

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Friday
10.30am- 12.30pm
St Mary Magdalene's Church

Mission Appeal

We welcome Fr Henry Somah from the Society of African Missions (SMA) who will be making an appeal for prayers and financial support for their mission.

As Fr Henry has also agreed to celebrate some of our parish Masses this weekend, this has allowed Fr Simon the opportunity for some personal time, this weekend being the 2nd anniversary of his mother's death.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 6th March is a day of fasting and abstinence. Canon Law 1249 tells us that *'divine law binds all the Christian faithful to do penance'*. *'The law of fasting'*, says Canon 1251, *'binds all those who have reached their majority until the beginning of their sixtieth year'*. Even so, those not obligated to fast might, as their penance, offer some extra prayer in support of those who are obligated to fast. In this context, fasting means to eat less food, one main meal and two snacks at other times that do not exceed the size of the main meal. *'Abstinence from eating meat... binds those who have completed their fourteenth year of age'*; there is no upper age limit. Naturally, those with medical conditions should not deny themselves essential nutrients. Abstinence also applies on all Fridays during Lent as a small means of remembering the Lord's Passion.

Ashes will be imposed at Masses: 9am at St Martha's, 10am at St Mary Magdalene and 7pm at Our Lady of the Rosary. Services will also be held for the children at St Mary Magdalene Primary School and at St Richard's Catholic College.

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

The Parish Nursery

It is with much sadness and regret that I must inform you that St Mary Magdalene Independent Catholic Nursery, the nursery owned and operated by our parish will close at the end of the academic year in July, and will not reopen in September 2019. On Friday I wrote to parents and carers to inform them of this decision giving them as much time as possible to make arrangements for the new academic year.

A number of factors has brought about this decision. In 2016 a planned refurbishment, to ensure that the building met OFSTED and general health and safety requirements was undertaken, and the diocese authorised the expenditure. Almost immediately after the completion of the project, the government announced 30 hours free Nursery care for 3-year olds and we have also seen continuing low funding for 2-year olds. Sadly, we have found that the money paid through this scheme has been insufficient to cover our operational costs, meaning that there has been slow progress in reducing the nursery overdraft.

It is then with regret, that the parish cannot now sustain a Nursery that is proving to be financially unviable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work and loyalty since the Nursery opened in 2002. The Nursery has received good OFSTED ratings and is a much-loved part of our parish community, and so it is with sadness that this announcement has now come. Please keep in your prayers the staff and children who will be looking for new appointments and places for the academic year 2019/20.

I reported to you in October, when I released the 2017 Parish accounts, that there had been, over the past 2-3 years, a general decrease in parish income and encouraged all parishioners to review their offertory giving, and as a first step to increase this by £1 per person per week. This request has been reiterated by the Bishop in the Pastoral Plan for the diocese. Thanks to your generosity, since the New Year there have been some signs of improvement in offertory giving. The parish income has not yet increased to the extent it covers the outgoings so efforts are being made to establish, what, if any, further savings can be made.

With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Maureen Cunningham RIP, Eithne Sullivan RIP, Fr Alexander Fraser RIP.

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

Plate Collections

24th February
£1053.74
Gift Aid £481.01

2nd collection
£132.45
Gift Aid £171.57

Parish Lourdes Fund

3rd March
Society of African Missions (SMA Fathers)

10th March
Society for the Unborn Child (SPUC)

17th March
CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

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**

Holy Communion for Housebound Parishioners

**Ron Brazier:
844177**



CTiB Prayer Cycle

This week: St Mary's, Ninfield
(Paul Frostick)

Next week: St John's Baptist Church
(Kathy Lee).

**A Lent Service of Music and Prayer from Taizé and Iona
4pm, Sunday March 10th**

St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs Church, Magdalen Rd, St Leonards TN37 6ET.

Anyone who would like to help with the music please come to a practice at 3pm.

**Morning for Altar Servers
Saturday 23rd March 2019**

**Holy Mass at 10am,
St Mary Magdalene's**

Followed by catechesis and refreshments in the presbytery.

The Prayer Course - Lent 2019

During Lent there will be a prayer course which is provided by the team that started the Alpha course. The starting point of the course is that, as the bible says, we do not know how to pray Romans 8:26. The apostles asked Jesus to teach them how to pray and he gave them the Our Father as the model of prayer. **The course will run every Tuesday during Lent from 7.30pm until 9pm in the presbytery from Tuesday 12th March until Tuesday 16th April.** There are six sessions are based on the Lord's prayer and each session is there to encourage discussion. The course is open to all ages and to all people.

Adoration Update

Many thanks to Sean Duggan who spoke to us last week about Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and to the Adoration Committee for their support across all Sunday Masses. Thank you to parishioners who filled in commitment cards whose responses strengthened the pool of volunteers for the Friday Adoration from 10:30 to 12:30. We don't yet have quite enough volunteers in each hour to extend the Friday adoration to 18:00 (*we need about 5/6 committed volunteers each hour for viability and to ensure the Blessed Sacrament is never left unattended*). So, if you can help to strengthen the pool of volunteers on a Friday from 1pm to 6pm then please either return your commitment card or drop a note into the parish office marked for the attention of the 'Adoration Committee', who will meet again to discuss when further hours of Adoration can be offered in the parish and report back in due course. Remember that when you arrive for Mass, Jesus is in the Tabernacle and so this is always a perfect opportunity for silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; a reminder to us all to be as quiet as possible before Mass to allow people to prepare for Mass.

CCRS Course: In support of Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan, the Diocese are planning the launch of a CCRS course, starting in September 2019.

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) has been established since 1991 and has been successfully run in the Diocese.

Full details can be found at

<http://www.brs-ccrs.org.uk/index.php>

For more information, contact Jon Harman,:

01293 651157 or email

jon.harman@dabnet.org

Lent Reflection Groups

Monday Starts: 4th March	2.30pm	Anne Wilkinson	215710
Tuesday Starts: 12th March	7.30pm-9pm	Ghislaine Cornfield	07491 477773

Tuesday group will be an Alpha course on prayer at the presbytery at 7.30 pm. More information at the back of the church and above. To take part in any of these meetings, please contact the appropriate group leader.

Parish Diary - February/March

Tuesday 5 th March	FHC - Parents meeting	7:00pm St MM church and hall
Wednesday 6 th March	RCIA Session	7:00pm Presbytery
Wednesday 6 th March	Mothers prayer group	7:30pm Presbytery
Monday 11 th March	FHC Session	6:30pm St Martha's hall
Wednesday 13 th March	RCIA Session	7:00pm Presbytery
Thursday 14 th March	WJT Session	6:30pm Presbytery
Saturday 16 th March	FHC Session	11am St MM hall

Gift Aid Envelopes and Standing Orders

For more information about Gift Aiding your donations please contact the Parish Office.
Please collect your 2019/20 from the back of the Church.

Mass in the Extraordinary Form

Fr Paul Gillham will be in the parish on Monday and Tuesday this week. He will celebrate Mass in the Extraordinary form of the Roman Rite on:

Monday 4th March at 11.30am, St Mary Magdalene, and Tuesday 5th March at 8am, St Mary Magdalene.

Pastoral Care Group Planned Events:

Film Showing

The acclaimed BBC drama series "Broken" in the presbytery on:

Mon 11th March 2pm – 4.15pm

Afternoon Tea and Benediction at Holy Cross Priory Thursday 2nd May from 2pm to 5.30pm £12 (inc door to door lift) £8 (not inc. door to door lift)

Application forms are in all church porches or the Parish Office completed forms to be returned by 15th April.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 29th June

Depart 6.30am and return by 10.30pm Cost of the coach is £30.

Full details and application forms are available in the church porches; completed forms must be returned by 8th March. For more information contact Ron Brazier, Pastoral care group: 844177.

Catholic Women's League

Monday 4th March 7:30pm, St Martha's Hall
Annual Review and Liturgy
Theme: Lent/Ash Wednesday
Contact: Jac Young 220685

Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February - 10th March

Parish Fairtrade Breakfast
St Martha's after Mass on Sunday 10th March.

Fairtrade Fashion Show
St Richard's Catholic College on Thursday 7th March at 6.45pm

Adults: £5 includes free glass of Fairtrade wine, Concessions / Schoolchildren: £2 Incl free fruit juice.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent

is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters around the world. Drought, floods and storms are having a devastating impact on our global family. Like Mahinur from Bangladesh. She makes a living from fishing but a drought last year killed all the fish, and she's struggling to support her disabled husband and son. **On Friday 15 March**, can you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help people like Mahinur? Through CAFOD's global Church network - one of the largest aid networks in the world - your support can reach to the ends of the earth. Please collect your Fast Day envelope from church this week and give whatever you can.

Churches Together in Bexhill Foodbank

In the past four months the Foodbank has been exceptionally busy.

They urgently need donations of: Squash, custard, tinned potatoes, sugar, UHT milk, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, rice pudding & tinned fruit.

Thank you for your continued support.

A & B News

This month's free copy is now available from the back of all churches.

Pastoral Care in our Parish

In previous newsletters we have featured the various aspects of pastoral care within our parish and beyond. Throughout Lent the Pastoral Care group would like to bring to your attention a series of detailed articles for your information. These will include the following:

Friends of the Holy Land; Helping Homeless People in Bexhill; Churches Together in Bexhill; Three Churches in Little Common; Hastings and District Interfaith forum; The Jolly Lunch Club; Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP); Food Bank; CAFOD; Pastoral Care Group; Catholic Women's League; Bexhill Street Pastors.

Of course, there are countless other acts of kindness and care in our parish community carried out on a daily basis which are hugely appreciated.

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

Website:

www.stmmbexhill.co.uk

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm

Finance:

Charles Durrant

Email:

stmm.finance@btconnect.com

Hospitals

Conquest Hastings

01424 757088

Bexhill - Irvine Unit

Contact: Mary Williams
Please 'phone the Parish Office -
01424 210263

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Mary Williams

Care of the Parish Office
01424 210263

Parish Schools

St Richard's

Catholic College

Principal: Miss Doreen Cronin
01424 731070

admin@strichardscc.com

www.strichardscc.com

St Mary Magdalene's

Primary School

Interim Head:

Mrs Siobhan Andrews

01424 735810

office@stmarymagsbex.e-sussex.sch.uk

www.stmarymags.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Independent Nursery

Supervisor: Gemma Oliver-Taylor
01424 224499

info@stmmnursery.co.uk

PARISH NEWS

Page 4

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 2nd March

St Mary Magdalene's 9:30am Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Patrick Lanney RIP

Eighth Sunday Year C

(Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7, Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45)

St Mary Magdalene's 5:30pm Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm Spittal & Brennan Family GE & Deceased

Sunday 3rd March

St Martha's 9:00am Mary & Joseph Callaghan RIP
Our Lady of the Rosary 10:00am Peggy Barrett RIP
St Mary Magdalene's 11:00am Priests Intentions
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm People of the Parish

Society of African Missions (SMA Fathers) - Not in our scheme/special envelopes

Monday 4th March

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Frances Winder (Brignall) RIP

Tuesday 5th March

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am James Benzie RIP

Wednesday 6th March

St Martha's 9:00am Maureen Cunningham RIP
St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Susan Eyre GE
Our Lady of the Rosary 7:00pm The Seal Family in thanksgiving

Ash Wednesday - Fasting & Abstinence

Thursday 7th March

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Corrine Shahid RIP

Friday 8th March

St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Peggy Paris RIP
St Mary Magdalene's 10:45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 12.30pm
St Martha's 3:00pm Stations of the Cross
St Mary Magdalene's 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 9th March

St Mary Magdalene's 9:30am Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's 10:00am Robert Moggridge RIP
St Mary Magdalene's 10:30am Stations of the Cross
St Mary Magdalene's 12:30pm Baptism of Edward Beale

First Sunday of Lent Year C

(Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13)

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

Sunday 10th March

St Martha's 9:00am Peter Ernest Lindsay Vail RIP
Our Lady of the Rosary 10:00am Tanti and Rombi Families RIP
St Mary Magdalene's 11:00am People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene's 6:00pm Priests Intentions

Society for the Unborn Child (SPUC) (not in our scheme)

The family of Fr Gerard Hatton has asked the Diocese to share the following further message: 'Fr Gerard remains on the High Dependency Unit at St George's Hospital, but is now in the general ward and making steady progress. The physiotherapist continues to support Fr Gerard, as daily his strength is improving, as is his appetite. Recently with assistance, Fr Gerard was able to leave the ward for a short time to visit the chapel, which he was keen to do. During a visit from Fr Mark Higgins, one of the hospital chaplains, Fr Gerard was able to say that he wanted to join him for mass on Sunday morning in the chapel. Fr Mark will arrange for this to be possible. Thank you so much for your continuous prayers. Your support has been overwhelming and has shown us how loved Fr Gerard is.' Bishop Richard would also like to thank everyone for their many prayers and concern for Fr Gerard and asks that you continue to pray for him. He is also grateful to Fr Dominic O'Hara who continues to provide cover for Sunday Masses in the parish until Fr Gerard is able to return.