

17<sup>th</sup> January 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time B

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

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

# PARISH NEWS

## Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians (18th to 25th Jan 2021)

Monday begins the annual week of prayer for the Unity of Christians. The Week of prayer runs from 18<sup>th</sup> January until the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul on 25<sup>th</sup> January. The week of prayer for the unity of Christians began in 1908 by the American Episcopalian clergyman Paul Watson who later became a Catholic. This year in the parish, we have designated Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January as the day on which we will celebrate the Votive Mass for the Unity of Christians.

This year the theme is **“Abiding in Christ”**. This is quite a challenging theme, as this also means abiding in the truth of Christ's teachings found in the Gospel and the Tradition of the Church. As the theme develops, it is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses that our fruitfulness stems from abiding in the love of Christ and keeping the commandments.

Through this week we pray:

For unity among all the followers of Christ, a unity founded on truth and compassion.

For the Church to find a common voice to speak on matters that affect the whole of society.

That divisions among Christians may be overcome so that we may hasten to your eternal kingdom in the perfect communion of the Church.

Lord, in your mercy... hear our prayer.

## Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

### Heating Update

It has been quite a frustrating week with regards to resolving the heating issues resolved in the parish. On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, we used a digital laser thermometer and recorded the following temperatures: St Mary Magdalene Church: 4.5 degrees, Parish Office: 9 degrees and Priest's Quarters: 6.5 degrees. The temperatures have hovered around those levels all week.

**St Mary Magdalene:** Also, on Monday our heating engineer reported back to say getting parts was very difficult as the wholesaler was now closed due to COVID, and he recommended that we contact the manufacturer direct (which we did). On Wednesday, the diocese sent us another heating engineer that they use, who visited and gave the same assessment as our own engineer; he also recommended that we contact the manufacturer direct. On Thursday, we managed to convince the manufacturer to send one of their own engineers to us, and he immediately diagnosed the problem and has ordered the parts for us. He is due to return on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, and we hope that this will resolve the fault with the St Mary Magdalene boilers, fingers crossed that this will work! Until then I cannot restore public Masses and Fr Rajesh and I will continue to live in Seaford until the presbytery returns to a habitual temperature.

**St Martha:** The heating manufacturer (*same make, different model*) will also visit St Martha's on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January to diagnose the problems with this boiler and then hopefully begin the process of fixing it!

If we can get the boilers working, we can restore public Masses (subject to confirming that stewards are available).

Best wishes and prayers, Fr Simon.

**We pray for those who have died:** Lem Murphy RIP, Rosemary Fulton-Hart RIP, Michael O'Reilly RIP and John Zillwood RIP

**We pray for the sick:** Roy Cox, Margaret Pink, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Martin Murphy, Samuel Barden.

**A&B Refugee Crisis Newsletter:** The latest copy of the Newsletter is now available and can be found at the diocesan website in the latest publications section:

<https://abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news>

In the newsletter, Bishop Richard writes: *"the generosity that has been shown [in the diocese], both financially and in so many other ways, is having a good impact. There is, of course, always more to be done. Even though it is not always at the forefront of the news headlines, the Crisis continues. Thank you for all that is being achieved – and for renewing your commitment in prayer, volunteering your skills and talents and your financial generosity to ensure that we can continue to welcome those who, having suffered the loss of their income, the all-too-common loss of loved ones and the hardship of dangerous travel, come to dwell amongst us"*.

**Invited: Lent 2021:** Ash Wednesday falls on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The diocese invites you to join the Diocesan Mission for Lent called "Invited". During the Mission, we will be exploring God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him and what that means for our lives. It will be a wonderful journey of discovery that helps us to know more deeply who we are in the eyes of God and to live authentically as His beloved. There will be challenges – we may have to take a 'long hard look' at ourselves – but by the end of the programme we aim to be transformed and empowered to become Spirit filled disciples who rejoice in God's goodness and want to build His Kingdom here on earth. More details at: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

**Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC):**

SPUC write to say: The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step-by-step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

Last Sunday we would have had a second collection for SPUC's work, but this was not possible as the Church was closed. You can donate at: <https://spuc.org.uk/>

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

### **First Holy Communion 2020 & 2021**

We will not set new dates for the delayed 2020 First Holy Communion celebration whilst we are in this period of National Lockdown, as although public worship is still permitted there are still restrictions on household mixing; and this is not the time for significant sacramental celebrations. Additionally, the heating systems in both Churches and the Presbytery have failed and so we are experiencing a temporary closure. We need to get on top of this before we can begin to consider the First Holy Communion celebrations. **However**, as preparation for Holy Communion usually takes several months, we invite applications for 2021 children, found at the sacramental section of the parish website: <https://stmbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/>

**Baptism applications** can still be submitted: [www.stmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/](http://www.stmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/) and 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](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

### **Peace Sunday: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The Catholic Church celebrates the 54<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Theme chosen by Pope Francis is: *“A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace.”* The message of the Holy Father, Pope Francis emphasizes *“a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance”*. The full message of Pope Francis:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco\\_20201208\\_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html)

The **second collection this Sunday is for Pax Christi**, but with our on-going heating issues, you will need to donate directly at their website: <https://paxchristi.net/>

This Sunday we pray: For peace between nations, beginning with our own place in the world. May we build bridges, not walls, by building relationship of trust, working together to bring healing and peace to areas experiencing conflict: Lord, in your mercy... hear our prayer.

### **Parish Office in Lockdown 3**

Please use the email: [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) to contact the Parish Office. Please do not call personally at the office door, as this does not constitute an essential journey.

## Parish Office

Remains closed to casual callers.

All enquiries:

[stmm@btconnect.com](mailto: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.

Office hours

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

01424 210 263 opt 4

out of hours

[simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk)

### 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.

**Remember until the heating is fixed the priests are in Seaford!**

*The Sunday Obligation remains suspended*

# Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill](http://www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill)

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Mass said privately  
St Mary Magdalene  
Mass said privately

### Ferial

- Mike Davis GE  
10.30am **No Confessions today**  
- People of the Parish

### Saturday Memorial of the BVM

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year B

*1 Sam 3:3-10, 19, 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20 & Jn 1:35-42*

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Facebook Live  
Mass said privately

11:00am

### Public Masses

John Ireland RIP  
- Mick Hanson RIP

**Second Collection: Pax Christi for Peace Sunday**

Donate at <https://paxchristi.net/>

**Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians begins 18<sup>th</sup> Jan to 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Facebook Live Mass

10.00am

### Ferial

### Monday Week 2

Michael O'Reilly RIP

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Eastbourne Crematorium  
**OL Immaculate, Battle**

10.00am

12noon

### Funerals

### Requiem Mass / Funeral Service

Funeral Service for John Zilwood RIP  
Requiem Mass for Michael O'Reilly RIP

### Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> January

Mass said privately

10.00am

### Ferial

### Wednesday Week 2

Marion Cox RIP

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Facebook Live

10.00am

### Memorial

### St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

Thomas George RIP

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Facebook Live

10.00am

### Votive

### For the Unity of Christians

Jim Radford RIP

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

To be determined  
To be determined

10.00am

6.00pm

### Ferial

### Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Evelyn Voller RIP

Priest's Intentions

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year B (Sunday of the Word of God)

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Cor 7:29-31 & Mk 1:14-20*

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January

To be determined  
To be determined  
To be determined

tbc

tbc

tbc

### Mass intentions:

Amalia Young RIP

Rowe & Callaghan Families

People of the Parish

**Second Collection: tbc**

### Parish Offertory

A simple way to donate (+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**

**Please indicate what the payment is for in the reference**