

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Every Friday  
10:30am- 12.30pm  
St Mary Magdalene's Church

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**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
16<sup>th</sup> December  
Fr Rajesh will be available to hear confessions after the 10am Mass at Our Lady Rosary.

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## 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

*All the Christmas Eve Masses, 6pm, 8pm and Midnight have carols beforehand.*

**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'*

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**Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**



**Gaudete: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.**

There is a distinct irony that the secular world begins to celebrate Christmas in the middle of November, as the season of Advent used to be much longer starting on 11<sup>th</sup> November with the memorial of St Martin of Tour. This season of penance and preparation was shortened to the four Sundays prior to Christmas, but some elements of this penitential season were retained, including a Rose Sunday to lessen the rigours of our fasting. The proper entrance antiphon for today is '*Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice*', coming from our Second Reading; it is a reminder to us that the '*Lord is near*', not distant but accessible to us through the Church of God.

This weekend, you will find a Christmas Card, which gives the times of our Christmas Mass times. Congratulations to the winning designer Sneha Joseph and thanks to all other children who submitted entries. There is no authentic celebration without "*Christ and the Mass*", so please make sure that you have planned when you will come to Holy Mass for Christmas Day, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Perhaps, then, you might like to take a second card home and pass it on to a family member or a friend who might need a little nudge and reminder to come home to the Church for Christmas.

With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Simon.

### Christmas Collection for the Parish Clergy

Did you know that the priests of the parish do not receive a salary or income from the diocese? They rely on your generous offerings throughout the year and the Christmas collection is the main source of their income. This weekend you can take away a 'green' gift envelope and bring it back at your Christmas Mass. If you gift aid your offering the parish benefits as well.

**We pray for those who have died:** Rosa Clarke RIP.

**We pray for the sick especially:** Steve Allingham, Stephanie Bacon, Diane Batkin, Tony Batkin, Christopher Browne, Angela Burden, Rose Carter, 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**

9<sup>th</sup> December  
 £905.00  
 Gift Aid: £507.25  
 2<sup>nd</sup> collection  
 £590.53  
 Gift Aid: £214.90  
 Parish Poor Fund

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

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23<sup>rd</sup> December  
 Parish Charity Fund  
 (blue envelopes)

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25<sup>th</sup> December  
 Clergy Christmas Offering  
 (green envelopes)

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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



**CTiB Prayer Cycle**

**This week: Crowhurst Healing Centre** (Steve Gendall)

**Next week: St Michael's** (Robert Featherstone)

**Vianney Cenacle Prayer Group**

The Cenacle of prayer for priests will be meeting:  
**6pm, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm, St Mary Magdalene's church.**  
 All welcome.

**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!

**National Board of Catholic Women**

Day with Bishop Richard on:  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 10am to 1pm, 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)

**Crib Offering 2018**

This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the **Catholic Children's Society A & B Crisis Fund.** This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these Grants.

**Parish Office Christmas Opening Hours**

Please note that the Parish Office will be **closed** for the Christmas Holidays:  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January**  
**Re-opens Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**  
*Please ensure any articles for the newsletter reach us by no later than 9:30am Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December and will be published in 5/6 January edition, thank you.*

**Safeguarding Awareness Training**

The next planned Initial Session for our Deanery is in September '19 and a Refresher Session for those who did their initial training in 2016, will be in March '19. Dates for all of next year's training are being arranged by the Diocese. However, if you wish to attend the next Eastbourne Deanery Initial Safeguarding Awareness Training at Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 from 7pm - 9 pm please call the parish office by 7<sup>th</sup> January.

**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**

Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	SVP Meeting	6:00pm Presbytery
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**Christmas Flower Team**



Make the church look amazing for Christmas? If you can help please contact Helga on 848504.

**Fr Boniface...**

*'This is to offer blessings and greetings to all for a holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. I regret that my disability prevents me sending cards this year. Although I shall be unable to visit after Christmas, I hope to do so at some time before the summer holiday.'*  
Fr Boniface.

**Gift Aid Envelopes 2018/19**

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

**Wednesday Club**

We will *not* be open on:  
**26<sup>th</sup> December**  
Re-opens on:  
**2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019**

**Cafod World Gifts**

Booklets now available at the back of the churches.

**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,  
Parish Office: 210263 or  
Julia Dance: 213078.**

**Christmas Card Competition Winner 2018**

***Sneha Joseph age 10yrs, who attends St Mary Magdalene's church and St Peter & St Paul primary school. Sneha will receive a £20 voucher.***

Thanks and congratulations to Sneha and all the other entrants who will each receive a small gift. Please come to the parish office to collect your prize and gifts.

Christmas cards with Mass times are now available from the back of all three churches.

**'Deep Within' Lourdes CD available for sale from the parish office.  
£10 per CD**

Music of Arundel and Brighton in Lourdes. In aid of the Diocesan Lourdes fund.  
Perfect gift for the music lover!



**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**

**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*

**Our Lady of the Rosary**

We will be putting Christmas decorations up at Our Lady of the Rosary after Mass on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** and we would like to invite children and families to help.

**Justice & Peace Assembly**

'Slavery On Our Doorstep', **DABCEC, (St Philip Howard Centre) Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 10am** (coffee from 9.30am).  
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](mailto:rosie.read@dabnet.org) Or 01293 651161.

**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)

## 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

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# Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's 9:30am Confessions  
St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Miss Elizabeth Francis RIP

### Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent Year C

*(Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18)*

St Mary Magdalene's 5:30pm Confessions  
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm Rosemary Shaji  
Thanksgiving 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December

St Martha's 9:00am Mrs Florence Raey  
Our Lady of the Rosary 10:00am Mary Bunyan RIP  
St Mary Magdalene's 11:00am People of the Parish  
St Martha's 2:30pm Christingle Advent Service  
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm Priests Intentions

#### Friends of the Holy Land

*(not in our scheme)*

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Margaret & Jimmy Hilder  
& Tom Friary & Mick Farrel RIP

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Anne & John McEwan RIP

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Denis, Mary & Joan O'Sullivan RIP

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Noreen Corness RIP

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

St Richard's 8.10am School Intention  
St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Edna Herring RIP  
St Mary Magdalene's 10:45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
- 12.30pm

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

St Mary Magdalene's 9:30am Confessions  
St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Hanson/Driscoll Families living &  
deceased

### Fourth Sunday of Advent 'O Emmanuel' Year C

*(Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-44)*

St Mary Magdalene's 5:30pm Confessions  
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm June Callaghan RIP

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

St Martha's 9:00am *Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers*  
Pamela & Keith Bourne GE  
Our Lady of the Rosary 10:00am People of the Parish  
St Mary Magdalene's 11:00am Priests Intentions  
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm Nancy & Don Simmons & Lionel &  
Lawrence Keep RIP

#### Parish Charity fund

*(blue envelopes)*

**Next week there will be a special double newsletter  
to cover Christmas and the New Year.**