

# PARISH NEWS

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018

First Sunday of Advent Yr C

St Mary Magdalene's, St Martha's, Our Lady of the Rosary

The Catholic Parish serving Bexhill-on-Sea, Little Common, Sidley and the surrounding areas

## St Mary Magdalene's Parish Reconciliation Services

- St Martha's, 3pm,  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December
- St Mary Magdalene's  
3pm,  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Individual Confession / Reconciliation  
with the Priests.

Priests from the Deanery will be  
available.

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## Parish Advent and Christingle Service Including our children's Nativity Play

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
at 2:30 pm  
St Martha's Church

Lots of children are needed for the  
Christingle Nativity Play: Mary, Joseph,  
Angels, Shepherds and Wisemen.

Two *short* rehearsals at St Martha's:  
1<sup>st</sup> After 9am Mass on  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

&

2<sup>nd</sup> At 2pm Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

If you have any queries please contact  
Sarah on 01424 213514.

Please join us for the Service and  
after in the hall for refreshments.

Please contact Ron Brazier if you  
require a lift to the service.

Tel: 844177

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## Message from Bishop Richard:

Please accept my sincere thanks for your  
welcome to the parish on the occasion of  
Fr Simon's Induction Mass.

Thank you to all who were involved  
in the celebration.

Do be assured of my prayers for you all.

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## To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

On the First Sunday of Advent, *'may the Lord be generous in increasing your love... and may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God our Father when our Lord comes with all his saints'*. Every year priests encourage the faithful not to get carried away with the secular celebration of Christmas. If we're bored of Christmas by 25<sup>th</sup> December, then we haven't been doing Advent properly. Remember, Jesus is *'the reason for the season'*. Advent means *'to come'* or *'arrival'*, and so we might think we are preparing for the celebration of Our Lord's Nativity, but as that has already happened our focus is on Christ's Second Coming: *'stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man'*.

Advent a mini-Lent, hence the purple, but the focus is one of expectant and hopeful waiting: *'stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is close at hand'*. We should think about how to expand our hearts in order to make room for Christ to be re-born in us this Christmas. The Bexhill Foodbank offers us an alternative Advent Calendar; where for 24 days, you can box up items and drop them off at the Foodbank on: Tuesdays 1pm-3pm and Thursdays 10am-12noon, so they can prepare Christmas hampers for those in need.

Recently we had a tent pitched outside St Mary Magdalene. 'Lisa and Peter' stayed with us after being evicted from their flat. Now they have been found temporary accommodation in Eastbourne. Then 'Simon and his dog' moved into his tent. That we know their names makes the homeless problem in our town even more real. Sadly, having a tent pitched outside the Church is not a long-term solution as we do not have the basic facilities to sustain the requirements of hygiene that we take for granted. We do have a spirit of generosity; over time, you have been placing money in our poor boxes, and so there is some restricted money available that can be used to support work with the needy. After consulting the Pastoral Care Group and the Finance Committee, the parish has now made donations to the St Barnabas Homeless Project, the Bexhill Foodbank and the Pelham in Sidley. Please keep topping up the poor fund (a special 2<sup>nd</sup> collection next weekend) so that we can continue to help those in need here in Bexhill. Fr Simon.

## Diocesan Pastoral Plan: "The Word who is Life"

St Martha's Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

Bishop Richard comes to present to us the pastoral vision for our Diocese  
as we move towards 2030.

**We pray for those who have died:** Fr David Goddard RIP.

**We pray for the sick especially:** Steve Allingham, Stephanie Bacon, Diane Batkin, Tony Batkin, Christopher Browne, Angela Burden, Winifrede Connellan, Andrew Cruikshank, Brendan Dillistone, John Fitzpatrick, Christopher Gardiner, Sean Gaughan, Yvonne Gibbs, Michael Halse, Jackie Hearn, Leanne Hearn, Carly Hearn, Abraham Jacob, Neil Jenkins, Margaret Keep, George Thomas Lowry, Karl Pearson, Paddy Pearson, Ida Reynolds, Diana Richardson, Mary Stewart, David Spooner, Carol Standen, Rachael Smart, Janet Smith, Terry Standen, Rosanna De Souza, David Standen, Eileen Sullivan, Mary Tenneffe, Martin Tippin, Anne Wilkinson and Hazel Wood.

**Plate Collections**

25<sup>th</sup> November  
 £924.62  
**Gift Aid: £485.22**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> collection  
 £101.96  
**Gift Aid: £95.50**

Maintenance of Memorial Garden

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2<sup>nd</sup> December  
 Christmas Flowers  
 (blue envelopes)

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9<sup>th</sup> December  
 Parish Poor Fund  
 (blue envelopes)

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16<sup>th</sup> December  
 Friends of the Holy Land  
 (not in our scheme)

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**Conquest Hospital Chaplaincy**

For a visit from one of the Catholic Chaplaincy Team for Anointing, Holy Communion, or a general visit. Volunteers needed for visiting patients please contact: The Conquest Chaplain:

**Cecilia Weathers**  
 01424 757088

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**Holy Communion for Housebound Parishioners**

**Ron Brazier:**  
 844177

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**CTiB Prayer Cycle**

**This week: St Martha's** (Fr Simon Dray, Fr Rajesh Minz, Deacon Simon Kirkdale)

**Next week: Living Word Church** (Dale Barrett)

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Every Friday**

**10:30am- 12.30pm**  
**St Mary Magdalene's Church**

**Churches Together in Bexhill FOODBANK Advent 2018**

**Foodbox:** An alternative way of preparing for Christmas. Please see posters and information leaflets at the back of the church. Your foodbox can be delivered directly to the foodbank on: Tues 1pm - 3pm or Thurs 10am-12 noon. Thank you!

**Flame 2019**

**Join 10,000 Catholic Young People at Wembley Arena: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**

Around five hundred people from A&B went to Wembley Arena last March for Flame 2018.

Tickets are already on sale can be booked online:

[cymfed.org.uk/flame2019](http://cymfed.org.uk/flame2019)

**Little Common**

**Christmas Tree Lights**

**Today-Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 5 pm**

Switching on of Little Common Christmas Tree Lights (at roundabout) followed by Carols at the Community Centre led by Rev'd Jonathan, Rev'd Tricia and Fr Simon.

**'Wait for the Lord', an Advent Service of Music and Prayer from Taize and Iona Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 4 pm**

St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET. Anyone who would like to help lead the music is requested to attend a practice beforehand at 3 pm.

**New Name for DABCEC:**

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Christian Education Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, RH10 6RP, is now known as the:

**St Philip Howard Centre for Education, Formation & Mission.**

**National Board of Catholic Women**

Day with Bishop Richard on: **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, From 10 am to 1 pm, at the St Philip Howard Centre (formerly DABCEC).**

Explore ways to engage with 'The Word who is Life'. Book at [nbcw@rcdab.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:nbcw@rcdab.onmicrosoft.com)

**Advent Sharing Groups 2018 - Throughout Advent A Simple Path for Advent - Prayer and Reflection programme**

<b>Monday's</b>	2.30 pm	Anne Wilkinson	215710
<b>Tuesday's</b>	8.00 pm	Cathy Bate	224031
<b>Friday's</b>	7:00 pm	Anne Barry & Lisa Young	846031 07801658296

To take part in any of these sessions, please contact the appropriate group leaders.

**Parish Diary - December**

Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> December	RCIA Session	7:00pm Presbytery
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> December	WJT Session	6:30pm Presbytery
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> December	FHC Session	6:30pm St Martha's hall
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Diocesan Pastoral Plan with Bishop Richard	7:00pm St Martha's hall
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> December	FHC Session	11am St MM hall

**St Mary  
Magdalene's  
Flower Team**

They *urgently* need more volunteers.  
There are now only 3 members!  
They would especially be grateful for help to decorate the church for Christmas. If you are willing to help regularly or just for Christmas please contact Helga on 848504.

**Cafod World Gifts**

Booklets now available at the back of the churches.

**Gift Aid  
Envelopes 2018/19**

For more information about Gift Aiding your donations please contact the Parish Office.

**'The Real' Fairtrade  
Chocolate**

**Advent Calendars:**  
These are now available, to order please call Jack: 01424 214605

**The Hastings &  
District Interfaith  
Forum (HDIFF)  
Festival of Faiths &  
Cultures  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
6pm to 9.30pm**

Concordia Hall, Church Road, St Leonard's on Sea  
Refreshments, Stalls, Raffle, and Festive music performances -  
**inc. Kerala Community.  
All Welcome!**

**Christmas Card  
Competition 2018**

**If you are in years 4, 5 or 6 of Primary School you are invited to enter our 'Parish Christmas Card Competition'**

Entries should be A5, and should have child's name, date of birth, school, telephone number and name of church they currently attend.

No words other than "Happy Christmas" on the picture please. Entries to be put in an envelope and marked "Christmas Card Competition".

Please send to the Parish Office or hand to the Priests.  
The Winning entries will be used to advertise our Christmas Mass times and the winner will also receive a £20 voucher ☺.

**Final date for entries:  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Parish  
Christmas Day Lunch**



**St Martha's Hall,  
12:30pm for 1pm**

All parishioners and their friends welcome (*singles, pairs and families*) for a traditional turkey and pudding feast (with a vegetarian option). Wine and other drinks will accompany the meal.

Although there is no charge, donations will be gratefully received on the day.  
**If you would like to join us, contact the Parish Office: 210263 or Julia Dance: 213078.**

**Christmas Masses 2018  
St Mary Magdalene's Parish**

**Christmas Eve**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

- 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas St Mary Magdalene's
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas St Martha's
- Midnight - Midnight Mass St Mary Magdalene's

*Masses at 8pm and Midnight are preceded by Carols that commence 30 mins before each Mass*

**Christmas Day**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
The Nativity of the Lord**

- 8.00am Dawn Mass St Mary Magdalene's
- 9.00am Dawn Mass St Martha's
- 10.00am Day Mass Our Lady of the Rosary
- 11.00am Day Mass St Mary Magdalene's
- 2.00pm Syro-Malabar St Mary Magdalene's

*Christmas Collection is the 'Clergy Offering'*

**Feast of St Stephen  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10.00am Mass St Mary Magdalene's

*Crib Offering is for the 'Catholic Children's Society A & B Crisis fund'*

**Justice & Peace Assembly**

'Slavery On Our Doorstep',  
**DABCEC, (St Philip Howard Centre)  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 10am**  
(coffee from 9.30).

Learn about the slave trade hidden under your nose and how you can help those affected. Speakers from the Santa Marta Group and Sussex Police.  
To book contact rosie.read@dabnet.org  
Or 01293 651161

## Parish Information

The Presbytery  
**St Mary Magdalene's**  
Sea Road, Bexhill on Sea,  
TN40 1RH. Tel: 01424 210263

### St Martha's

Cooden Sea Road, TN39 4SL

**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
Southlands Road, TN39 5HG

### Clergy:

**Fr Simon Dray**

**Fr Rajesh Minz**

**Deacon Simon Kirkdale**

**Sisters of Providence**  
(Rosminian) 01424 214818

### Parish Office

#### Administrators:

Bonita Osmond-Maher  
Lisa Young

**Telephone: 01424 210263**

#### Email:

[stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com)

#### Website:

[www.stmmbexhill.co.uk](http://www.stmmbexhill.co.uk)

#### Office Hours:

**Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm**

#### Finance:

Charles Durrant

#### Email:

[stmm.finance@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm.finance@btconnect.com)

### Hospitals

#### Conquest Hastings

01424 757088

#### Bexhill - Irvine Unit

Contact: Mary Williams  
[marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk](mailto:marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk)

#### St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Mary Williams

[marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk](mailto:marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk)

### Parish Schools

#### St Richard's

#### Catholic College

**Principal:** Miss Doreen Cronin  
01424 731070

[admin@strichardscc.com](mailto:admin@strichardscc.com)

[www.strichardscc.com](http://www.strichardscc.com)

#### St Mary Magdalene's

#### Primary School

#### Interim Head:

Mrs Siobhan Andrews  
01424 735810

[office@stmarymagsbex.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarymagsbex.e-sussex.sch.uk)

[www.stmarymags.co.uk](http://www.stmarymags.co.uk)

#### St Mary Magdalene Catholic Independent Nursery

**Supervisor:** Gemma Oliver-Taylor  
01424 224499

[info@stmmnursery.co.uk](mailto:info@stmmnursery.co.uk)

## PARISH NEWS

# Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's	9:30am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Otto Halligan-Witham RIP

### First Sunday of Advent Year C

*(Jeremiah 33:14-16, Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28. 34-36)*

St Mary Magdalene's	5:30pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Intentions of the Paris Family

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

St Martha's	9:00am	William Bird RIP & Blessing for 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Robin & Christina Lloyd
Our Lady of the Rosary	10:00am	George Thomas Lowry GE
St Mary Magdalene's	11:00am	Tony Barry RIP & RCIA - Rite of Acceptance
St Mary Magdalene's	3:00pm	St Michael's 'Lights of Love Service'
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	People of the Parish

#### Christmas Flowers

*(blue envelopes)*

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Memorial St Francis Xavier Fr Chris Benyon GE
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### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Tom Hanks RIP
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### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Noreen Corness RIP
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### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Bartolomeo Visconti RIP
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### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Memorial St Ambrose Louis Rosenau RIP & David McGurk RIP
St Richard's	8.10am	School Intention
St Mary Magdalene's	10:45am - 12.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's	9:30am	Solemnity The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Anne and John McEwan RIP
Memorial Garden	After 10am	Burial of Ashes of Anne & John McEwan RIP
St Martha's	Mass 3:00pm	Reconciliation Service

### Second Sunday of Advent Year C

*(Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11, Luke 3:1-6)*

St Mary Magdalene's	5:30pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Peggy & Roy Fisher RIP

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December

St Martha's	9:00am	Priests Intentions
Our Lady of the Rosary	10:00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene's	11:00am	Robert Stevens RIP
St Mary Magdalene's	3:00pm	Reconciliation Service
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Thanksgiving for Joseph & Thomas Family

#### Parish Poor Fund

*(blue envelopes)*