

GENERAL ELECTION

Election Guidance from the our Bishops:
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/2019-general-election-statement-and-bishops-plenary/>

In summary, when voting we should ask which party / candidate best upholds:

- The innate dignity of every human being; defending the child in the womb, the good of the mother and an understanding of the immeasurable good of a child not yet born;
- The dignified care of those who are terminally ill and dying while resisting the false compassion of assisted suicide or euthanasia;
- The needs of those who are frequently neglected or discarded by society such as people with disabilities, Travellers, older people, those who are homeless, those in prison and those trapped in modern Slavery;
- The process of integration of migrants and refugees who have made their homes here, challenging the global rise of xenophobia and racism that is so radically incompatible with our faith;
- The rights of those in our own communities and overseas who can see no end to the tunnel of extreme poverty, providing them with assistance and confronting the structural injustices that compound their suffering;
- Care for our common home and tackle the climate emergency which threatens the future of our entire human family and is already having a profound impact upon the world's poorest people;
- Freedom of religion and belief, ensuring that everyone has the right to exercise their conscience and practice their creed freely without fear;
- The cherishing of marriage, recognising the essential place of the family in the service of life and of society;
- The rights of parents to educate their children in accord their faith and support the work of Catholic schools in their contribution to society and their promotion of the common good.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

The God who Speaks

This Year in the Church we have a pastoral theme: *"The God who speaks"* (*The Year of the Word*), which runs until end of December 2020. Next year is the 10th anniversary of *'Verbum Domini'* (*The Word of the Lord*), the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. This year has three aims. A deeper focus on the Word should: **enrich our worship and community life; enrich our social action and outreach and enrich our formation, proclamation and evangelization.** Bishop Richard commends the prayerful discipline of *'Lectio Divina'*, and so, perhaps, a simple challenge for 2020 is to have read and prayed the four canonical gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Each day we take a short paragraph, chewing it like 'gum' across the day, releasing all its flavor so we are a step closer to making the declaration of Our Lady: *'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done unto to me according to thy Word'*. Pope Francis has chosen 3rd Sunday in O.T as *"The Sunday of the Word of God"*. Therefore, at **10am on Saturday 18th January 2020** we will have Mass followed by a training & formation session for all **Proclaimers of the Word (Readers)** in St Mary Magdalene. Then, on 3rd Sunday in OT (25th /26th Jan) we will, at the suggestion of the Liturgy Office of England & Wales, **commission our parish readers for service of the Word** at Mass. Our thanks to our readers who proclaim God's Word to us, not only for their ministry but for the extra time they spend reading, praying and studying the scripture each week so that they read with clarity and understanding, enabling us to hear and see that *'the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us'*. With my prayers for a Blessed Advent, Fr Simon.

Parish Reconciliation Service – This Sunday

Inc. First Confessions (Deanery Priests available)

3pm on Sunday 8th December in St Mary Magdalene.

Confessions also: 8.15-9am on Sundays at St Martha's;
9.30am & 5.30pm on Saturdays at St Mary Magdalene.

Office Opening Hours

The office is open to personal callers on:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Access to the office on other days is by appointment and prior arrangement.

We pray for those who have died: Rod Pearson.

We pray for the sick especially: Steve Allingham, Patrick Atwell, Stephanie Bacon, Tony Batkin, Angela Burden, Kate Brignall, Winifrede Connellan, Andrew Cruikshank, Maria Cronin, Brendan Dillistone, Christopher Gardiner, Yvonne Gibbs, Michael Halse, Jackie Hearn, Leanne Hearn, Carly Hearn, Lawrence Hearn, Margaret Keep, George Thomas Lowry, Roy Mitchell, Sally Moore, Karl Pearson, Paddy Pearson, Rachael Smart, Janet Smith, David Spooner, Carol Standen, Terry Standen, Mary Stewart, Connie Stoddart, Rosanna De Souza, David Standen, Eileen Sullivan, Mary Tenneffe, Margaret Tuberet, Kathleen Tunny, Jordan Whyborne and Anne Wilkinson.

Plate Collections
 1st December
 £918.72
 Gift Aid: £590.90

2nd Collection:
 £173.56
 Gift Aid: 126.00
 Christmas Flowers

 8th December
 Parish Charity Fund
 (blue envelopes)

 15th December
 Parish Poor Fund
 (blue envelopes)

 22nd December
 Friends of the Holy Land
 (blue envelopes)

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

Adoration
St Mary Magdalene's Church
Friday 10:30am - 12:30pm & 5:00pm - 8:00pm



CTiB Prayer List

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

Next week: Living Word Church (Dale Barrett)

Thank you

Sr Bernadette thanks all the lovely parishioners in Bexhill for being so kind to her. She promises to keep us all in her prayers and have Mass said for us.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Weekly: St Martha's
 1st Sunday: St Mary Magdalene
 (next date: Epiphany, 5th Jan).

These liturgies are for children old enough to engage with the word, up until about First Holy Communion. As the catechists are experienced there is no need for parents to go out and miss the richness of the Liturgy of the Word.

Christmas Collection

From the Parish Finance Committee:
 The collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to the clergy of the Parish. They do not receive a salary from the Church / Diocese but rely on the generosity of parishioners who make their gift through the Christmas Collection. Please take a 'green' envelope and place it in the collection at your Christmas Mass (or if away, at any Sunday Mass throughout Advent).

Readers for 11am Sunday Mass at St Mary Magdalene's

If anyone who is currently a reader or interested in reading at the 11am Sunday Mass could they please leave your name and contact number with the Parish Office before Monday 9th December and you will be contacted with further details.

Christmas Masses 2019 Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary

Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24th December

- 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas St Mary Magdalene
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas St Martha's
- 10.00pm Syro-Malabar Mass St Martha
- Midnight - Midnight Mass St Mary Magdalene

Vigil Masses and Midnight Mass are preceded by Carols that commence 30 mins before each Mass.

Christmas Day
Wednesday 25th December
The Nativity of the Lord

- 8.00am Dawn Mass St Mary Magdalene
- 9.00am Dawn Mass St Martha
- 11.00am Day Mass St Mary Magdalene

Christmas Collection is the 'Clergy Offering'

Feast of St Stephen
Thursday 26th December

- 10.00am Mass St Mary Magdalene's

Crib Offering is for:
'The Arundel & Brighton Crisis Fund'.

Cafod World Gifts:

Booklets now available at the back of the churches.

Parish Diary - December

Thursday 12 th December	WJT Session 4.	6:30pm Presbytery
Tuesday 17 th December	SVP Meeting	6:00pm Presbytery

Congratulations to our Christmas Card Competition Winner 2019

Roshna Benoy age 10yrs, who attends St Mary Magdalene's church and St Mary Magdalene primary school.

Roshna will receive a £20 voucher.

Thanks and congratulations to Roshna 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.

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.

Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Server's for Christmas Masses at St Mary Magdalene's

If you are a **Reader and/or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** or a **Server** and are planning to attend the following Masses:

- **6pm Vigil Mass (24th Dec)**
- **Midnight Mass**
- **8am Dawn Mass**

Please contact the parish office and provide your name and contact details by Friday 12th Dec.

We will then contact you with a rota. Thank you.

For the **11am Mass**, please speak with the Mass co-ordinator this Sunday or Next Sunday.

MISSIO Red Boxes

Please bring your boxes into the parish office for counting, ensuring they are labelled with your name and church you attend.

Thank you for the £1159.39 collected last year.

Do look at missio.org.uk to see how your money helped all around

Holy Communion for Housebound Parishioners

Sadly, Sr Bernadette has retired but I have done my best to ensure that everyone still receives Holy Communion at home as before.

If there has been a hitch, then please contact me ASAP so I can sort it out. Thanks - Ron Brazier 844177

Parish Finance Meeting

7pm Thursday 9th January 2020 in the parish hall at St Martha's

The Finance Committee will be on hand to talk through the last financial statement and to present the parish's financial position going forward. They will happily answer your questions but ask that they be submitted in advance.

Cheques:

Please continue to write cheques to "St Mary Magdalene's Church". Thank you.

Crib Offering 2019

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

Parish Advent Service Inc. Nativity Play & Christingle 2.30pm on Sunday 15th December St Martha's

Followed by refreshments.

(Confirmation service project)

Lots of children are needed for the Advent Nativity Play: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds and Wise men.

One rehearsal at St Martha's: At 2pm Saturday 14th December **Please contact Sarah on 01424 213514**

Day of Reflection & Music for Music Ministers Sat 14th December 11am-4pm

St Dunstan's, Woking, 01293 651164 or at ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk

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

Clergy:

Fr Simon Dray

Fr Rajesh Minz

Deacon Simon Kirkdale

Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB

(Priest in Residence)

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

Parish Office opening hours

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday: 9am-1pm

Safeguarding Rep

Sylvia Cousins

Hospitals

Conquest Hastings

01424 757088

Bexhill - Irvine Unit

01424 730077

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Contact: Mary Williams
via 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

PARISH NEWS

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 7th December	Memorial	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor
St Mary Magdalene	9:30am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	Susan Eyre
St Mary Magdalene	12 noon	Baptism of Henry Malcolm
St Mary Magdalene	2:00pm	Syro-Malabar Mass

Second Sunday of Advent Yr A

Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

St Mary Magdalene	5:30pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6:00pm	Bernard A Bedford RIP
Sunday 8th December		
St Martha	8:15am	Confessions
St Martha	9:00am	Rosario Vilora RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Roy & Peggy Fisher RIP
St Mary Magdalene	12:30pm	Baptism of Kyrie Cabanlit
St Mary Magdalene	3:00pm	Parish Reconciliation Service With 1st Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6:00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection to support the work of those who work with the poor & homeless
(blue envelopes)

Monday 9th December

Solemnity	The Immaculate Conception of the BVM
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St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	Mick Hanson RIP
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Tuesday 10th December

St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	Percy & Catherine Bedford RIP
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Wednesday 11th December

St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	Mary Bunyan RIP
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Thursday 12th December

St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	Opt Mem. Our Lady of Guadalupe
St Martha	7:00pm	Joseph Thomas RIP
		Priests Intentions

Friday 13th December

St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	Memorial St Lucy
St Mary Magdalene	10:45am - 12:30pm	Monica M Elliott RIP
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		And Benediction
St Mary Magdalene	5pm - 8pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 14th December

St Mary Magdalene	9:30am	Memorial St John of the Cross
St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	Confession
		Anthony N Bedford RIP

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent Yr A

Isaiah 35:1-6.10, St James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

St Mary Magdalene	5:30pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6:00pm	Bernard A Bedford RIP

Sunday 15th December

St Martha	8:15am	Confessions
St Martha	9:00am	Clare Simon RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Robert Stevens RIP
St Martha	2:30pm	Parish Advent Service
		Led by the confirmation group
		(Service group project)
St Mary Magdalene	6:00pm	People of the Parish

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(blue envelopes)