

Public Worship in Lockdown 3

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 require assistance to come to and from Mass (including lifts in other people's cars) or while at Mass, you can only be supported (or driven) by a person who is part of your household or support bubble, as household mixing is not permitted in or outside of the Church.

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 who is 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. Please do not gather to chat after Mass – we are in Lockdown.

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep you covenant.

1st Sunday of Lent B: The Covenant

The 1st Sunday of Lent always focusses on the Temptation of Christ. We are tempted in many ways, physically and spiritually. Your doctor will encourage you to stay away from cake and anything that tastes good. Spiritually, the devil will want you to forget the Covenant and stay away from the Word of God. Remember, *'man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God'*.

The Old Testament reading reminds us of the 1st Covenant with Noah. What do you think when you see a **rainbow**? Is it a sign of some political activism? No, not really. Is it a sign of thanksgiving to health and key workers in a pandemic? Maybe, but its true meaning is far more profound.

Above all this, it is a sign that God has made a covenant with his people: *"Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so, the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'*

The Great Flood in Scripture is a sign of our Baptism, in which a flood of water flows over us, and instead of being destructive, it is creative. Yes, it washes away the filth of sin (original and personal), but it creates us anew as a child of God. This Lent, it would be a praiseworthy practice to reflect deeply on our Baptismal Promises, which are constructed from the Apostles' Creed. With every blessing, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Mary Munn RIP, Paddy Pearson RIP, Mary Bird RIP, Margaret Mary Fox RIP, Elisa Leppard nee Capaldi RIP (**NB: it is taking about a month to arrange funerals at the moment and they remain restricted to 30 close family and friends**).

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

Church Capacities: 36+ people at St Martha's Church and **47+** people at St Mary Magdalene Church. Due to some damage to the windows in STMM Church, some further benches have been roped off.

Invited. Lent 2021 – The Mission Begins: People have been signing up to “Invited” in large numbers and is almost at its digital capacity. If you do wish to join, please register as soon as possible by visiting: www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited On Mondays, there will be a video available at the website and diocesan social media platforms, and on Thursdays between 7.30pm-8.45pm, will be the main session for which you have registered. **(The Thursday evening Mass is now 6.30pm to allow for the Invited session).**

Arch Publishing: My Day by Day for Lent & Easter: if you contact the publisher direct, they can only supply bulk orders. Single copies at: <https://www.stpauls.org.uk/my-day-by-day-lent-2021.html>

Parish Companion to the Sundays of Lent: We have uploaded to the Parish Website a brief companion to the Lenten Sunday Readings: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/a-brief-companion-for-the-sundays-of-lent-year-b.pdf>

CAFOD Lent Appeal: Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>. You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For your Lenten commitment this year, sign up to CAFOD's Walk for Water. Ask your friends and parishioners to sponsor you to walk 10,000 steps a day throughout Lent and raise funds to help end water poverty, <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

CAFOD St Leonard's Deanery Area: Stations of the Cross via Zoom:

Sunday 28th February at 3pm. Register at kandl.dignum@btinternet.com (email corrected).

Other CAFOD prayers for Lent: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-prayers>

Job Vacancies at London Jesuit Centre: Theology Lead, Spirituality Team Members x2, and Social & Environmental Justice Lead. Visit: <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/>

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

First Holy Communion: 2020 Celebrations: Once we have seen the Roadmap for reopening, we will be in a better position to know how to move forward with pending FHC Celebrations. **2021 Applications:** Last call for applications, to be received by **the end of February Half term** to allow you sufficient time to complete the preparation this year. Application Forms: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/>
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.

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/1FAIpQLSe1Xhbu0bkcgOIKxnGr6t7NS0J-q-LUM3dgAFw1X2PL6Cn6KQ/viewform>

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

Catholic Newspaper: you can have the Universe delivered at Home:

visit: www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call 0161 820 5722. Other Catholic publications are available.

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.

Mass Intentions: can be booked via stmm@btconnect.com , there is availability for **March**.

Fair Trade Fortnight: Starting Monday 22nd February: A good Lenten practice might be to make an extra effort to buy Fair Trade products. More information can be found at: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Parish Funerals: It is a great sadness that the government regulations mean that only 30 close family and friends may attend parish funerals. If you wish to be considered for a place at a parish funeral you must speak with the **official next of kin, as named by the Funeral Director**, as they will provide the Parish (*in advance of the day*) a list of approved attendees. Please do not come to Funerals unless they have confirmed that your name has been included on the Formal Track & Trace Form. There are potentially huge fines for breaching the 30 limit. Thank you for your understanding and your prayers for the deceased.

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.

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 20th February

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Facebook Live Only

Ferial

10.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Public Mass: Noreen Corness RIP

Confessions & Adoration

People of the Parish

1st Sunday of Lent B

Gen 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22 & Mk 1:12-15

Public Mass or Facebook Only Mass

Sunday 21st February

St Martha's

9:00am

St Mary Magdalene

11:00am

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm

All 3 Masses today are Public Masses:

John Ireland RIP

David McGirk & Louis Rosenau RIP

Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: No special collection this week

Monday 22nd February

Facebook Live Only Mass

Eastbourne Crematorium

Feast

10.00am

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Saint Peter's Chair

David Rowe RIP

Funeral Service for Mary Munn RIP

Tuesday 23rd February

Facebook Live Only Mass

Ferial

10.00am

Tuesday: Lent Week 1

Robert Stevens RIP

Wed. 24th February

Mass said privately

Ferial

10.00am

Wednesday: Lent Week 1

Francesco Russo RIP

Thursday 25th February

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

6.30pm

Thursday: Lent Week 1

Public Mass: Lawrence Considine RIP

Friday 26th February

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

Friday: Lent Week 1

Public Mass: James Spittal RIP

Saturday 27th February

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Facebook Live Only Mass

Ferial

10.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

Saturday: Lent Week 1

Public Mass: Priest's Intentions

Confessions & Adoration

Elisa Leppard RIP

2nd Sunday of Lent B – Transfiguration Sunday

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Rom 8:31-34 & Mk 9:2-10

Sunday 28th February

To be determined

To be determined

To be determined

9.00am

11.00am

6.00pm

Public or Facebook to be determined.

People of the Parish

Sr Geraldine Hall GE

Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: CAFOD appeal:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>

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.