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

22nd November 2026

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST UNIVERSAL KING A

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

I remember having a conversation some years ago with someone who felt that, since the Solemnity of Christ the Universal King was instituted in the 1920s, it has lost its significance as most people live in republics. Apart from the fact that many European monarchies (for example, Portugal, Russia, Germany and Austria) had already fallen in the 20th century before that, and the fact that we at least, like Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, still live in a constitutional monarchy, this feast has great significance.

To begin with, Christ's Kingship had great historical significance. If he had not been a king, Herod and Pilate would not have had such hostility towards him (though Pilate would have had issues with him as a "disruption" to Roman authority).

He had to be a king- descended from David on both sides of his family- furthermore to win people over. The Messiah had been long expected, and to convince people of this, his descent from King David was vital. However, the way in which he was a king was also vital: he was both king and servant. This vital difference- certainly when people compared him to King Herod, living in luxury and treating his people as vassals- showed everybody how *different* he was- the servant king, the Messiah of peace, the priest and sacrifice.

That was then. Now his kingship is both an example of how to both reign and serve, but also a great reassurance. No matter how people are marginalised, ridiculed or persecuted for being a Christian, they have the joy of knowing that their heavenly- their universal- King has kingly power and a heart of love. Christ's Kingship was vital in telling the world that the Messiah had come: it today also reminds all Christians that their Saviour has the power and love to protect them.

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 Bereavement Mass

2.30pm, Saturday 21st November

St Mary Magdalene Church

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:

Thurs 26th Nov – Mon 30th November

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.

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: £958.90 / GA: £145.00 / 2nd Collection: £237.96 / GA: £60.00

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.

Christian Voices Musical Drama Group: The next play is called, "Everyone is Loved". Performances: 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. Come along and support if you can.

Saturday 21st November	**Memorial**	**Presentation of the BVM**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Pope Leo GE
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.30am	Confessions on Request
St Mary Magdalene Church	***2.30pm***	***Parish Bereavement Mass***

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**	
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)

Monday 23rd November	**Ferial**	**Monday in 34th week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Alice & Albert Whatling RIP
Tuesday 24th November	**Memorial**	**St Andrew Dung-Lac**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Margret Keep, Jackie, Carly Lawrence & Family GE
Wednesday 25th November	**Ferial**	**Wednesday in 34th week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	No Mass	-
Thursday 26th November	**Ferial**	**Thursday in 34th week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.30pm	Irene & David Herring RIP & Baptism Ebunoluwa Adewale
Friday 27th November	**Ferial**	**Friday in 34th week OT**
St Mary Magdalene Church	10.00am	Anastazia & Zbigniew Zgoblis RIP
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	12.30am	Baptisms of 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 29th November	**Vigil**	
St 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)

Both Churches Christmas Clean Please:
After all Masses - 4th Sunday of Advent - 20th December

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.