

15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

# PARISH NEWS

Third Sunday of Lent Yr A.

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

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

## Coronavirus Update Stage 2 Precautions

The Church in England and Wales is now officially at **Stage 2** precautions:

1. Communion under one kind, ideally in the hand only\*.
2. No physical sign of peace.
3. No Holy Water in the stoups.
4. Please do not touch or kiss the statues.
5. Vulnerable people with significant underlying medical conditions are advised not to attend parish gatherings or liturgies.
6. Hymn books will not be distributed.
7. Use the hand sanitizers.
8. *Catch it, kill it & bin it!*
9. Anyone with cold and flu symptoms should be at home.
10. There will be no collection plate passed around; please place your offertory in the large box (*by St Anthony statue in St Mary Magdalene*) or (*on the altar rail at St Martha's*)
11. Catering and Refreshments will not be served at or after parish events or liturgies.

*\*While the faithful always have the right to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, in this time of precaution, **Bishop Richard** asks those who normally receive on the tongue to please consider receiving on the hand instead. Those who find it especially difficult to not receive on the tongue will be asked to wait and then be invited to come forward after those who receive on the hand. We also remind people of the value of a spiritual communion (see inside), mindful that the Sunday Obligation is to join in the celebration of the Mass and not to receive Holy Communion.*

***O that today you would listen to  
his voice:  
'Harden not your hearts.'***

## The First Scrutiny

We pray for those preparing for Baptism and Reception into full communion with the Church. This is an intense period of preparation, and as we all prepare to make or renew our baptismal promises we reflect on the word of God in our hearts and savour its meaning in our lives. We seek a deeper knowledge of Christ, who came to save what was lost. We reflect that we are sinners in need of confession, on what is displeasing to God and contrary to Christ, so that we may finally reject it. We welcome the Holy Spirit who searches our hearts and helps us overcome weakness, teaching us to know the things of heaven and please almighty God. We focus on our families, helping them to also put their trust in Christ, so that they too may find peace and holiness in him. We focus especially on our own participation in the Sacred Paschal Triduum and how it will bring about a change of heart, a renewal in prayer and perseverance in good works. Throughout Lent we focus on what is weak and in need of strengthening, on what is lost, so it may be found, and then redeemed. Most especially in *The Year of the Word: The God who speaks* may we turn to the Lord as we hear him speak and acknowledge the sins that weigh us down. May God always protect us from the vain reliance of self and defend us from the power of Satan. May God free us from any spirit of deceit, so that, admitting the wrong we have done, we may attain a purity of heart and advance on the way to salvation. Here in this place, the Master is here and waiting for us to come to him; He is the Holy One of God. To him we open our hearts in faith, confess our sins and lay bare our hidden wounds. In love, Christ heals us, freeing us from our infirmities, from our sickness, quenching our thirst and granting us his peace. In these last few weeks, we ask Christ to show the Elect (*preparing for Baptism*) and the Candidates (*preparing for reception*), the way of salvation.

With every blessing, Fr Simon.

**We pray for those who have died:** Archbishop Peter Smith.

**We pray for the sick especially:** Steve Allingham, Patrick Atwell, Stephanie Bacon, Tony Batkin, Angela Burden, 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, Rose Massey, 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, Mary Tenneffe, Margaret Tuberet, Kathleen Tunny, Jordan Whyborne and Anne Wilkinson.

**Plate Collections**  
 8<sup>th</sup> March  
 £748.64

Gift Aid: £603.00

2<sup>nd</sup> collection  
 £1177.61

Gift Aid: n/a

Mission Appeal -  
 Society of  
 St Columban

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15<sup>th</sup> March  
 SVP  
 (not in our  
 scheme)

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22<sup>nd</sup> March  
 Parish Charity  
 Fund  
 (blue envelopes)

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**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:  
 01424 757088

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**Holy  
 Communion for  
 Housebound  
 Parishioners**  
 Please contact  
 Ron Brazier:  
 844177

**Adoration**  
 Fridays 10.40am to 12.30pm  
 &  
 5pm to 8pm

**Confirmation 2020**  
 4pm, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March,  
 at the presbytery

**CTiB Prayer Cycle:**  
**This week: Hospital Chaplains**  
**Next Week: All Saints' Sidley**  
 (Michael Bailey, Andrew Birks)

**Stations of the Cross**  
 Fridays: 3pm at St Martha's  
 Saturdays: *after 10am Mass* at  
 St Mary Magdalene  
 Starts: 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> February

**Volunteers Needed:**  
 Help the flower Ladies team to  
**decorate St Mary Magdalene church**  
**for Easter** - on Holy Saturday, 10am.  
 If you can help, call Helga: 848504  
*Also*  
 Help needed to **clean and polish**  
**St Mary Magdalene church** on the  
 Monday after Palm Sunday, prior to  
 Maundy Thursday. Please bring your  
 own cleaning materials. Please call the  
 parish office if you can help by -  
 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Other Holy Week Liturgies**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
 Children's Stations of the Cross  
 11am at St Martha's  
 Evening Prayer of the Church with  
 Veneration of the Cross  
 7pm at St Martha's

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
 Blessing of Easter Food Baskets  
 9.30am at St Mary Magdalene

**Hall Hirers / Users**  
**Re: Coronavirus**  
**All catering in parish halls**  
**is to cease.**  
**This includes such gatherings as**  
**refreshments after Mass**  
**and any catering for groups**  
**that may be hiring parish halls.**  
*Please adhere to the above instructions*  
*until further notice as instructed*  
*by Bishop Richard of*  
*Arundel & Brighton Diocese.*

**This is your Dowry, O Pious Virgin**  
 England was first known as the Dowry of  
 Mary since the time of St Edward the  
 Confessor (1042-1066). England has long  
 had a deep devotion to Mary, and the shrine  
 of Our Lady of Walsingham is a strong  
 testimony to this devotion.  
 In the Hospice of St Thomas in Rome (*now*  
*the Venerable English College*) there was a  
 painting which showed King Richard II  
 (1337-1399) and his consort Anne at  
 Westminster Abbey, praying at the Shrine of  
 Our Lady of Pewe, offering England to Our  
 Lady as Her Dowry. He holds a parchment,  
 which says, 'This is your dowry, O Pious  
 Virgin'.  
 On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020, our country will once  
 again be dedicated as Our Lady's Dowry  
 and at the end of Masses from 21<sup>st</sup> February  
 until 29<sup>th</sup> March we will pray especially for  
 this intention.

**Spiritual Communion for those not  
 receiving Holy Communion:**  
*I wish, Lord, to receive you with the purity,  
 humility and devotion with which your most  
 holy mother received you, with the spirit  
 and fervour of the saints.*

**Parish Diary - March/April**

Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Confirmation Session 8.	4 pm Presbytery
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	SVP Meeting	6 pm Presbytery
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	RCIA Session 9.	7 pm Presbytery
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Prayer Group	7:30 pm Prayer room
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Triduum Music Rehearsal	7 -8.30 pm St Mary Magdalene church
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Triduum Music Rehearsal	7 -8.30 pm St Mary Magdalene church
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Mother's Prayer Group	7pm Prayer room
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Triduum Music Rehearsal	7 -8.30 pm St Mary Magdalene church
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	WJT Session 9.	6:30pm Presbytery
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	RCIA Session 10.	7pm Presbytery & church

**Deacon Tom Kent**

Next weekend we welcome Deacon Tom Kent who, God willing, will be ordained a priest for our diocese this summer. He will assist at Mass at 6pm Vigil, 9am and 11am Mass on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent and will preach the homily. Please pray for him and for vocations to the Sacred Priesthood.

**Music Rehearsals for the Easter Triduum:**

If you would like to sing or play during the Easter Triduum, the rehearsals are:  
7pm on Thursdays:  
19th March, 26th March and 2nd April in St Mary Magdalene Church.

**Pastoral Care Group**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm**

**Film showing in the Presbytery:**  
**'The Way'** - A moving film about a journey on the Camino pilgrimage route in Northern Spain.

**Holy Cross Priory 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

We will assume that it will go ahead, please continue to send in your forms and deposit. Of course, deposits will be refunded if it is necessary to cancel, due to progression of the Coronavirus.

**West Grinstead and Worth Abbey Pilgrimage - 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

We will continue to take names of those interested in this pilgrimage (see last week's newsletter for details or ask Ron or the parish office).

**Friends of the Holy Land – Crisis in Bethlehem.**

During the Parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land a few years ago we met representatives from this charity and pledged that we would support them with an annual collection during Lent. Here is a quote from the charity:-

In 2020 the situation in the Holy Land is becoming more challenging, making our reason for existence ever more important. Christians in the Holy Land are doing their best to continue their daily lives in difficult circumstances and we are doing our best to help make their lives just a little easier. The situation has worsened in the last week as the coronavirus has virtually shut down Bethlehem and the tourist industry, the main source of income, has collapsed.

Please remember them in your prayers and if you feel you can make a donation please send them to the parish office – cheques payable to "Friends of the Holy Land"- by Easter. If you would like a GAD envelope please let me know. Plus - small TV wanted for someone in need. Contact Ron if you can help. Ron Brazier 844177.

**St Richards**

**Catholic College**

**PTFA Quiz Night**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7 pm for 7.30 pm start**

Tables up to 8:  
£3 per adult, £1 per child.  
Bring your own refreshments.  
To book: 731070 or  
PTFA@strichardscc.com

**The Catenians**

At all Masses this Sunday we welcome representatives of the Catenian Association. Our speakers are part of the 1066 Bexhill & Hastings Circle, and are Catholic laymen who are committed to their Faith, their families, to those in need and to each other.

**Fairtrade Stall**

**St Martha's Hall**

**After Mass**

**15<sup>th</sup> March**

Easter Eggs, Cards, Malawi Rice and more!

**CWL Lenten Lunch**

**in aid of CAFOD**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**12 noon, St Martha's hall.**

*Due to current Coronavirus precautions, with regret, this event is now postponed.*

**Wednesday Club**

Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus - Stage 2, the club will be cancelled until further notice.

The planned trip in April has also been postponed.

**Repository**

**Volunteers Needed**

**Sunday 11am & 6pm Masses St Mary Magdalene**

And also to help out occasionally.

Please call the parish office if you can help. Thank you.

## 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**

**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)

**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](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)

## PARISH NEWS

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# Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene 9:30am  
St Mary Magdalene 10:00am  
St Mary Magdalene 10:30am  
St Mary Magdalene Church 11:00am

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March

### Saturday of the Second Week in Lent

Confession  
Thomas Griffin RIP  
*Stations of the Cross & then*  
**Lenten Morning of Reflection**  
**Saturday of the Second Week in Lent**

## Third Sunday of Lent Yr A

*Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2. 5-8, John 4:5-42*

St Mary Magdalene 5:30pm Confessions  
St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm David McGurk RIP & Louis Rosenau RIP  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
St Martha 9:00am Florence Raey RIP  
St Mary Magdalene 11:00am Fr Peter Queally RIP  
St Mary Magdalene 12:30pm Baptism of Eric Andrei Ambaros  
St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm Priests Intentions

### SVP

(not in our scheme)

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am  
St Martha 7:00pm

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene 10:00am  
St Mary Magdalene 10:45am -

12:30pm  
St Martha 3:00pm

St Mary Magdalene 5pm-8pm

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March

St Mary Magdalene 9:30am  
St Mary Magdalene 10:00am

St Mary Magdalene 10:30am  
St Martha 9am-5pm

### Monday of the Third Week in Lent

Roger Livingstone RIP

### Feast St Patrick

Paul McCann RIP

### Wednesday of the Third Week in Lent

Thomas Moran

### Solemnity St Joseph

June & Patrick Callaghan RIP  
Priests Intentions

### Friday of the Third Week in Lent

Jim Turner RIP

### Exposition

### Benediction

### Stations of the Cross

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Saturday of the Third Week in Lent

### Confession

Margaret Mulligan RIP

### Stations of the Cross

Syro-Malabar Annual Retreat

## Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent Yr A

*Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41*

St Mary Magdalene 5:30pm Confessions  
St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm James Benzie RIP  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
St Martha 9:00am Peter Ernest Lindsay Vail RIP  
St Mary Magdalene 11:00am Jim Turner RIP  
St Martha 11am-6pm Syro-Malabar Mission Retreat  
St Mary Magdalene 6:00pm People of the Parish

### Parish Charity Fund

(blue envelopes)