



PARISH NEWS

22nd December to 3rd January 2019
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR EDITION

The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea
Comprising St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre, & St Martha, Little Common.

Christmas Mass Times

- 6pm St Mary Magdalene: Vigil of Christmas
- 8pm St Martha's: Vigil of Christmas
- 10pm: St Mary Magdalene Syro-Malabar Mass
- Midnight St Mary Magdalene: Midnight Mass
- 8am St Mary Magdalene: Mass at Dawn
- 9am St Martha's: Mass at Dawn
- 11am St Mary Magdalene: Mass of the Day

Boxing Day:

Feast of St Stephen

Fr Rajesh invites all Altar Servers to come and join him for Holy Mass at 10am on the Feast of St Stephen, Patron of Altar Servers.

Sunday 29th December: Holy Family

Normal Mass times

Fr Stephen Ortiger

Many thanks to Fr Stephen for all his support to Fr Simon and to the parish this year, which has allowed Fr Simon to get back to good health and concentrate on the many financial and structural issues facing the parish. He is with us until Epiphany and returns to Worth Abbey with our love and prayers. There will be a thanksgiving collection for Worth Abbey & Fr Stephen later in January.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office is closed 24th Dec to 2nd Jan (inclusive)

Psalm Responses:

**Advent 4: *Let the Lord enter!
He is the King of glory.***

Vigil: *I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

**Midnight: *Today a saviour has been born to us;
he is Christ the Lord.***

**Dawn: *This day new light will shine upon the
earth: the Lord is born for us.***

**Day: *All the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation of our God.***

**Holy Family: *O blessed are those who fear the
Lord and walk in his ways!***



**Fr Simon, Fr Rajesh, Fr Stephen,
Deacon Simon and the Parish Team
wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year. We thank everyone for their service to
the parish.**

Christmas Collection

"Clergy Gift"

Did you know that priests do not receive a salary? They rely on the generosity of parishioners who give offerings. Your Christmas offering makes up the largest part of their income. Please use the 'Green' Envelopes provided to make your offering. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We pray for those who have died: Alicia Caulfield RIP.

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.

CHARITY

Over Advent 2019, in the second collections and after the Christingle Service, we have collected for charities that work with the homeless and have donated £2328.16 to the Homeless Unity Group (H.U.G.) here in Bexhill.

From Fr Boniface:

Greetings for a holy and blessed Christmas to all; I look forward to seeing you in the New year.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE"

Fear not!

Your answers to 'What do you appreciate most about our parish?' and 'What would you most like to see?' are being collated; a summary will be published in early January. Watch this space. Love and prayers. Fr Stephen.

Catholic Women's League:

General meeting/ housekeeping Mon 6th Jan, 7:30pm St Martha's Hall Contact: Anne Campbell 221803.

This edition of the Newsletter celebrates the work of the Parish Pastoral Care Group (PPCG)

Update by Ron Brazier 844177 or ronbrazier26@gmail.com

The group, consisting of Fr Simon, Fr Rajesh, Anne Barry, Clare Brazier, Ron Brazier (Chair), Mary Carroll, Sally Moore and Mary Williams (S.V.P.) have been supporting parishioners for seven years. The group enlists associate members for certain events especially when offering lifts or providing simple catering. If you can help at all, have ideas or questions, please contact Ron (details above).

The Annual Programme: Each year the group organises events (social and spiritual) for parishioners. The year begins in January with a 'welcome tea' for new parishioners in the presbytery (**3pm on 26th Jan 2020**). In Advent & Lent, the team organises mornings of recollection for ministers and parishioners, and in November there is the Parish Bereavement Mass & Coffee morning. At various times the group organises afternoon tea, a day pilgrimage in June and longer pilgrimages every three years. The group also supports the annual SVP Mass in June. Fundraising supports Mary's Meals, Friends of the Holy Land and H.U.G. Keep an eye open in the Parish newsletter for upcoming events.

On-going support: Around twenty Extraordinary Ministers take Holy Communion to over fifty parishioners, mostly weekly. This is, in many cases, the only contact they have with the parish and so we help them to feel included by taking parish newsletters, etc. and also feeding back specific requests to the priests and SVP. We encourage more ministers to take on at least one local visit.

Homelessness: The Parish is a supporter of the Homelessness Unity Group (H.U.G.) and makes donations from the restricted Parish Charity & Poor funds held by the parish, amounting to £2,000 in 2019, along with clothes and sleeping bags. Around 15 parishioners offered their help to H.U.G. at St Barnabas's Church at one of the five weekly sessions by making hot drinks, simple meals or having a chat. This is a great witness of our faith. Please pray for them, especially over Christmas.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: weekly (*during term time*) at 9am Mass at St Martha's and 1st Sunday of the Month at 11am St Mary Magdalene (Next: 5th Jan '20)

Going into Hospital? Conquest Chaplaincy Team

Did you know that the Hospital does not let parishes know you are in hospital? However, there is Chaplaincy support! For a visit from one of the Catholic Chaplaincy Team for Anointing, Holy Communion or a General Visit please contact the **Catholic Conquest Chaplain: Cecilia Weathers on 01424 757088** or **Irvine Unit Bexhill: Mary Williams 01424 810077.**

If you know you are going into hospital for an operation, ask one of the priests to give you the Sacrament of the Sick one Sunday before you go into hospital.

The Parish Society of St Vincent de Paul: The society recognizes that *“No work of charity is foreign to the Society”* (within their means, of course). The Society started by helping the poor of Paris almost 200 years ago and is now a world-wide charity supporting millions of people. In Bexhill the S.V.P. tends to support lonely people but also undertakes special projects such as “Baby Baskets” and support families in our schools. If you or someone you know (with permission) would like a visit from the S.V.P. please contact Mary Williams (President) c/o the Parish office. If you would like to join the team, please also contact Mary. Auxiliary members can visit but do not attend meetings.

Sr Bernadette: Many thanks to Ron for driving Sr Bernadette back to Loughborough, marking the end of 126 years of the Rosminian presence in Bexhill. At Sr Bernadette’s request it passed without ceremony and was appropriate because it showed her quiet dedication to her ministry. Every day she spent hours taking Holy Communion to the Housebound and over 12 years in Bexhill she enriched the lives of hundreds of people and so many people are feeling bereft at her departure. Her commitment, without seeking recognition, reflects our faith in action so clearly. We know that her reward will be great in heaven. Please remember Sr Bernadette in your prayers and wish her well for her retirement. We know that she is already missing her work in Bexhill. There are many parishioners who are equally committed to carrying out good works, acts that go unnoticed. As Mt 6 says, *‘Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.’* Thank the Lord for the Rosminians who founded our parish and taught us, that *‘love is the fulness of the law’*.

Mary Bird: Mary was present at the laying of St Martha’s foundation stone in 1939. For 27 years she has been sacristan and at one time there were daily Masses, often at 7.30am and she carried out her duties to perfection. Mary now stands down as senior sacristan and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion but will consult when the team gets confused about Fr Simon’s liturgical whims! Mary has been involved in many other ministries over the years and many people are now covering her duties! Thank You Mary!

Evening Weekday Mass: Resuming on Thursday 16th January we have a weekday Mass in the evening at 7pm at St Martha’s in Little Common. This is a good opportunity for workers to get to a second Mass.

Parish Finance Meeting: The Parish Finance Committee will update us on the latest financial statement and take your advance questions. This will be at St Martha’s Hall on Thursday 9th January at 7pm.

Jolly Parish Lunch: In operation for 10+ years at a local restaurant - All welcome, and transport can be arranged if necessary. Around 25 lunch every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Contact Angela 220752 or Mary 220334.

Wednesday Club: After the 10am Mass on Wednesday parishioners and friends gather in St MM Hall and enjoy refreshments followed by activities run by members and guest contributors. Contact Julia 213078.

Fr Desmond’s Jubilee 50th Anniversary Mass: 7pm on Friday 17th January 2020 at St Mary Magdalene.

All at St Mary Magdalene:

Monday 30th December	10:00 am	Edna & Fred Herring RIP
Tuesday 31st December	10:00 am	Thanksgiving Mass Durrant Family
Wednesday 1st January	10:00 am	Kath Malone
Thursday 2nd January	10:00 am	Paul Robinson RIP (Jr)
		No Evening Mass at St Martha
Friday 3rd January	10:00 am	Francesco Russo RIP No Exposition Today Friday Abstinence
Saturday 4th January		
St Mary Magdalene’s	9:30 am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene’s	10:00 am	Kiazia Doyle RIP
The Epiphany of the Lord		
St Mary Magdalene’s	5:30 pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene’s	6:00 pm	Paul McKeivitt RIP
Sunday 5th January		
St Mary Magdalene’s	6:00 pm	For Andrew & Daniel Phillips
St Martha’s	9:00 am	Danny McNally RIP
St Mary Magdalene’s	11:00 am	People of the Parish: Children’s Liturgy of the Word Today
St Mary Magdalene’s	6:00 pm	Joan Benzie RIP

The second collection on Epiphany is for Fr Desmond Baker for his Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary of Priesthood) to fund a reception & as a gift. Desmond has been and continues to be a vital and welcome source of supply. (blue envelopes)

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

Parish Clergy:

Fr Simon Dray
Fr Rajesh Minz
Deacon Simon Kirkdale

In residence:
Fr Stephen Ortiger

Parish Office
Administrators:
Bonita Osmond-Maher
Lisa Young
Telephone: 01424 210263

Email:
stmm@btconnect.com

Website:
www.stmmbexhill.co.uk

Office Hours:
Mon, Wed & Fri 9am - 1pm

Hospitals

Conquest Hastings
01424 757088
Bexhill - Irvine Unit
Contact: Mary Williams
marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk
St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Mary Williams
marycharltonwilliams@live.co.uk

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
info@stmmnursery.co.uk

CRIB COLLECTION 2019/20
A&B Children's Society
Crisis / Emergency Fund

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24

St Mary Magdalene's	5:30pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Denis, Mary & Joan O'Sullivan RIP
Sunday 22nd December		
St Martha's	8:15am	Confessions
St Martha's	9:00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene's	11:00am	Juliane O'Haloran RIP
St Mary Magdalene's	12:30pm	Baptism of Theodore & Olive Over
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	People of the Parish

Friends of the Holy Land (not in our scheme)

Monday 23rd December

St Mary Magdalene's	10:00 am	Nancy & Don Simmons, June & Lionel Lawrence Keep
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Tuesday 24th December

St Mary Magdalene's	5:30pm	Christmas Carols
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Vigil Mass: Priests Intention
St Martha's	7:30pm	Christmas Carols
St Martha's	8:00pm	Vigil Mass: Priest's Intention
St Martha's	10:00pm	Syro-Malabar Mass

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Clergy Gift

Green Christmas Envelopes

Wed 25th December

St Mary Magdalene's	11:30pm	Christmas Carols
St Mary Magdalene's	00:00am	Midnight Mass: People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene's	8:00 am	Dawn Mass: For the sick & housebound
St Martha's	9:00 am	Dawn Mass: For the sick & housebound
St Mary Magdalene's	11:00 am	Day Mass: For the sick & housebound

Solemnity

The Nativity of the Lord

Thursday 26th December

St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Martin Malone RIP
Friday 27th December		
St Mary Magdalene's	10:00 am	Catherine W Ford RIP
No Exposition Today		
No Abstinence Required in the Octave		

Feast

St Stephen

Feast

St John the Evangelist

Saturday 28th December

St Mary Magdalene's	9:30am	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	10:00am	Aleena Aju (Birthday)

Feast

Holy Innocents

Holy Family Year A

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

Saturday 28th December

St Mary Magdalene's	5:30pm	Confessions
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Hanson Driscoll Families living and deceased

Sunday 29th December

St Martha's	9:00am	Pamela & Keith Bourne GE
St Mary Magdalene's	11:00am	June & Patrick Callaghan RIP
St Mary Magdalene's	6:00pm	Priests Intentions

Church Maintenance (blue envelopes)

Mass times continued inside...