



# Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 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)

Today we celebrate the two Apostolic Foundations of the Church, a day of noble and holy joy.

*“You are Peter and on this rock I will my Church”*

Simon, son of John, name is changed to Cephas (Peter), or perhaps, more accurately it is a change to a new status. Cephas means ‘Rock’, and upon this rock Jesus founds the Church. From Bethsaida in Galilee He is a fisherman, but now he is a ‘fisher of men’. Often, he is depicted as rash and hasty and most famous for his three-fold denial and later his three-fold affirmation of love. More important, however, is his recognition of Jesus as the Messiah: ‘you are the Christ the Son of the living God’ and ‘to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life’. Restored to friendship after the Resurrection he is charged with feeding the sheep, becoming the vicar of Christ, who indicates that he will give his life for the sake of the Gospel. The gospels agree that Peter was the leader of the apostles, invariably listed first. At Pentecost, his preaching is effective; he is a witness to the Resurrection and has received the Holy Spirit and following his address five thousand people are baptised. Initially Bishop of Antioch, the place where Jesus’ followers were called Christian, Peter comes to Rome, the place of his execution; the Vatican built over his grave. He is crucified in 64 AD during the persecutions of Nero following the Great Fire of Rome, which Nero himself probably started.

*“I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish”*

Saul of Tarsus, a Jew completely opposed to Christianity, comes, through grace, the most influential person after Christ for the spread of the Gospel, his missionary journeys and letters still forming the basis of our liturgical celebrations today. Saul is present at Stephen’s martyrdom and approves of the killing. As a Pharisee he is an avid persecutor of Christians who claimed that Jesus was the Messiah and is risen from the dead. He is converted to Christianity by an encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road. Paul says he has seen the Lord, a revelation convincing him that Jesus is the Messiah. Skilled as a tent maker, this aided him on his missionary journeys; he could travel light and set up anywhere. He established Churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe, including Corinth, his letters to the Corinthians still read today. Arrested for taking a Gentile into the Temple precincts in Jerusalem, he was sent to Rome, where he too is martyred in 64 AD. As a Roman Citizen he was spared crucifixion and was beheaded, where now stands the Church of St Pauls outside the Walls.

## **Church Re-Opening Update:**

We have successfully opened the Church on Friday and Saturday mornings between 09:30am and 11:30am, and after some readjusting have increased the area for private prayer so that 22 people may pray at any one time. Please practice social distancing, follow the one-way system and the advice of the stewards.

I am pleased to tell you that we have a new team of volunteers established and so, the Church of St Mary Magdalene will also be open on **Wednesday mornings from 09:30am to 11:30am** for you to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and light a candle to continue your prayer. **This begins on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July.**

From the 4<sup>th</sup> July, the Government allows us to resume Masses and other services, but we anticipate that there will be restrictions in place. As at the publication of this weekend's newsletter, we have not received any guidance on what this will mean and so we cannot yet advise you what will be possibly locally.

This, then, does not mean a rapid return to Mass, and many will need to continue nourishing their spiritual life through the Live Streaming services available.

However, as before Funerals will always take precedence over other liturgies. We also have several parishioners waiting **Baptism, Holy Communion, Marriage and Confirmation**. Please **do not** contact the parish office to book a date.

We have contact details of those waiting sacraments and will contact you when we know what is possible based on the guidance.

As with the re-opening of the Church for private prayer, **there will still be the need to observe social distancing, and we will need parishioners to help with supervision and cleaning.**

The Five Metropolitan Archbishops have issued a statement welcoming the return of the Masses and services, but it is light on details on what will be needed to make it possible:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/archbishops-letter-on-resumption-of-collective-worship/>

With my best wishes and prayers, Fr Simon.

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

| <b>Date</b>   | <b><u>Mass 1</u></b>       | <b><u>Mass 2</u></b>          |  |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b><br><b>SS Peter &amp; Paul</b>          | Hester & Ellis Eyre<br>RIP | Mariya Kitty<br>Esthappan RIP | 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. |
| <b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b><br><b>Monday OT Week 13</b>            | Alexander<br>MacDonald RIP | -                             |  |
| <b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b><br><b>First Martyrs of Rome</b>       | Holy Souls                 | Holy Souls                    |  |
| <b>Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> July</b><br><b>Dedication of Arundel Cathedral</b> | Eileen Sullivan RIP        | Mick Hanson RIP               |  |
| <b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b><br><b>Thursday OT Week 13</b>         | Benedict Varghese<br>GE    | -                             |  |
| <b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b><br><b>St Thomas</b>                     | People of the Parish       | Henrietta<br>Theophanous RIP  |  |
| <b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b><br><b>Sat Mem of the BVM</b>          | Margaret McCabe<br>RIP     | Lily Bolger RIP               |  |

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](http://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](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](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/UC7I-pXF8v-VZfzO01zrnerQ>

**Those who have died:** Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of Siobhan Dolan, Giuseppe Cioffi, Andrew J Kempson & Jacob Sargeant who died recently.

**For the sick:** Martin Stiles and David Spooner.

*[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](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) ]*

## Reminders

**Mass Intentions for July:** Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh have about a **handful of** spare Mass intentions slots for the month of July. If you would like to have a Mass said for the repose of a loved one's soul (RIP) or for their "good estate" please email [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) and Fr Simon will let you know what is possible and how you may make the customary Mass offering.

**Sacraments:** While our Churches are slowly re-opening for private prayer, we still do not have permission for Mass or the celebration of the Sacraments. As soon as the Bishops of England & Wales issue some guidance I will update you, but seeing the 'routines of supervision, cleaning and social distancing' that we have had to adhere to just to allow people into pray, we will all have to play our part in achieving the same or even stricter routines for Mass and the celebration of sacraments. **What about applications for the 2021 programmes?** We are not yet accepting applications for First Holy Communion or Confirmation as we do not yet know how these courses will be run. **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.

**Cash & Cheques:** A polite reminder asking you not to post cash or cheques through the presbytery letter box as Fr Simon has no means of processing them or accounting for them. ***Cheques posted through the door will either be returned or destroyed.*** Where necessary, please make use of the electronic means of transferring payments (*please see the end of the newsletter for the account details*). We received a further £548.22 through the Diocesan Just Giving Scheme on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. Thank you.

### **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/>

### **CAFOD Prayer Resources:**

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

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

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

### **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 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".*

### **Sacrament of the Sick**

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

**For people at home:** email [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) or [simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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).

**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](mailto:info@bexhillcaringcommunity.org)

Rother Voluntary Action: 01424 327259, E: [office@rva.uk.com](mailto:office@rva.uk.com)

Rother Neighbourhood Watch: 07983 619622, E: [chairman@rothernhw.co.uk](mailto:chairman@rothernhw.co.uk)

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

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/199886864601614/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/groups/199886864601614/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)

Advice around COVID-19 visit: [www.rother.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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](http://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.*