

PARISH NEWS

20th Dec 2021 to 3rd January 2021
4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Octave

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

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

Christmas Collection

in support of the Clergy

In the offertory collection at Easter and Christmas, you are invited to support the income of the priests, *who do not receive a salary from the parish or diocese* but rely on the offerings you give throughout the year in Mass offerings and stole fees. The Christmas collection makes up 25% of their annual income and so your generosity is much appreciated. As places at Mass remain limited at the moment, with the authority of the diocese, **the offertory collection for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Octave Masses (25 Dec-1Jan) will be for the clergy.** Single use and COVID-secure green envelopes will be available at all Christmas Masses. If you currently have an online standing order or direct debit this is your parish offertory and cannot be transferred over to the Christmas collection. Please either utilize the physical collection when you come to Mass at Christmas or throughout the octave or make a separate BACs transfer with an explicit reference of "Christmas" so the administrators know you intend it to be paid to the priests. **The offertory box is by the exit door on the way out of Church.** Many thanks for your support.

The Parish Clergy and Office Team wish you a Happy & Holy Christmas and for 2021, we wish you a 'Year of Favour' from the Lord.

CHRISTMAS BOOKING STATUS

Bookings cease (subject to availability), 12pm, 22nd Dec.

Christmas Eve:

*4pm St Mary Mags. (FULLY BOOKED)

4pm Hall (FULLY BOOKED)

6pm St Mary Mags. (FULLY BOOKED)

6pm Hall (FULLY BOOKED)

*8pm St Martha's (FULLY BOOKED)

8pm Hall (75% booked)

Christmas Day:

9am St Martha's (83% booked)

9am St Martha's Hall (0% booked)

*11am St Mary Mags (56% booked)

11am St Mary Mags Hall (0% booked)

(*also on Facebook Live)

Your booking has been taken either as a single individual, a couple, or household of x people. Please do not come with extra family or friends who have not booked a place. If you have a booking for the Hall, please go straight to the Hall. There is no need to come to the Church.

Please do not arrive at Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day if you do not have a booking.

Is this your First Time Back at Mass since Lockdown?

Face coverings are mandatory unless you fall into an exempt group and must be worn throughout Mass. Ideally it should be a mask that covers the mouth & nose, rather than a shield.

Please arrive in good time to use the hand sanitizer, complete 'track and trace', maintain social distance, stay in your bench / seat and do not mix with other households and follow the stewards' directions, especially at Holy Communion which is distributed after the final blessing. Please note that the toilets are closed – please go before leaving the house!

Also wear coats and scarves and wrap up warm!

We pray for those who have died: Eileen Mary Furnell RIP, Tom Lowry RIP, Brian Maher RIP, Ella Louise Searle RIP, Jean Pearce RIP and Lem Murphy 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.

Message from Fr Simon & Fr Rajesh

Having lost the public celebration of Easter, it is a great joy and relief that we may gather to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The restrictions and requirements placed on Churches has been formidable and we have responded with robust routines of social distancing, cleanliness, and supervision. We are grateful to those parishioners who have volunteered to act as stewards not just for Christmas but since 12th July which has enabled public Mass to now be celebrated every day of the week, except Mondays. Even with a vaccine on the horizon, these routines will remain for some time to come. We are also grateful to those who have helped enhance and rebuild our celebrations by adding music, and flowers and decoration to our Churches. As we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel in 2021, we will gradually need to begin the process of rebuilding the Liturgical, Sacramental, Financial and Pastoral aspects of Parish Life. We invite all parishioners to use the Holy Season of Christmas to allow the Lord Jesus to be born again in our hearts, so that he may expand them so that we are ready to play our part in the building up of the Kingdom of God here in the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Mass & Public Worship in Tiers 1, 2 or 3:

Public Worship is an important aspect to the lives of many people and assists people with their mental health and well-being. Public Worship, including Holy Mass is still permitted in all 3 Tier systems, providing we maintain the routines of social distancing, cleanliness, and supervision: **Church Capacity for 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*]. **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, except during the Octave.

The last few days of Advent:

Confessions: 10.30am – 11am on Sat. 19th Dec & Tuesday 22nd Dec; & 7.30pm to 8pm on Thur. 17th Dec. Please do not ask for Confession on Wed. 23rd Dec due to a Funeral, nor immediately before the Christmas Masses as the Church will be full to capacity, and the confessionals are out of use.

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

Sacrament of Confirmation: the deadline for submission of applications is now 31st December. You can find the application form at our website: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/confirmation

CAFOD advent appeal: www.cafod.org.uk/advent

Foodbank donations: www.bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

We are currently unable to accept food donations for the Foodbank; however donations can be taken to: The Cinnamon Cafe, Sea Road, Bexhill.

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

Looking to the Year of Our Lord 2021

We are particularly conscious that there are children still waiting to **receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion**, having had their celebration postponed twice by National Lockdowns. In the New Year, once we are sure that there are to be no further lockdowns, we will set new dates for celebration. From 2nd January we will begin to process and welcome new applications for the 2021 programme. **Baptism applications** can still be submitted: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-from/ You will then be directed to the online preparation. **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.

Finance

Thank you to those who have continued to give their weekly offertory into the collection box, and special thanks to those who have moved to online giving. **If you have not managed to make an offertory since March 2020 please consider making a one-off donation to make up for the lost weeks.** A new simple way to donate (+gift aid) online via Diocesan Website: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/> and then please consider setting up an online standing order or direct debit, the parish office can assist you.

For Mass offerings & other payments: BACs:

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

Monday 28th December	Feast	Holy Innocents
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	No Mass today
Tuesday 29th December	Feast	St Thomas a Beckett, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: on 850 th anniversary
Wed. 30th December	6th Day	Octave of Christmas
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Edna & Fred Herring RIP
Thursday 31st January	7th Day	Octave of Christmas
St Mary Magdalene	6.45pm	No Mass today
Friday 1st January	Solemnity	Holy Mary, Mother of God
St Mary Magdalene	12noon	Public Mass: Hilda Alexander RIP

Green Collection Envelopes available at the above Mass to support the clergy

Saturday 2nd January	Memorial	Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: David & Claire Ryan RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Martha's (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm	Public Mass: Intentions of the Young, Bourne & Mistry families

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Eccl. 24, 1-2, 8-12, Eph 1:3-6, 15-18 & John 1:1-18

Sunday 3rd January		Public Masses
St Martha's	9.00am	Eileen Furnell RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Jean Pearce RIP
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Amalia Young RIP

Second Collection: No second collection today

Christmas Day is celebrated as an Octave meaning it is Christmas Day for 8 Days (until 1st Jan). If you were unable to secure a place at Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please consider coming to Mass on one of the Octave Days when a public Mass is being celebrated. The Season of Christmas continues until the Baptism of the Lord (10th Jan).

Parish Office will be closed 24th Dec to 3rd Jan inclusive

Please conclude any business, emails, calls and deliveries by 12noon on 23rd December.

The Sunday Obligation remains suspended

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmbbexhill

Saturday 19th December	19th Dec.	O Radix Jesse (O Root)
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Edith Durrant RIP
Confessions	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration.
		Vigil of Sunday
St Martha's	6.00pm	Public Mass: Gerard McNamara RIP

Second Collection: Sea Sunday – Apostleship of the Sea

Fourth Sunday of Advent B

2Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Rom 16:25-27 & Lk 1:26-38

Sunday 20th December		Public Masses
St Martha's	9.00am	Pamela & Keith Bourne GE
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Noreen Corness RIP
Presbytery	6.00pm	Pro Populo
Monday 21st December	21st Dec.	O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn)
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Edna Herring RIP
Tuesday 22nd December	22nd Dec.	O Rex Gentium (King of Nations)
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Nancy & Don Simmons, Lionel Lawrence Keep & June.
Wed. 23rd December	23rd Dec.	O Emmanuel (Family & Friends only)
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Requiem Mass: Tom Lowry RIP

PUBLIC CHRISTMAS MASSES: WITH PRE-BOOKINGS ONLY

Thursday 24th December	Christmas	Readings of Midnight Mass
St Mary Magdalene Church	4.00pm	Sick & Housebound of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Hall	4.00pm	Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene Church	6.00pm	Sick & Housebound of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene Hall	6.00pm	Priest's Intentions
St Martha's Church	8.00pm	For our Parish & Deanery Schools
St Martha's Hall	8.00pm	Thanksgiving of the Durrant Family
Friday 25th December	Christmas	9am Dawn Mass & 11am Day Mass
St Martha's Church	9.00am	Pro Populo
St Martha's Hall	9.00am	Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene Church	11.00am	Fr Arthur, Bernard Holland, Fr Fenning.
St Mary Magdalene Hall	11.00am	Priest's Intentions

Collection: Green Envelope "in support of the clergy"
CHRISTMAS OCTAVE CONTINUED: First Come – First Served

Saturday 26th December	Feast	St Stephen, Martyr
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	No Mass
St Martha's	6.00pm	No Vigil Mass of the Sunday

Holy Family Sunday (B)

Alternative Readings for Year B: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3, Heb 11.8, 11-12, 17-19, Lk 2:22-40

Sunday 27th December		Public Masses
St Martha's	9.00am	Patrick & June Callaghan RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Pro Populo
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	No Mass this evening

Collection: Green Envelope "in support of the clergy"

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. 4 Office

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

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.