

PARISH NEWS

5th January 2020

Epiphany of the Lord Yr A

The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea

Comprising St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

On the Epiphany of the Lord, in keeping with the ancient practice of the Church we announce the moveable feasts:

"Know, dear brothers and sisters that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour. On the 26th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the 12th day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the 21st day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the 31st day of May, the feast of Pentecost. On the 14th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the 29th day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Fr Stephen Ortiger: Thanks to Fr Stephen for his assistance to Fr Simon when he was unwell earlier in the year and to the parish during this time of transition to the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary. Our thanks also to the Abbot of Worth for releasing Fr Stephen for pastoral duties. Fr Stephen returns to Worth on 8th January. Later in January we will have a collection for Worth and Fr Stephen to thank them for his time with us.

Fr Rajesh Minz: Congratulations to Fr Rajesh on his 12th anniversary of priesthood. Fr Rajesh will preside at the 10am Mass on Monday 6th January in order to commemorate his anniversary.

Parish Finance Meeting: Reminder: there is an open Parish Finance Meeting in the parish hall at St Martha's at 7pm on Thursday 9th January. The Finance Committee will take your questions (*submitted in advance*, to reach them via stmm@btconnect.com by Tuesday).

Welcome to 2020 and a new year! It is good to have the opportunity to feel we are starting again, that we can put behind us the difficulties of the past and face with confidence whatever lies ahead of us. It is very human to be optimistic but to be people of hope is a God-given grace: and that is the kind of people we, the baptised, are.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the "Epiphany". This feast is sometimes called the Feast of the Magi or the Feast of the Three Kings because we remember today how the Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus acknowledging him to be Lord, God's revelation to the world. It is the revelation of God and of God's love in the child born in Bethlehem.

My anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood is a day when I reflect on how, when I doubt my goodness, my ability and my wisdom, God gives me the gifts I need and the people I need to help me to overcome my inadequacies and my confidence in myself so that I can serve him and his people in the Church. I hope and pray that others will hear God calling them. The priesthood is a wonderful and fulfilling life, and I am thankful to God for calling me and for using my gifts in his service. Pray for me that I may faithfully continue to serve him and his people for the years to come!

With my prayers and every blessing, Fr Rajesh.

Epiphany Chalk – Available at the Crib

Using the chalk to mark the lintel of your front door:

20 + C + M + B + 20

While saying: *the three wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's son who became human two thousand and twenty years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the year... Then: 'visit, O Blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in your peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen'.*

Fr Desmond Baker's Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) of Priesthood:

Fr Desmond will celebrate Mass for his Golden Jubilee on Friday 17th January 2020 at 7pm in St Mary Magdalene. Fr Desmond has been an essential source of supply to the parish over many years so please do come and celebrate with him. The **second collection today** is to provide a festive buffet after the Mass and to provide him with a gift.

We pray for those who have died: Helen Ambrose, Kathleen Randall, Yvonne Surrey & Edward Echlin.
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

15th December
 £799.56
 Gift Aid: £695.00

2nd collection
 £455.20
 Gift Aid £269.45
 Parish Poor Fund

 22nd December
 £822.35
 Gift Aid: £631.84

2nd collection
 £365.13
 Gift Aid: n/a
 Friends of the Holy Land

 29th December
 £789.69
 Gift aid: £459.70

2nd collection
 £166.93
 Gift Aid: £77.72
 Church Maintenance
 (blue envelopes)

 5th January
 Fr Desmond Baker's 50th
 Anniversary of Priesthood
 (special envelopes)

 12th January
 Society for the Unborn Child (SPUC)
 (special envelopes)

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

 **CTiB Prayer List**
This week: Sidley Baptist
 (Guy Partridge)
Next week: Kings Church Bexhill
 (Steve Young)

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
Please contact Ron Brazier: 844177

Parish Office Opening Times
 9am to 1pm
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 at other times by appointment or by pre-arrangement.
Early closing this Monday 11:40am

From Fr Stephen:
 Huge thanks from me to Fr Simon, Fr Rajesh, Deacon Simon and all of you for making me so welcome during my time at Bexhill. It has been a huge privilege and pleasure to have spent eight lovely months with you and I will miss you all very much when I depart (I leave on 8th January.) I will stay in contact and, whether near or far, I pray for God's abundant blessings on you and your families.
 in 2020 and always.

Confirmation 2020
 The next meeting is:
4pm, Sunday 26th January, at the Presbytery
If you haven't done so, please return your Whitstable Retreat Paperwork ASAP
The Retreat is 31 Jan – 2 Feb.

Funerals
Yvonne Surrey RIP
 Bexhill Cemetery Chapel, 12 noon, Monday 13th January
Ed Echlin RIP
 St Martha's, 12.30pm, Wednesday 15th January
Helen Ambrose RIP
 St Martha's, 11am, Monday 20th January

Parish Diary - January

Wednesday 8 th January	RCIA Session 5.	7:00pm Presbytery
Thursday 9 th January	Annual Open finance Meeting	7:00pm St Martha's hall
Wednesday 15 th January	Mother's Prayers Group	7:30pm Presbytery
Thursday 16 th January	WJT Session 5	6:30pm Presbytery
Saturday 18 th January	Formation & Training for Proclaimers of the Word (Readers)	After 10am Mass St Mary Magdalene hall
Tuesday 21 st January	SVP Meeting	6:00pm Presbytery
Wednesday 22 nd January	Baptism Preparation	7:00pm Presbytery
Saturday 25 th January	Altar Servers Morning of Reflection	10am Mass at St Mary Magdalene and after in the presbytery
Sunday 26 th January	Confirmation Session 5.	4:00pm Presbytery
Wednesday 29 th January	RCIA Session 6	7:00pm Presbytery.

The application process for the 2020 Lourdes Pilgrimage is now open.

The online application form for those applying as a helper, chaplain, member of the medical team or as a pilgrim who needs no assistance can be found at: <https://www.my-holiday-booking.co.uk/crm/introduction/index/i/17/eid/9>

If you would like to go to Lourdes as an Assisted Pilgrim, please contact the Pilgrimage Office who will post a form to you:

E: office@ablourdes.org

T: 01403 740110

Companionship

As we get older, we find it more difficult to get around and also our friends and relations are likely to as well and, sadly some die before us.

Therefore, it is inevitable that we may become more and more lonely and perhaps slightly removed from society.

The Parish Pastoral Care Group are looking at this issue and aim to produce a handout leaflet showing what support we can tap into both for housebound parishioners and for those who can get out with a bit of assistance.

If you have any ideas you would like to contribute, please let us know.

Ron Brazier 844177

Welcome to New Parishioners Afternoon Tea Sunday 26th January 3pm at the presbytery

A very warm welcome to all new parishioners to our parish, we are delighted that you have joined us. Please feel free to make yourself known to the Clergy of our parish and our parishioners. Please do come along for Afternoon Tea and meet the Clergy and parishioners including members of the Pastoral group. Please call the parish office by 18th January if you are able to attend.

We have been asked to provide correct wording regarding donations:

Bequest for a parish/special purpose:

I give to the Trustees of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust of Bishop's House The Upper Drive Hove East Sussex BN3 6NB being registered charity Number 252878 [the sum of £..... free of tax] [..... of my residuary estate] on trust for such charitable purposes in connection with St Mary Magdalene's Parish, Bexhill on Sea in the said Diocese as the Trustees shall in their absolute discretion think fit and the receipt of the Financial Secretary or other officer of the Trust shall be a full discharge to my executors in respect of the same.

Worth Abbey - Open Cloister

A wonderful place for a retreat for groups. Availability in 2020 on some weekdays and weekends. Full details at www.worth.co.uk

Cheques:

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

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

The next SVP Meeting will be on 21st January in the Parish Offices at 6pm.

Morning of Recollection & Training for Readers:

As part of the Year of the Word, the God who Speaks. 10am Mass followed by the formation in St Mary Magdalene Church on Saturday 18th January 2020. All welcome.

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)

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

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Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 4th January

St Mary Magdalene 9:30am Confession
St Mary Magdalene 10:00am Kazia Doyle RIP

The Epiphany of the Lord Yr A

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

St Mary Magdalene 5:30pm Confessions
St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm Paul McKeivitt RIP

Sunday 5th January

St Martha 9:00am Andrew & Daniel Phillips in thanksgiving
St Mary Magdalene 11:00am People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm Joan Benzie RIP

Special Collection for Fr Desmond Baker's 50th Anniversary of Priesthood

Monday 6th January

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

Monday after Epiphany

Frank Ratcliffe RIP

Tuesday 7th January

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

Tuesday after Epiphany

Pearl Lucy RIP

Wednesday 8th January

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

Wednesday after Epiphany

Catholic Women's League

Thursday 9th January

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

Thursday after Epiphany

Cyril Hanson RIP

St Martha 7:00pm

No Mass today (resumes 16th Jan)

St Martha's Hall 7:00pm

Open Finance Meeting

Friday 10th January

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

Friday after Epiphany

Paul McCann RIP

St Mary Magdalene 10:45am -

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:30pm

And Benediction

St Mary Magdalene 5pm - 8pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 11th January

St Mary Magdalene 9:30am

Saturday after Epiphany

Confession

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

Kate Fallon RIP

Baptism of the Lord Yr A

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7, Apostles 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

St Mary Magdalene 5:30pm Confessions

St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm Matthew Hargan GE & Family

Sunday 12th January

St Martha 9:00am People of the Parish

St Mary Magdalene 11:00am Joseph Thomas RIP

St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm Jack Oliver Lucy RIP

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

**We welcome Fr Boniface Moran from 6th January for
his post-Christmas break.**

**And finally, many thanks to everyone for all their Christmas gifts, greetings,
prayers and efforts over this most sacred season.**