

PARISH NEWS

HOLY WEEK, TRIDUUM & EASTER SUNDAY

Having read the guidance, we are able to offer the following schedule for Holy Week.

Bookings are Required for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday (Bookings open: Tuesday 9th March)

Palm Sunday: Facebook Only Masses at 9am & 6pm. Public Masses: 11am & 6pm at St Mary Magdalene only.

Holy Thursday: 8pm Public Mass of the Lord's Supper (+Facebook) in St Mary Magdalene Church.

Good Friday:

- 1) 3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion in St Mary Magdalene Church (+Facebook).
- 2) 6pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion in St Martha's Church.

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night:

9pm Vigil and 1st Mass of Easter in St Mary Magdalene Church (+Facebook).

Easter Sunday Public Masses:

- 1) 9am at St Martha's (+ Facebook)
- 2) 11am at St Mary Magdalene.
- 3) 6pm at St Mary Magdalene.

Capacities remain at: St Mary Mags. 47+ people and St Martha's 36+ people. Shorter versions of liturgical options are preferred, and some elements of the rites are omitted or deferred until later in Easter or at Pentecost.

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

March: The Month of St Joseph

Feast Day: Friday 19th March.

The month of March is traditionally devoted to St Joseph, whose Feast we celebrate on 19th March. On Wednesday 10th March we begin our Novena prayers leading us to the Feast Day on 19th March, which ranking as a Solemnity means we can relax our penances on this day, **and abstinence from meat does not apply even though 19th March is a Friday.**

This year, the Feast Day has an extra weight to it because we are in a Special Year of St Joseph promulgated by Pope Francis, given to us to celebrate 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as *'a beloved Father, a tender and loving father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows'*. Continuing, 'St Joseph is *'the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence'* who played *'an incomparable role in the history of salvation'*.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On a personal note, my period of shielding last until 31st March, which is Wednesday of Holy Week, but the Department of Health and Social Care might extend it, and so the schedule opposite takes that into account. As with Christmas, if government guidance changes, our plans may have to adapt accordingly. God bless, Fr Simon.

NB: Lockdown Rules remain in force so if you need a lift to Mass, this can only be provided by a member of your own household or support bubble. This advice will still be valid for Holy Week & Easter Sunday.

We pray for those who have died: 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: 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>

Catholic Women's League (CWL) Home Deliver Lenten Lunch: The Catholic Women's League are holding a Home Delivered Lenten Lunch on Friday 19th March 2021. A choice of Homemade soups, bread, cheeses, etc. will be delivered to your home. A suggested donation of £5 per person, proceeds in aid of the Medaille Trust (www.medaille-trust.org.uk). To book your lunch and for more details please call Margaret von Speyr on 01424 215787 or email: margaret-vs@hotmail.co.uk (*do you let her know if you are shielding or have any COVID concerns. Please be assured that, in conformity to government guidance, no-one will cross the threshold of your home*).

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>

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 (updated)

2020 Pending Celebrations: Having reviewed the Roadmap for Unlocking, celebrations of First Holy Communion will be no earlier than 17th May, and to allow for a proper celebration we have provisionally allocated 12noon on Saturdays 26th June and 3rd July at St Martha's to complete the 2020 celebrations.

Bookings will open after Easter (after 12th April), as stewards and musicians will need to be arranged first and we need to be sure that the government roadmap is still on schedule.

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/1FAIpQLSe1Xhbu0bkccqOIKxnGr6t7NS0J-q-LUM3dqAFw1X2PL6Cn6KQ/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**. Your offering also provides the Parish Clergy with a small income each month, and they are grateful for your support.

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmbbexhill

Saturday 6th March	Ferial	Saturday: Lent Week 1
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: For School Teachers
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
Facebook Live Only	6.00pm	For School Children

3rd Sunday of Lent B

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

Public Mass or Facebook Only Mass

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

Second Collection: SVP

Monday 8th March	Ferial	Tuesday: Lent Week 3
Facebook Live Only Mass	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Tuesday 9th March	Ferial	Tuesday: Lent Week 3
Facebook Live Only Mass	10.00am	Priest's Intentions
Wed. 10th March	Ferial	Wednesday: Lent Week 3
Mass said privately	10.00am	Mary & Joseph Callaghan RIP

Thursday 11th March	Ferial	Thursday: Lent Week 3
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: For the A&B Clergy

Friday 12th March	Ferial	Friday: Lent Week 3
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Joseph Thomas RIP

Saturday 13th March	Ferial	Saturday: Lent Week 3
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Win & Stan Yeo GE
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
Facebook Live Only Mass	6.00pm	For our Mothers (GE & RIP)

4th (Laetare) Sunday of Lent B

2 Cron 36:14-16, 19-23, Eph 2:4-10 & Jn 3:14-21

Sunday 14th March		2 Public Masses at St Mary Magdalene
Facebook Live Only Mass	9.00am	Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Florence Raey RIP
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection: Easter Flowers

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.