

Sunday of the Word of God

3rd Sunday of OT B

Last year, Pope Francis dedicated this 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as the “*Sunday of the Word of God*”. In the first reading, *‘the word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: ‘Up!’ he said, ‘Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to’*. All Christians by virtue of their Baptism have the dignity of the Lay Apostolate. At the end of each liturgy, we are dismissed and commissioned: **“*Ite Missa Est*” (Go, you are sent)**. We are sent out to announce the Gospel of the Lord, in the first instance by going in peace, glorifying the Lord by our life. Therefore, Mass does not end our religious duties, it begins them as we must go and help people know, as the psalmist sings, the ways of the Lord, so that they may follow him.

Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians.

We are still in the Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians, which ends tomorrow with the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. We continue to pray for unity among all the followers of Christ, a unity founded on truth and compassion and for the Church to find a common voice to speak on matters that affect the whole of society. We pray 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.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Limited Resumption of Public Mass (Sun 24th Jan).

(to be reviewed weekly)

Thank you for your patience while the heating systems were being fixed. Now that they are back up and running, and after discussing our local situation with Bishop Richard, we have checked with our stewards who have responded generously but based on the responses so far, we do not have the minimum numbers for a full reopening this week. Therefore:

This week, Public Masses will be:

Sunday: 9am at St Martha's Church,

Weekdays: 10am on Friday and Saturday

and 6.45pm on Thursdays at St Mary Magdalene.

Confessions with Adoration: after 10am Mass on Saturday.

This week, Facebook Live Only Masses:

Sunday 11am & 6pm, 10am on Monday, Tuesday, and 6pm on Saturday. Private Mass on Wednesday.

Please note: Although, public worship is permitted in Lockdown 3, the obligation to hear Mass on Sunday remains suspended and we note that some Churches locally in Brighton, St Leonard's and Hastings have closed either because they do not have the stewards or to protect the NHS locally. **If you feel it best to stay at home and Live Stream at the moment you should do so without feeling any pressure to be at a public Mass. If you wish to be at a public Mass for devotional reasons, try to balance this with due prudence.** Perhaps only come to one Mass at week, and make sure you wear a face covering over mouth and nose (unless exempt), sanitize your hands, complete the track and trace, maintain social distance throughout, and do not mix with anyone not in your household in the Church or outside the Church; follow the directions of the stewards and please only receive Holy Communion in the hand and then go straight home. Best wishes and prayers, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Rosemary Fulton-Hart RIP and Sydney Turner RIP.

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

Church Capacities: 36+ people at St Martha's Church and 55+ people at St Mary Magdalene Church.

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 17th 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. I have chatted with Bishop who concurs that this is not the time for sacramental celebrations and we need to see how lockdown progresses and what Tier we are in thereafter 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://stmmbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/> **Please try and remember to complete your address, email, and phone number of the form.**

Baptism applications can still be submitted: www.stmmbexhill.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 to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage: every year on or around the day for the sick and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February, the diocese invites you to support financially the work of the pilgrimage. Please try and do this online: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home> where you will find a red donate button on the righthand side of the screen.

The Pelham: Heat and Eat Bexhill: this is an initiative which is part of the East Sussex County Council Winter Grant Scheme, led by the Pelham, Sidley. It can help Bexhill families with Food and Fuel Support vouchers who have been negatively affected by COVID; you do not need to be in receipt of benefits to apply. To access the scheme, complete the online form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1Xhbu0bkcqOIKxnGr6t7NS0J-q-LUM3dqAFw1X2PL6Cn6KQ/viewform>

More information: 01424 476304 or 07842 149209 or heatandeatbexhill@gmail.com

Parish Office in Lockdown 3

Please use the email: 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 Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 23rd January	Ferial	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
Mass said privately	10.00am	Evelyn Voller RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	No Confessions today
Facebook Live Only	6.00pm	For COVID sufferers

3rd 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

Public Mass or Facebook Only Mass

Sunday 24th January		
St Martha's	9:00am	Public Mass: Holy Souls
Facebook Only Mass	11:00am	Rowe & Callaghan Families
Facebook Only Mass	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection: Parish Maintenance (to include Boiler Repairs)

FACEBOOK ONLY MASSES ON MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

Monday 25th January	Ferial	Conversion of St Paul
Facebook Live Only Mass	10.00am	For the Unity of Christians
Tuesday 26th January	Memorial	Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Facebook Live Only Mass	10.00am	Dennis Driscoll RIP
Wed. 27th January	Ferial	Wednesday Week 3
Mass said privately	10.00am	Robert Stevens RIP
Thursday 28th January	Memorial	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor
St Mary Magdalene	6.45pm	Public Mass: Holy Souls
Friday 29th January	Ferial	Friday Week 3
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Holy Souls
Saturday 30th January	Ferial	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Holy Souls
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
Facebook Live Only Mass	6.00pm	People of the Parish

4th Sunday of the Year B

Deut. 18:15-20, 1 Cor 7:32-35 & Mk 1:21-28

Sunday 31st January		Public or Facebook to be determined.
To be determined	9.00am	Intentions of Pat O'Brien
To be determined	11.00am	Anne Deery RIP
To be determined	6.00pm	Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: Parish Poor Fund

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.

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.

Office hours

stmm@btconnect.com

01424 210 263 opt 4

out of hours

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.

Please do not wait until the end, as the priests may be otherwise engaged.