

PARISH NEWS

6th December 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent B

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

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

Christmas Masses

We have five Mass times for Christmas
(all dependent on stewards).

1 priest in Church (and 1 priest in the Hall
if required) at the times shown below.

You will need to book a place for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

01424 210 263

during office hours only: 10am to 4pm

Out of hours: email stmm@btconnect.com

Christmas Eve:

4pm St Mary Mags. (98% booked)*

4pm Hall (0% booked)

6pm St Mary Mags. (84% booked)

6pm Hall (0% booked)

8pm St Martha's (19% booked)

8pm Hall (0% booked)

(readings and prayers of Midnight Mass at
all Christmas Eve Masses)

Christmas Day:

9am St Martha's (38% booked)

11am St Mary Mags (14% booked)

(*% correct as of 9am Friday 4th Dec.)

Boxing Day

No Masses

Holy Family Sunday

9am St Martha's Church

11am St Mary Magdalene Church

(first come-first served on Sunday)

**Let us see, O Lord your mercy,
and give us your saving help.**

Santa Claus is a real Saint!

Although the 2nd Sunday of Advent takes precedence, today is the Feast of Santa Claus or if you prefer St Nicholas. Father Christmas is an invention, coming to prominence after the Puritans cancelled Christmas because it seemed too Catholic!

St Nicholas was a 4th century shepherd bishop, and Coca Cola's image of him in a beg red coat, hat and sack is not too far from the mark. A bishop, when celebrating Confirmation wears a Red Chasuble and the Mitre and dispenses the gifts of the Holy Spirit. St Nicholas is the reason we hang stockings up. He had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in shoes that people had left out. Allegedly, he helped a man with three daughters who could not afford a marriage dowry and so feared they would end up in prostitution. Nicholas was too modest to be a public saviour, and under the cover of night he threw three purses through the window; they landed in the stockings that they had hung up to dry near the fireplace.

What gifts will you give your children / grandchildren this Christmas? The latest gaming console? Maybe, but much more important the gift of faith and the teachings of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church because these are gifts which keep on giving, lasting beyond Boxing Day into Eternal Life and prepare for us the way of the Lord whose Second Coming we are currently focusing on this Advent.

Best wishes and prayers, Fr Simon.

TRACK & TRACE: PLACES OF WORSHIP

When coming to the Church for Mass or Private Prayer, please continue to wear your face-coverings, use the hand sanitiser, maintain social distance and complete the Track and Trace information.

We pray for those who have died: Eileen Mary Furnell RIP, Tom Lowry RIP, Brian Maher RIP.

We pray for the sick: Roy Cox, Margaret Pink, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Lem Murphy, Martin Murphy, Linda Scully, Janie Butcher, Samuel Barden.

Church Capacities

Mass: 55+ people at St Mary Magdalene & 36+ people at St Martha's, Little Common. [the "+" allows the stewards (*at their discretion*) to count couples & families as singles providing there is appropriate space]

Baptism outside of Mass: 6 people including the one being baptised.

Funerals: 30 people maximum – names in advance and limited to family and close friends only.

Weddings: 15 people maximum – names in advance.

Mass Intentions: booked by emailing stmm@btconnect.com where the administrators can let you know what is possible and how to make the customary donation.

Adoration: after Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings & Thursday evening.

Sunday Gospel for those with Special Needs: <http://www.kairosforum.org/space/weekly-gospel/>

Supplementary Forms for St Mary Magdalene Primary School: **NEW SIGNING DATES:**

Fr Simon will sign forms at St Mary Magdalene Presbytery at **9am on Saturday 5th December and at 9am on Saturday 12th December**. It will be on a first come-first served basis and there will be a socially distanced queue.

Replacement certificate requests: stmm@btconnect.com (cost £10)

NEW DATES: St Mary Magdalene Primary School Open Evenings:

Tuesday 8th December & Thursday 10th December (3.30pm to 4.50pm). See the flyer:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2020/10/flyer-open-evening-and-admissions-for-st-mary-magdalene-primary-school.pdf> (*which still shows the old dates*)

CAFOD World Gifts: a wide range of virtual gifts, which make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. Even with COVID-19 we can still be good neighbours by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family & friends, e.g. The Keen Clean Gift at £6 or the Vegetable Garden at £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves:

www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts **Advent with CAFOD:** we all need the hope, peace, comfort, and joy of Advent. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online and prepare for the Lord's arrival. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/parisges

Advent appeal: help share comfort and joy around the world to families like Saba's, who with her three children fled Myanmar to escape horrific persecution. They were targeted because of their ethnicity. Thanks to your support, Saba was given essential materials to build a shelter, so finally her children have a safe place to call home.

To donate to the Advent appeal visit: www.cafod.org.uk/advent

Parish Clergy: Fr Simon Dray, Fr Rajesh Minz, Deacon Simon Kirkdale
Administrators: Bonita Osmond-Maher & Lisa Young
Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers: if you have not had any safeguarding training for three years or not yet had any training, you will have received a letter from Fr Simon giving you the details. Training is mandatory for those who have volunteering roles with vulnerable persons.

Bexhill Foodbank: How to donate: www.bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

Non-Urgent Pastoral Visits to the Housebound: If you need the Sacraments please contact the Parish Office on 01424 210263 or email stmm@btconnect.com to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: we have been told that the bishop will not administer Confirmations in 2021 until the autumn rather than in early summer which is customary. We had our 1st session on 22nd November but with only 4 Confirmation (25% of normal numbers). Therefore, we have pushed back the next session until January which also allows for more young people to join the programme. Application forms can be found at www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/confirmation Please return them by the end of December.

For FHC: applications will open on 2nd January 2021.

RCIA: There will be no formal course but if any adults are considering Baptism or Reception into Full Communion they should make contact with Fr Simon directly by emailing: stmm@btconnect.com

CCIA (aka WJT): Details for this course are still being worked out, so please do not apply yet.

Baptism: new applications via the website: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/ . These celebrations are restricted by the 'rule of 6'.

The Friends of Lossie Long, in partnership with **St Stephen's Church Bexhill**, are offering a Christmas Day Lunch Delivery to those who might be spending Christmas Day on their own this year. No charge but donations are welcome. To reserve a delivery, contact Tim on 01424 213456 or infofol2020@gmail.com You can also contact Tim if you wish to make a donation or volunteer as a driver.

Missio Advent Reflections: Join online each Friday of Advent to reflect on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel, with an input from a Mill Hill Missionary. 10.30am, Fridays 27 November; 4,11,18 & 25 December. Each week the time of prayer and reflection will last for 20 about minutes. You are welcome to stay online to talk with one another and the Mill Hill Missionaries after the time of prayer. To register please email: rebox@missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755. When you register you will receive an email with a Zoom link to enable you to join all 5 sessions.

Justice and Peace Zoom Webinar: How should the diocese respond to the Food Poverty Crisis? Food poverty has increased since COVID. Join the Diocese's Free Webinar to find out what parishes can do to help. Sat. 16th January 2021, 10am to 12.30pm. To book: E: rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk

The Sunday Obligation remains suspended

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmbbexhill

Parish Office
Remains closed to casual callers.
All enquiries:
stmm@btconnect.com

Sacrament of the Sick

Urgent Requests

Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!

As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come.

stmm@btconnect.com

01424210263
opt. 3 Fr Simon
opt. 2 Fr Rajesh
(back up your call with an email message)

Hospital Visits

For **DGH Eastbourne & Conquest Hastings** you must contact the Conquest Chaplaincy on 01424 757088 who co-ordinate all visits to both hospitals (out of hours ask the Ward to call the on-call Catholic chaplain).

For **Bexhill Hospital:** contact Fr Rajesh on 01424 210263 opt 2.

Care Home Visits

You must first clear the visit with the Home before contacting us to arrange a visit. We will discuss with you / the home as to what is most appropriate.

Home Visits

Please contact us above to discuss the most appropriate response. A member of the family bubble should be present when a priest visits, stepping out of the room for Confession.

Saturday 5th December	Ferial	Advent: Saturday Week One
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Joseph & Thomas Family RIP
Confessions	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration until 11am.
St Martha's	6.00pm	Vigil of Sunday Public Mass: Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: Christmas Flowers

Second Sunday of Advent B

Is. 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14 & Mk 1:1-8

Sunday 6th December		Public Masses
St Martha's	9.00am	Pro Populo
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Joseph Bates RIP
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Margaret Mulligan RIP
Monday 7th December	Memorial	St Ambrose, Bishop
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Helen Ambrose RIP
Tuesday 8th December	Solemnity	The Immaculate Conception of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Alanna McNamara

Wed. 9th December	Ferial	Advent: Wednesday Week Two
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Mr & Mrs Rodel Ragudo

Thursday 10th December	Ferial	Advent: Wednesday Week Two
St Mary Magdalene	6.45pm	Private Intention and Sacraments of Isabella Rome & Callum Wilson GE

Friday 11th December	Ferial	Advent: Friday Week Two
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Mary Bunyan RIP
Eastbourne Crematorium	1:00pm	

Saturday 12th December	Opt. Mem	Our Lady of Guadalupe
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Joseph Thomas RIP
Confessions	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration until 11am.
St Martha's	6.00pm	Vigil of Sunday Public Mass: Amalia Young RIP

Third Sunday of Advent B

Is 61:1-2, 10-11, 1 Thess 5:16-24 & Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday 13th December		Public Masses
St Martha's	9.00am	Florence Rey RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Robert Stevens RIP
St Mary Magdalene	12:15pm	Baptism of Sebastian Pay & Malachi Pay
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Pro Populo

Second Collection: Sea Sunday – Apostleship of the Sea

A new simple way to give your weekly offertory (+gift aid) online via

Diocesan Website: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

For Mass offerings & other payments: BACs:

Name: St Mary Magdalene, Account No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20

Fr Simon will continue to Livestream on Facebook from his iPhone when he is able.