

## Visit of Bishop & C.O.O.

Bishop Richard and Sarah Kilmartin, (Chief Operating Officer for the Diocese) will visit **Our Lady of the Rosary** at the **end of the 10am Mass on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April** to talk to the people of Sidley about the future of the buildings.

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## Stations of the Cross

- 3pm on Fridays at St Martha's
- 6pm on Friday's at St Mary Magdalene, led by the Kerala community in Malayalam
- 10.30am on Saturday's (after the 10am Mass) at St Mary Magdalene

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## In Brief: The Date of Easter

The Council of Nicaea (325AD) discussed and agreed the date of Easter, standardizing the calculation as to when this Feast should be celebrated. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday that follows the first full moon (or paschal full moon) after the spring equinox, which at the time of the Council of Nicaea was 21<sup>st</sup> March. "Paschal", an Aramaic word for Passover, reminds us that the events of Holy Week and Easter are intrinsically tied to the celebration of the Passover. The days and night of the equinox are roughly equal, but as neither the calendar year (365 days) and the cycle phases of the moon (29.5 days) divide evenly by our seven-day week, the date of Easter can move irregularly by about a month. The timing of the paschal moon after this date fluctuates over a period of about a month, and so Easter Sunday can be as "early" as 22<sup>nd</sup> March and at "late" as 25<sup>th</sup> April. As observations can differ depending on the time zone you are in, the Church uses an ecclesiastical calendar. So why do the Eastern Churches have a different date? They use the same calculations, but at the time of Nicaea the 'Julian' calendar was in force, and there has been no ecumenical council to approve the calculation using the Gregorian calendar which has been used since 1582. Occasionally, as in 2016, the dates aligned, but it will not happen again until 2034.

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## The Lord is compassion and love.

### The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)

The aim of the SVP is to befriend and offer practical support, within our means, to anyone in need; regardless of their faith, beliefs, lifestyle, gender, age, physical or mental ability. Currently we have thirteen members in the Bexhill Conference. For more information contact Mary Williams via the Parish Office.

### The First Scrutiny

We continue to pray for **Harvey, Claire and Amy** and all those preparing for baptism, along with **Helen, Hayley and Rachel** who are being received into full communion with the Catholic Church, and for **Lauren** who is completing her Christian Initiation. This is an intense period of preparation, and with the complexity of the parish structure it is not practical to gather the "**Elect of God**" for the First Scrutiny. However, as we too are preparing to renew our baptismal promises we can look inwardly as we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Feast and find Christ in the Sacraments:

- May we ponder the word of God in our hearts and savour its meaning in our lives
- May we learn to know Christ, who came to save what was lost
- May we humbly confess that we are sinners
- May we sincerely reject everything in our lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ
- May the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, help us to overcome weakness
- May the same Holy Spirit teach us to know the things of God and how to please him
- May our families also put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in him
- May our participation in the Sacred Paschal Triduum bring us to a change of heart, to a renewal in prayer and perseverance in good works
- May whatever is weak in our world be strengthened, whatever broken restored, and whatever lost, found, and what is found redeemed

God bless, Fr Simon.

**We pray for those who have died:** Fr Alan Wright RIP, Mario Petrocco RIP, Sean Gaughan RIP.

**We pray for the sick especially:** Steve Allingham, Patrick Atwell, Stephanie Bacon, Diane Batkin, Tony Batkin, Angela Burden, Winifrede Connellan, Andrew Cruikshank, Brendan Dillistone, Christopher Gardiner, Yvonne Gibbs, Michael Halse, Jackie Hearn, Leanne Hearn, Carly Hearn, Neil Jenkins, Margaret Keep, Joe Kingsman, George Thomas Lowry, 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, Margaret Tuberet, Kathleen Tunny and Anne Wilkinson.

**Plate Collections**

17<sup>th</sup> March  
£950.47  
Gift Aid £569.01

2<sup>nd</sup> collection  
£1526.05  
CAFOD  
Lenten Fast Day

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24<sup>th</sup> March  
SVP

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31<sup>st</sup> March  
Street Pastors

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7<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Flowers

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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: All Saints' Sidley**  
(Michael Bailey, Richard Tuset)

**Next week: Society of Friends**  
(Daphne Hill)

**Easter Triduum Retreat for Young Adults (18-35s) at Worth Abbey Benedictine Monastery**, celebrating the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. To book, The Open Cloister at Worth Abbey (TOC@worthabbey.net. If you have any questions, email youngadults@wellspringbrighton.org.uk.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Please pray for **Giorgia Belle Agliata** and her family and friends as she became part of the parish family through the sacrament of Baptism last weekend.

**The prayer course – Lent 2019**

If you want to know more about prayer or share your experience, come to the 5 sessions on **Tuesday evenings at the presbytery, 7.30pm-9pm.** The sessions are: 26<sup>th</sup> March: Intercession; 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Listening; 9<sup>th</sup> April: Perseverance, 16<sup>th</sup> April: Warfare. We are sharing our experience of prayer with one another. All ages and all experience in prayer welcome.

**Lent Reconciliations**

**Saturday: 9.30am & 5.30pm at St Mary Magdalene**

**Reconciliation Service with Adoration:**

**St Mary Magdalene Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm**

Deanery Priests available.

**You may relax your fasting on the following solemnity during Lent:**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
***The Annunciation of the Lord***

**DEC Emergency Appeal:**

**CAFOD** has joined forces with Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to reach hundreds of thousands of people affected by Cyclone Idai, across Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Please donate direct via the following link: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Cyclone-Idai>

**Funeral: Ida Reynolds RIP,**

Requiem Mass St Martha's, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 12 noon. All welcome.

**CCRS Course**

In support of Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan, the Diocese are planning the launch of a CCRS course, starting in September 2019. 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](mailto:jon.harman@dabnet.org)

**Lent Reflection Groups**

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

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

**Parish Diary - March / April**

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	FHC Session	6:30pm St Martha's hall
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	FHC Session	11am St MM hall
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Confirmation Session	4:00pm Presbytery
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	RCIA Session	7:00pm Presbytery
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Mothers Prayer Group	7:00pm St MM church
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	We Journey Together Session	6:30pm Presbytery

**Gift Aid**  
**Envelopes and Standing Orders**  
 For more information about Gift Aiding your donations please contact the Parish Office.

**The Gift of the Creed**  
 On 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, the Elect of God give thanks for the gift of the Creed. The words are few, but the mysteries they contain are great. Let us receive them anew with a sincere heart and be faithful to them: ***"I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen"***.

**All Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion please reserve this date in your diaries: Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April**  
 As part of our ministries we are encouraged to undertake a day of Reflection each year.  
**Passiontide: Day of Reflection**  
**Starting with Mass at 10am in St Mary Magdalene Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30am:**  
 Fr Simon and Deacon Simon will reflect on the Stations of the Cross. Suitable as a retreat activity for those who minister, but suitable for all.  
 This takes the place of the morning stations of the cross on this Saturday.

**'Creation and Trees'. Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 7pm for 7.30pm until 9pm St Martha's Hall**  
 A talk by Dr Edward Echlin, ecological theologian, renowned author & organic gardener. Organised by Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Association. Entrance free. All welcome. For more information: Alex Mthobi 07957632208 or John Carmody 01323 726334 or Edward Echlin 01424 219788.

**Catholic Women's League**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30pm St Martha's Hall**  
 Talk by the SVP  
*(Please note change of date)*

**Holy Week and Easter Liturgies**  
**Calling all Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**  
 If you are available for any of the Liturgies on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday the Easter Vigil (the Triduum), please take a look at the lists at the back of the Churches and sign up as applicable.  
 You can also sign up for Holy Week and Easter Services held at St Martha's and Our Lady of the Rosary. Please speak to the relevant Mass co-ordinator's in the communities.  
 We aim to involve as many people as possible so if you can sign for more than one service that will give us flexibility when assigning the duties.  
 The lists will be available at the back of all three churches until **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April**. Ministries will be confirmed as soon as possible thereafter. If you have any queries, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

**Pastoral Care Group Planned Events:**  
**Afternoon Tea and Benediction at Holy Cross Priory**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2pm-5pm**  
**£12 (inc lift) £8 (not inc. lift)**  
 Application forms are in all church porches or the Parish Office completed forms to be returned by the end of March please.  
**Drivers:** More volunteers for driving parishioners are required for this trip. Please contact the parish office.

**Fair Trade Stall**  
**St Martha's Hall, 24<sup>th</sup> March after Mass**  
 Including stocks of Easter Cards and Easter Eggs

## 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  
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](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 23<sup>rd</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene's	9:30am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Stephanie Lister RIP
St Mary Magdalene's	10:30am	Stations of the Cross

### Third Sunday of Lent Year C

(Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9)

St Mary Magdalene's	5:30pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Irene Leach RIP

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March

St Martha's	9:00am	Ernest & Lily Whitehead RIP
Our Lady of the Rosary	10:00am	Chris Hulland RIP
St Mary Magdalene's	11:00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Priests Intentions

#### SVP

(not in our scheme / special envelopes)

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene's

### Solemnity The Annunciation of the Lord

10:00am Robert Stevens RIP

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene's

10:00am Jo Driscoll RIP

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene's

10:00am Jean Durrant RIP

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene's

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

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene's

St Mary Magdalene's

10:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

- 12.30pm **No Benediction**

St Martha's

12 noon

Requiem Mass of Ida Reynolds RIP  
and after at Eastbourne Crematorium

St Martha's

3:00pm

Stations of the Cross

St Mary Magdalene's

6:00pm

Rosary & Stations of the Cross  
Keralan Led in Malayalam

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene's

St Mary Magdalene's

St Mary Magdalene's

9:30am

Confessions

10:00am

Ellen Reeves RIP

10:30am

Stations of the Cross

### Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

(Joshua 5:9-12, Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

St Mary Magdalene's

St Mary Magdalene's

5:30pm

Confessions

6:00pm

Dominic & Italia Capaldi RIP

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

St Martha's

Our Lady of the Rosary

St Mary Magdalene's

9:00am

Florence Raey RIP

10:00am

James Burden RIP

11:00am

People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene's

6:00pm

Inc. FHC of Sonny Scorey

Priests Intentions

#### Street Pastors

(not in our scheme / special envelopes)

**NB: Mass at St Mary Magdalene, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March cancelled;  
due to Requiem Mass at St Martha's at 12 noon.**