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

15th November 2026

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY YR A

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

The church year is nearly at an end. Next Sunday is the feast of Christ, the Universal King, and the last Sunday of the year. The nights too are drawing in – indeed the forecast predicts ice for the first time this Autumn. About the only advantage of not having a car, is that I won't be scraping the windscreen and spraying that charming gunk in a fierce icy wind!

As we come closer to this end of the liturgical year, our readings point us more and more towards the eternal. Paul asks us not to think about precisely when Jesus will return. We can see here, and in many other places, that people were convinced that Jesus' second coming was imminent – the angel's promise at his Ascension said he would return as he went, and our human mind filled in the gap and assumed this meant very soon. The problem here is that we can act as if with an essay deadline (I'm back in this world at the moment!) and try to get our lives in order by that deadline. Alternatively, we can get it wrong, and think we've tons of time when we don't!

Our gospel shows us a much safer path. If we neither plan for a nebulous deadline, nor ignore any semblance of one, but simply take the gifts which God has given us and use them, we are perfectly living our lives in God's love. A common idea in Catholic theology is often called "already and not yet": Jesus is with us already until the end of the age, but he had not yet returned. Let's live our lives according to his teaching and feeling his presence, while knowing that he will return, but knowing also that we have done all we need to prepare: by seeking to live his life of grace. *God bless, Fr Stephen.*

Dona Card Machines: We were hoping to have a New Dona Machine available in each Church by this weekend. **Gift Aiders**, will need to re-register their details on the new machine, either via the Machine or make a donation online and re-register for Gift Aid. **URGENT UPDATE: You will be aware that from Thursday evening there has been a global Microsoft outage. At the time of writing, we are unable to access the new Dona System. Please listen for announcements at Mass about this issue.**

Message from Bishop Stephen

Bishop Stephen has written a message for people across our family of faith, highlighting his support for the Pastoral Plan and reflecting on the joy of his first few weeks as Bishop. In his 'Note to the People of the Diocese', he gives thanks for the warm welcome he has received since moving to Sussex in October and shares his hopes for the months ahead, including getting to know the people and places of the Diocese through visits to parishes, schools and local communities. Please keep Bishop Stephen in your prayers as he continues his ministry as shepherd of our Diocese: a-note-to-people-of-the-diocese-from-bishop-stephen-11-nov-2026.pdf

Annual Bereavement Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church
2.30pm, Saturday 21st November.

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

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

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

Eastbourne & Bexhill Newman Association: Thurs 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.

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/

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: Retired Priests Fund (GA)

Parish Collections 8th November: Offertory: £781.05 / GA: £95.00 / 2nd Collection: £267.95 / GA: £65.00

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: 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 – 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 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.

Christian Voices Musical Drama Group: The next play is called, "Everyone is Loved". Performances:
11am, Sat 14th November, Christchurch Methodist Church Hall, 10am for Refreshments.
10am, Sun, 15th November, St Peter's Community Centre;
10.30am, Sat 21st November, St Barnabas Church; 10.30am, Sun 22nd November, Little Common Methodist Church. All proceeds in aid of 1066 Pink Ladies, Hastings & Bexhill Breast Cancer Support.

Saturday 14th November	**Opt. Mem**	**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Private Intention
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
Memorial Garden	12.30pm	Baptism Reggie James-Dillard

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY YR A

Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, 1 Thess 5:1-6, Mat 25:14-30

Saturday 14th November	**Vigil**	
Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 15th November		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Mark Blackwell RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	PM & Mariamma Zachariah RIP
St Martha's Church	11.00am	*Syro-Malabar Mass*

Second Collection this week: Retired Priests Fund (Gift Aid)

Monday 16th November	**Ferial**	**Monday in 33rd week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	***11.00am***	Requiem Jean Clifford RIP
Tuesday 17th November	**Ferial**	**Tuesday in 33rd week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Denis, Mary, Johanna O'Sullivan RIP
Wednesday 18th November	**Ferial**	**Wednesday in 33rd week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 19th November	**Ferial**	**Thursday in 33rd week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Esher Zachariah RIP Inc. Baptism & FHC Lovena & Hugo Chapman
Friday 20th November	**Ferial**	**Friday in 33rd week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	***9.00am***	Elizabeth Francis RIP
Saturday 21st November	**Memorial**	**Presentation of the BVM**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Pope Leo GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	***2.30pm***	***Parish Bereavement Mass***
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING YR A

Eze 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28, Mat 25:31-46

Saturday 21st November	**Vigil**	
St Mary Magdalene Church	5.30pm–5.50pm	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Deceased Members Knoll Family
Sunday 22nd November		
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Catherine Hurley RIP
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Martha's Church	11.00am	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Collection this week: Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund (Gift Aid)

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.