



Pentecost Sunday

31st May 2020



Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill on Sea
St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

From the desk of the Parish Priest (updated)

“As the Father sent me, so am I sending you... receive the Holy Spirit.”

Pentecost means the 50th day since Easter. For seven weeks we have been celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and therefore the Church, enables all the baptised to continue the mission of Jesus to proclaim the good news of salvation.

‘Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit, that we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his holy consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.’

The Holy Spirit is often depicted by a Dove, by Fire and by Wind. The dove descends from the heavens and is a symbol of peace; and at Jesus' Baptism the Gospels attest to the Holy Spirit descending upon him. After the Great Flood, the dove brings back an olive branch to show Noah that the safety of land is near. The dove also speaks to a gentleness; Eucharist Prayer II speaking of the Holy Spirit descending upon the gifts of bread and wine like the dew fall. Gentleness should not be mistaken for inactivity, as the image of Fire speaks of energy, our hearts ablaze with love of God. Fire also gives light and leads the way; we recall the Exodus and the pillar of fire and cloud leading the people out of slavery in Egypt. The Holy Spirit as a divine wind, gives air and breath to the people, it refreshes us and disperse the seed of the Gospel.

Pentecost is the reversal of the punishment following the Tower of Babel. When the people built a tower to reach God, they have their language confused – the root of our word *‘babble’* – and are then dispersed to the four corners of the earth. The Apostles are given the gift of languages and are sent out to gather the nations back into the peace of God's Kingdom. With every blessing, Fr Simon.

Due to COVID-19 all public liturgies remain suspended
Holy Mass is being celebrated privately by Fr Simon & Fr Rajesh

Date	<u>Mass 1</u>	<u>Mass 2</u>	Some of these Masses will be Live Streamed over Facebook, usually 10am but check the Parish Facebook Page for times which may be affected by other pastoral needs.
Sunday 31st May <i>Pentecost</i>	Denis Connor RIP	Enid Hartley RIP	
Monday 1st June <i>Mary Mother of the Church</i>	Cesidio Capaldi RIP		
Tuesday 2nd June <i>Tuesday OT Wk 9</i>	Mary Smith & Family	Requiem: Bernard Saunders RIP	
Wed. 3rd June <i>St Charles Lwanga</i>	Fred Herring RIP		
Thursday 4th June <i>Jesus, Eternal High Priest</i>	Denis Lucey RIP	Bridie Blaine RIP	
Friday 5th June <i>St Boniface</i>	Martin Stiles GE	Pat Fitzgerald RIP	
Saturday 6th June <i>Sat. Memorial of BVM</i>	Alexander MacDonald RIP	People of the Parish	

Some of these Masses will be “Live Streamed” from St Mary Magdalene Presbytery on our Parish Facebook Page: *Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill: St Mary Magdalene & St Martha’s*, which can be found at:

www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

and uploaded afterwards to **You Tube Channel:**

Search: *Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill on Sea.*



For those unable to join the Bexhill Parish Mass through Facebook Live:

Alternatively, you can “stream” Mass live at:

Eastbourne: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyByhHVIFgDkDpZlr_H5bZw

Worthing Parish: <https://www.stmaryoftheangels.org.uk/catholic-mass-online/>

Caterham:

http://www.caterhamcatholic.co.uk/Sacred_Heart_Catholic_Church/public.html

Guildford Parish: <https://www.cpg.church/live.html>

Arundel Cathedral: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC71-pXF8v-VZfzO01zrnerQ>

Those who have died:

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of Fiona Ann Sullivan, Margaret Malone, Baby Tula Bea Mceniry, Bernard Saunders and Bobbie-Jean Hammon whose funerals are pending. Due to social distancing requirements we are not publishing the committal details as only close family are able to attend.

For the sick: Martin Stiles.

[If you'd like your name added or a name of a loved one (with their consent) added to the newsletter to be prayed for, please email stmm@btconnect.com]

New Notices

Message from Churches Together in Bexhill (CTiB): Many of our churches are making provision on-line for weekly and daily services, even by telephone. We thank God for the provision of the technology which allows this to happen and we understand that many people who do not normally go to a church are tapping into this resource as well. Rather like the Apostle Peter at Pentecost, many are being added to our number or, at least, we pray that they are. Here are a few Bible verses that came to my mind as appropriate at this time:

- Matthew 28:20b: *'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'*
- John 3:16: *'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'*
- Acts 2: 41: *'Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.'*

CTiB is grateful for the support (financial and otherwise) given to the **Foodbank**. The coronavirus situation is making it harder but, as with most things, we are able to find a way of working around a situation. The Bexhill Foodbank has moved to a delivery model. The Centre is still open, and 'The Pelham' and British Gas have joined with the team to help with the deliveries. Some volunteers are self-isolating, and it is hard to maintain the social distance. Following Government guidelines, non-family members have to keep to the 2m distance. Disposable gloves are being worn and washing of hands is essential, and there is a lot of support from the Community, especially local Councillors, and the Council. *(Edited Extract from Peter at CTiB)*

Day for Life: This Year's Day for Life has been given an Apostolic Blessing:



Bishop John Sherrington says: ‘the global coronavirus pandemic... has reminded us in the starkest way of the important and God-given dignity and worth of every life, especially the weakest and most frail. This year, the Day for Life message emphasises the care of the unborn child and pregnant women.

More here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/papal-message-day-for-life-2020/>

First Holy Communion: Fr Rajesh and I, and indeed, the whole parish keep in our prayers the First Holy Communion children who would have made their First Holy Communion this weekend (*and on the two following weekends*), and must now wait until such time as we can safely gather in the Church. We ask the children and their parents / carers to continue to work through your '**I Belong**' books so you are ready when the embargo on public gatherings is lifted.

Kairos Forum: Liturgical Resources with those with Special Needs:

Joe Apicella (*from St Martha's*) and his cousin Cris offer liturgical resources with those who have special learning needs: <http://www.kairosforum.org/space/easter-season/>

St Mary Magdalene Primary School: The school has remained open throughout the '*lockdown*' for vulnerable children and those of key workers. Our thanks to the staff for their dedication and service, with gratitude to Mr McKeever (*and to Mrs Andrews who began the process*) and his team. As the school extends its opening to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children from 1st June, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers, as we would always do, for this new half term. Relevant advice and guidance have been sent to parents via ParentMail.

Reminders

Cash & Cheques: A polite reminder asking you not to post cash or cheques through the letter box as Fr Simon has no means of processing them or accounting for them. Where necessary, please make use of the electronic means of transferring payments (*please see the end of the newsletter for the account details*).

Baptisms: All baptisms scheduled for the **month of June** are hereby suspended. They can be rearranged (*with the postponed baptisms from March to May*) when restrictions on public Masses and services have been lifted.

CAFOD Prayer Resources:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Coronavirus-prayers>

Organ Donation: Presumed Consent: This law changed recently on organ donation to a presumed consent unless you have specifically opted out. The **Bishops' Conference of England and Wales** have issued a statement here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/04/Organ-Donation-Guidelines-Feb-2020.pdf>

And guidance for Catholics here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/organ-donation-guidelines-200520/>

CAFOD: Please visit this page for the latest news and appeals:

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Latest-news>

On the site you can continue to donate to the Coronavirus Appeal or by telephone: 020 7733 7900 (Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30).

Cyclone Amphan brings a double crisis to Bangladesh and India, already struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. As usual, the poorest and most disadvantaged are suffering the most. The victims of the recent cyclone in Bangladesh are once again the poorest, who were already scratching a living in this barren coastal area before the cyclone. CADOD and its partners desperately need financial aid to help these people.

Diocesan Resources for Mental Health and well-being:

<https://www.dabnet.org/news/view/314>

Bexhill Food Bank: How to donate.

<https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Spiritual 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.

And, *while we cannot access Confession:*

Act of Personal Contrition: “O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again”.

Continued...

Sacrament of the Sick

For urgent requests do not ring the parish office as our administrators are now unavailable. Instead:

For people at home: email stmm@btconnect.com or simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk and we will check what is the most appropriate option or speak directly with Fr Simon (opt 3) or Fr Rajesh (opt 2) on 01424 210 263; you may need to leave a voicemail.

For people in Care, Residential & Nursing Homes: Please first check with the care home to see if visits are possible / advisable and then ask the care home to ring the priests direct: Fr Simon opt 3 or Fr Rajesh opt 2 on 01424 210 263 – they may need to leave a voicemail message. We will discuss with them what is most appropriate.

For those in Eastbourne DGH or Conquest Hospital: You must ring the Conquest Hospital Chaplaincy on 01424 757088 who are co-ordinating emergency response for both hospitals (or ask the Ward to contact the on-call Catholic Chaplain who will determine what is appropriate).

For Bexhill Hospital: ask the ward to phone Fr Rajesh on 01424 210 263 (opt 2) and he will discuss with them what is appropriate.

It may be that visits are not appropriate, especially if the person is self-isolating to protect themselves. The most appropriate support might be via the telephone.

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have posted an extensive article on the ministry to the sick on their website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/covid-19-and-the-ministry-to-the-sick-interim-guidance/>

Rother: Bexhill Emergency Action Team (BEAT):

Providing assistance for those in isolation due to Coronavirus:

Caring Community: 01424 215116, E: info@bexhillcaringcommunity.org

Rother Voluntary Action: 01424 327259, E: office@rva.uk.com

Rother Neighbourhood Watch: 07983 619622, E: chairman@rothernhw.co.uk

BEAT Facebook page: “Bexhill Emergency Action Team (Beat)”

https://www.facebook.com/groups/199886864601614/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Advice around COVID-19 visit: www.rother.gov.uk/coronavirus

Support and assistance: If anyone has to self-isolate, do not feel afraid or lonely, the Parish Pastoral Care Group and the SVP may be able to assist you with shopping needs, prescription collections or simply for a chat on the end of the phone. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have been asked, where possible, to keep in telephone contact with their assigned communicant: *Contact: Ron Brazier 844177 or Chris Jones 602914*

Parish Finances

BACS payments: Some Parishioners have reported trouble setting up BACs payments because of our long account name, but we have discovered that if you simply use “**St Mary Magdalene**” and ditch the rest, it all works fine!

- Account name: St Mary Magdalene
- Account number: 21077139
- Sort Code: 40-05-20

You can set up a direct debit or if you wish to offer week by week, use the reference: *off day/month*. Otherwise please use the Diocesan Just Giving Page:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory

remembering to add the comment: “**for St Mary Magdalene, Bexhill**”.

You can also choose, in the dropdown box, the additional % donation you wish to give to JustGiving, from 0% to 15%, whatever you choose the parish does not lose out!

Thank you to parishioners who continue to support the parish through standing orders, BACs payments or the Just Giving Page. Without your support the parish finances will suffer. If you do not have online banking, perhaps use a ‘*piggybank*’ and save up your weekly offering, returning it once the COVID-19 precautions are over.

Go, in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Regina Caeli Laetare, alleluia,

Quia quem merusiti portare, alleluia,

Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia,

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Parish email: stmm@btconnect.com **Parish telephone:** 01424 210 263