of course refers to the second coming of Christ, promised by him in the Gospels, referred to by Paul, and perhaps most clearly seen in Acts of the Apostles at the Ascension, when it is clearly promised that Jesus will return.

It would be quite natural to think that our focus would shift as we enter Advent. After all, the word means "arrival", and Advent naturally is a time of preparation for Christmas, so surely we are now thinking about that first arrival of Christ, to save his people and bring about the New Covenant of forgiveness and love? Our first reading today, rooted in the despair of the people of Israel who had long been in enforced exile in Babylon, points to this great hope that, despite all the sins of the people- or perhaps because of them- the Messiah would come and save them. Is a celebration of this not sufficient as we enter this holy season?

Wel, sort of. We are called to think about the Kingdom of God, as we did last week, as "already, and not yet": Christ has died, Christ has risen, as we used to say in the Memorial Acclamation, but also Christ will come again. Our Gospel today is Mark's characteristically brief and clear explanation of how we should prepare for that promised return of Christ. We should indeed celebrate that glorious moment when Jesus came first, as one of us and as God, to save us. Let's also keep in mind that second coming, knowing that he is already with us, but being ready for his glorious return.

God bless, Fr Stephen.

Dona Card Machines: *Unfortunately, the new Dona machines have had to be sent back to the company as they are faulty! We are having to continue to use the old machine. This should work in both Churches.*

You cannot therefore re-register for Gift Aid. With apologies.

Parish Advent Service

Sunday 13th December,

2.30pm, St Martha's Church.

Including The Nativity Play – Children of all ages are invited to take part. **Recruitment:** 29th November after 9am Mass; **1st Rehearsal**: 6th December, after 9am Mass; **2nd Rehearsal**: 13th December, after 9am Mass. Contact: Sarah Surman 07926 514784

Advent Reconciliation Service for the East Hub

7pm, Monday 14th December, St Thomas of Canterbury, St Leonards. All Welcome.

Parish Christmas Carol Service

4pm, Sunday 20th December,

St Martha's Church, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall.

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

Parish Office Closed

Thursday 26th – Monday 30th November

Caring for our Church, Cleaning for Christmas: Volunteers are asked to stay behind after all Sunday Masses 4th Sunday of Advent 19th/20thDecember

We pray for those who have died: Joan Matthews, Margaret Hargan, John Fitzpatrick, Margaret Hitchman, Jean Clifford, Michael Spillane. Elizabeth Doust 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, Mary Cunningham, Brian Norman, Trevor Kennedy-Walker.

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

Message form Bishop Stephen:

a-note-to-people-of-the-diocese-from-bishop-stephen-11-nov-2026.pdf

Liturgy & Prayer

Advent Reconciliation Service for East Hub: Monday, 14th December at 7pm at St Thomas of Canterbury, St Leonards. All Welcome.

Parish Christmas Carol Service: Sunday 20th December. 4 pm. St Martha's church, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall.

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).

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.

Bosco Catholic School Foundation Governors: If you are interested email: Jess Domondon jdomondon@boscocet.org.uk website: https://www.boscocet.org.uk/become-a-governor/

CAFOD: Catholic Agency for Overseas Development is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. For more information: cafod.org.uk/Volunteer or contact Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493162

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: Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund (Gift Aid)

Parish Collections 8th November: Offertory: £921.60 / GA: £167.00 / 2nd Collection: £230.69 / GA: £45.00

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***.

Confirmation 2027: Next Session: 5pm, 29th November, St Martha's Hall.

Journey in Faith: Adult Formation & RCIA 2027 - Adult Baptisms, Receptions & Confirmations: The Rite of Welcome will be celebrated for RCIA Catechumens at every Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, 29th November. Please pray for our Catechumens as they continue their journey of faith.

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 – Christmas Buffet: Monday 7th December, 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.

Hastings Council 630 of The Knights of St Columba: Will be distributing their Christmas posters after Masses **19th / 20th December**. Donations gratefully received for the local Food Banks.

CAFOD: the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493162

Saturday 28th November	**Opt. Mem**	**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Nancy & Dom Simmons, Leanne, June Lionel Lawrence RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30pm	Baptisms Amelia & Marcia Terrill

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR B

Isah 63:16b-17; 64:1, 3b-8, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37

Saturday 28th November	**Vigil**	
Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Tim Phillips GE
Sunday 29th November		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Anthony & Minerva Spiteri RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	*Syro-Malabar Mass*

Second Collection this week: SVP Bexhill (not our GA)

Monday 30th November	**Feast**	**St Andrew, Apostle**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Margaret & Jimmy Hilder & Family RIP
Tuesday 1st December	**Ferial**	**Tuesday in 1st Week of Advent**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Patrick Burke RIP
Wednesday 2nd December	**Ferial**	**Wed in 1st Week of Advent**
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 3rd December	**Memorial**	**St Francis Xavier, Priest**
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Benefactors
Friday 4th December	**Ferial**	**Friday in 1st Week of Advent**
St Mary Magdalene Church	***No Mass***	-
Saturday 5th December	**Ferial**	**Saturday 1st Week in Advent**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Tom Friary & Mick Farrel RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	12.30am	Baptisms Arunne and Uzoejinwa Menankiti

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YR B

Isah 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Pet 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8

Saturday 5th December	**Vigil**	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Olimpio & Iloanda Forte RIP
Sunday 6th November		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Intentions of Bourne, Mistry & Young Families
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: HUG Bexhill Homelessness Unity Group (not GA)

Parking in our Church Car Parks: St Mary Magdalene & St Martha's. Our car parks have limited spaces. When they are full, please park legally off-site, with consideration for our neighbours. We have been informed a number of people have received parking tickets outside St Martha's for not adhering to the parking rules. There is also a public carpark available in Little Common.

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.