

28th February 2021

PARISH NEWS

Second (Transfiguration) Sunday of Lent B.

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

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

CAFOD: LENTEN FAST DAY

As you know the three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and this brings the CAFOD Lenten Appeal to mind:

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/Lenten-Appeal>

You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message, opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. To give £10 but with no marketing, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

You can also 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/>

THIS SUNDAY: CAFOD St Leonard's Deanery Area: Zoom Way of the Cross:
Sunday 28th February at 3pm. Register at kandl.dignum@btinternet.com

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Roadmap to Reopening (and a bit of a wrinkle!)

This week, the Government released the Roadmap for 're-opening'. As far as Churches are concerned, current guidance remains. Still in Lockdown, we continue with our current restrictions and precautions until we hear otherwise from the Bishop's Conference. Please continue to 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.

The wrinkle: On 23rd February, I received a letter from the Department of Health and Social Care telling me that I have been placed on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable List, advising me to "shield" until 31st March. This follows a review of the 1st wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in which they have updated the risk and warnings to various people with underlying health conditions. Therefore, I am not available for in-person pastoral engagements, including Mass and the Sacraments until Maundy Thursday (1st April), providing the shielding period is not extended. Although not wishing to discuss personal health matters, I have received my 1st dose vaccination but am still advised to shield until 31st March. As all pastoral engagements will now be fulfilled by Fr Rajesh alone, there will need to be an adjustment to public liturgies. Having discussed this with Bishop Richard, **the 9am Mass at St Martha's will be suspended** as Fr Rajesh does not drive and should not be accepting lifts from people outside his own household. At present, the next public Mass at St Martha's will be on Easter Sunday. God bless you, 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.

CAFOD Continued: Christina Lucy is walking 10,000 steps a day for the CAFOD Lent challenge and has a Just Giving page for you to sponsor her: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/Christina-Lucey>

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

Requiem Mass for Patrick "Paddy" Pearson: with Fr Simon shielding, we welcome Fr Paul Gilliam as principal celebrant. Fr Paul was coming to con-celebrate but will now preside. **NB:** attendance at funerals is restricted to 30 close family & friends. Here is a newspaper cutting from 2004:



ONLINE RETREATS: The Open Cloister at Worth Abbey: led by Michael Woodward (member of the Lay Community of St Benedict). 12th-14th March: Romero and the Salvadorian Martyrs: Along with St Romero, we will look at his friend Rutilio Grande, the four US Churchwomen, the UCA Jesuits & the hundreds Salvadorans who died from 1977-1992. 26th-28th March (Palm Sunday weekend): The Holy Shroud: Gospel beyond Words - What the Shroud Tells Us. Book your place on line at <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats> Further information available from E: toc@worth.co.uk

Diocesan Mission 'Invited': The weekly Thursday conversation groups are now fully booked but the Monday videos can be viewed via our website www.abdiocese.org.uk Transcripts of Speakers and those giving testimony are also available. Thank you to all who have signed up.

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>

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

First Holy Communion

2020 Pending Celebrations: Having reviewed the Roadmap for Unlocking, celebrations of First Holy Communion will be no earlier than 17th May, and we will announce dates next weekend. Only those from your immediate household will be able to attend as certain restrictions will still be in place.

2021 Preparation: Thank you to those who have applied for the 2021 preparation. You should now be working through your 'I Belong' book. After completing the 1st four chapters, and no earlier than 17th May, you may begin to make an appointment with Fr Simon or Fr Rajesh to discuss your progress and make your **First Confession**. Dates for 2021 Holy Communion celebrations will not be released before 17th May.

Baptism applications can still be submitted: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/ and you will then be directed to the online preparation. Due to current restrictions, celebrations cannot happen before 17th May.

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/1FAIpQLSe1Xhbu0bkcqOIKxnGr6t7NS0J-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 (Week 2): 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 Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 27th February	Ferial	Saturday: Lent Week 1
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
Facebook Live Only	6.00pm	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

Public Mass or Facebook Only Mass

Sunday 28th February		2 Public Masses at St Mary Magdalene
Facebook Live Only Mass	9:00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	11:00am	Sr Geraldine Hall GE
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: CAFOD appeal:

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

Monday 1st March	Feast	Saint David / Funeral
Facebook Mass (Fr Simon)	10.00am	Mass of St David: Paddy Pearson RIP
St Mary Magdalene (Fr Paul)	12.30pm	Requiem Mass: Paddy Pearson RIP

Tuesday 2nd March	Ferial	Tuesday: Lent Week 2
Facebook Live Only Mass	10.00am	Tonya Tynan GE

Wed. 3rd March	Ferial	Wednesday: Lent Week 2
Mass said privately	10.00am	For the Work & Mission of CAFOD

Thursday 4th March	Ferial	Thursday: Lent Week 2
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: Sheila Dray RIP

Friday 5th March	Ferial	Friday: Lent Week 2
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Frances Brignall RIP

Saturday 6th March	Ferial	Saturday: Lent Week 2
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: For School Teachers
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
Facebook Live Only Mass	6.00pm	For all School Children

3rd Sunday of Lent B

Ex 20:1-17, I Cor 1:22-25 & Jn 2:13-25

Sunday 7th March		2 Public Masses at St Mary Magdalene
Facebook Live Only Mass	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Clare Green RIP
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Priest's Intentions

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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.