

PARISH NEWS

Fourth (Laetare) 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

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.

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not.

Laetare Sunday & Mothering Sunday

Most people do not like doing 'penance' and so, after four weeks of Lent, we might be finding our extra prayers, fasting and almsgiving a bit of a struggle, so this Sunday be kind to yourself and take a little break. For this reason, the 4th Sunday of Lent is sometimes called 'Refreshment Sunday'. Today, also known as 'Laetare Sunday', a word meaning 'Rejoice'. Above all remember why we do penance in Lent, as a preparation for Easter! This is reflected in the colour of vestments today: The bright white of Easter shines back into the penitential purple and bleaches it a shade of Rose to show us that the joy of the celebration is getting closer. Today is also known as 'Mothering Sunday'. On most Sundays we worship at a 'daughter' Church but on this day, there would have been an encouragement to visit the 'Mother Church', the Cathedral of the Diocese (or perhaps the Church of our baptism). Now, as then, there are many practical reasons why that is difficult to do (*not least a global pandemic*), and so, for many this return to the 'mother' Church became instead an occasion for family reunions, when children who were working away, returned home, and those in domestic service were often granted a day off to allow this to happen. As they walked along the country lanes, they picked flowers to take to the Church or give their Mother as a small gift. This year these family visits may well be via Zoom. Mothering Sunday has very little to do with the Americanized celebration of 'Mother's Day', but certainly it is praiseworthy to give thanks for their love and pray especially for the repose of the souls of those who have gone, God willing, to their eternal reward. With my prayers and best wishes, 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, names provided for track and trace purposes in advance**).

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

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.

Special Year & Feast Day of St Joseph

We continue praying our Novena prayers for St Joseph. There will be 3 Masses for the Solemnity of St Joseph, two public (*6.30pm Vigil Mass on Thursday & 10am on Friday in St Mary Magdalene*) and one on Facebook at 12noon on Friday. The obligation of abstinence from meat, even though it be a Friday is lifted and we may relax all our penances today because it is a special day of celebration.

Syro-Malar Rite: St Thomas More, Mission

Our '*Latin-Roman Rite*' Parish has had for many years a wonderful relationship with the '*Syro-Malabar Rite*' Community in our Deanery area of Eastbourne and St Leonards. Since the start of the pandemic, they have not been able to gather to celebrate the Eucharist in their rite. Bishop Mar Joseph Sceampickal, the Ordinary of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain has appointed Fr Joseph Anthiamkulam MCBS as the priest in charge of the St Thomas More Mission, which covers Eastbourne through to Hastings, and Fr Jose will be resident locally in Bexhill. God willing, Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite Mass will (*in a COVID-secure way*) soon resume in the parish and hopefully intime for Holy Week. Praise-God!

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: 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

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 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.

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**.

Faith Companion: along with the Magazine, they also have an online Catholic gift shop. Visit: www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk More info: thefaithcompanion@gmail.com or 01403 754808

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group: This charity, which provides emotional and practical support to asylum seekers and other migrants held in immigration detention are looking for a qualified accountant Treasurer. More information, please contact: George Fitzsimons: gfitz62246@aol.com

Easter Collection in Support of the Clergy

In the Easter Collection, we invite you to support the income of the priests, who do not receive a salary but rely on your offerings throughout the year. The Easter collection makes up 25% of their annual income and so your generosity is appreciated. At the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses, single use and COVID-secure green envelopes will be available, and the offertory box can be found by the exit door. As places at Mass remain limited and many remain cautious, you can also give online. If you currently have an online standing order or direct debit this is your parish offertory and cannot be transferred over to the Easter collection, so please make a separate BACs transfer with an explicit reference of "Easter". Many thanks.

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/stmbbexhill

Saturday 13th March

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Facebook Live Only

Ferial

10.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

Saturday: Lent Week 3

Public Mass: Win & Stan Yeo GE

Confessions & Adoration

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

Public Mass or Facebook Only Mass

Sunday 14th March

Facebook Live Only Mass

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

9:00am

11:00am

6.00pm

2 Public Masses at St Mary Magdalene

People of the Parish

Florence Raey RIP

Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: Easter Flowers

Monday 15th March

Facebook Live Only Mass

10.00am

Monday: Lent Week 4

Priest's Intentions

Tuesday 16th March

Facebook (Fr Simon)

St Martha's (Fr Rajesh)

10.00am

11.00am

Tuesday: Lent 4 / Requiem: 30 people

Lent Week 4: Mary Bird RIP

Requiem Mass: Mary Bird RIP

Wed. 17th March

Facebook (Fr Simon)

St Mary Mags. (Fr Rajesh)

10.00am

11.30am

St Patrick / Requiem Mass: 30 people

Mass of St Patrick: Elisa Leppard RIP

Requiem Mass: Elisa Leppard RIP

Thursday 18th March

St Mary Magdalene

Solemnity

6.30pm

Vigil of St Joseph

Public Mass: Maureen Grace RIP

Friday 19th March

St Mary Magdalene

Facebook Live Only Mass

Solemnity

10.00am

12noon

St Joseph, Husband of the BVM

Public Mass: Thomas Moran RIP

People of the Parish

Saturday 20th March

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Facebook Live Only Mass

Ferial

10.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

Saturday: Lent Week 4

Public Mass: Paddy Pearson RIP

Confessions & Adoration

People of the Parish

5th Sunday of Lent B (Passiontide)

Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9 & Jn 12:20-33

Sunday 21st March

Facebook Live Only Mass

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

9.00am

11.00am

6.00pm

2 Public Masses at St Mary Magdalene

Peter Ernest Vail RIP

Halse & Green Families RIP

Priest's Intentions

Second Collection: Lenten Alms

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, Acct

No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20.

Please indicate what the payment is for in the reference.