

PARISH NEWS

28th March 2021

Palm Sunday & Holy Week

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

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

HOLY WEEK

Once again, we embark on the most solemn week in the Church's Year, as we journey once more with Jesus. In 2020, we were prevented from gathering to celebrate His passion, death, and resurrection. This year, although public worship is permitted, significant restrictions apply, and so, liturgies may feel a little different, as shorter versions of liturgical options are preferred, and some elements of the rite will be omitted or deferred to later in the Easter Season. As capacities remain at 47 units of people at St Mary Magdalene and 36 units of people at St Martha's, ***please do not come if you have not booked a place*** and instead please participate in the central mysteries of our faith by joining the Parish Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill) or another Live Stream Liturgy from around the Diocese or wherever you find a suitable celebration. ***If you have booked a place, please help the stewards by arriving in good time (certainly not at the last minute)*** and observe all the routines of social distancing that we have been following since last July; sanitise your hands and wear a face-coverings.

Palms: these will be blessed at the 2 public Masses and distributed as you leave the Church after Holy Communion.

As last year, if you cannot get to Church to receive a palm, make a palm from foliage in your garden and mark your door with it.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Holy Week & Easter Mass Bookings

Please do not arrive at Mass on Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday (inclusive) without having booked your place.

As of 9am on Friday 26th March 2021

Palm Sunday: 11am Mass at STMM is **fully booked**

Easter Sunday: 9am Mass at St Martha's is **fully booked**

Easter Sunday: 11am Mass at STMM is **fully booked**

Limited spaces still available at other liturgies.

Safeguarding Refresher Training

As our communities grow in confidence, and we gradually see pastoral activity begin to open again, we must ensure that volunteers are up to date with their safeguarding checks and training. Most volunteers recognize that those who work directly with vulnerable adults and children require an up-to-date *Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS)* Check. While there are some roles that do not require a formal check, good practice dictates an awareness of safeguarding and the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese have written of their expectation that volunteers will undertake refresher training (as required) if they are to maintain their role. Last November, recognizing the current restrictions, Sylvia Cousins and I wrote to those in parish volunteering roles and invited them to complete online training. This week Sylvia sent a reminder letter giving people a gentle nudge to complete their online refresher training so that we will be ready to continue, resume or expand our pastoral outreach when the restrictions allow. If your circumstances have changed, then please let the office know and they will remove you from the volunteering lists.

With every blessing for Holy Week, 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: Fr Brian Taylor RIP, Margaret Mary Fox RIP, John Merlenn 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.

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. From Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, 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".

Holy Week in the Syro-Malabar Rite: St Thomas More, Mission

We have agreed with Fr Jose that there may be Holy Week Liturgies at St Martha's in the 'Syro-Malabar Rite' as follows: Palm Sunday 28th March: 3pm, Holy Monday-Wednesday: 4:30pm, Maundy Thursday: **5pm**, Good Friday: 12noon, Holy Saturday 3rd April: 7pm, Easter Sunday: 11:30am. All COVID assurances on capacity, stewarding, social distancing, and cleanliness have been given. All booking enquires should be made direct to the Syro-Malabar team and not to the Parish Office.

CAFOD: Christina Lucey's 10,000 steps a day for 40 days of Lent.

Christina Lucey 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> Remember, you can adjust the additional Just Giving contribution; use the drop down menu to adjust the amount from 15% as desired, even to 0%. Regardless, all your actual donation goes to CAFOD. Christina is grateful to all those who have supported her and invites you to spur her on, **she has now completed over 430,000 steps!**

PETITION: That the Government Does Not Reduce Overseas Aid

There are suggestions that the Government is planning to reduce its commitment to giving 0.7% of GDP as overseas aid. We want to keep this foreign aid and help the world's poor. Please sign the petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/561068> At 10,000 signatures the Government will respond to the petition. At 100,000 the petition will be considered for debate. Thank you.

*****We are fully booked for 11am Palm Sunday Mass but a limited number of places are still available to be booked for 6pm Mass (bookings close at 3pm on Friday 26th March)*****

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

The CWL would like to thank everyone who supported this fund-raising event in aid of the Medaille Trust. A profit of £260 was raised. Also, many thanks to everyone who helped with preparation, delivery, etc.

There are still a limited number of spaces available for the Easter Triduum. We are fully booked for 9am and 11am Easter Sunday Masses, but some places still remain for 6pm Easter Sunday Mass. (Bookings, subject to remaining availability, can be made until 3pm on Holy Wednesday).

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 27th March

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

St Mary Magdalene

10.30am

Facebook Live Only Mass

6.00pm

Saturday: Lent Week 5

Public Mass: John Carvalho RIP

Confessions & Adoration

For Dominic & Italia Capaldi

PALM SUNDAY: by pre-booking only

Jn 12:12-16 and Is 50:4-7, Phl 2:6-11 & Mk 15:1-39

Sunday 28th March

Facebook Live Only Mass

9:00am

St Mary Magdalene

11:00am

St Mary Magdalene

6.00pm

St Martha's

[3.00pm]

2 Public Masses: by pre-booking only

People of the Parish

Robert Stevens RIP

Jo Driscoll RIP

[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Lepra (Leprosy Charity): <https://www.lepra.org.uk/>

Monday 29th March

Facebook Live Only Mass

Ferial

10.00am

Holy Monday

John Mackie RIP

Tuesday 30th March

Facebook Live Only Mass

Ferial

10.00am

Holy Tuesday

Charles Pinsent GE

Wed. 31st March

Presbytery

Arundel Cathedral Live Stream

Ferial

10.00am

6.00pm

Holy Wednesday

Eve Lucas RIP

Mass of Chrism with +Richard

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM: by pre-booking only

Thursday 1st April

St Mary Magdalene*

Triduum

8.00pm

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Vocations to the Priesthood

Friday 2nd April

St Mary Magdalene*

St Martha's

Triduum

3.00pm

6.00pm

Commemorate of the Lord's Passion

Service of the Lord's Passion

Service of the Lord's Passion

Saturday 3rd April

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Triduum

9.00am

9.30am

Holy Saturday

Blessing of Easter Baskets

Confessions

Triduum: The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (after dark) and 1st Mass of Easter

St Mary Magdalene*

9.00pm

Priest's Intentions

[Triduum services marked with * will also be on Facebook Live]

EASTER SUNDAY: by pre-booking only

Acts 10:34,37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, Sequence & Jn 20:1-9

Sunday 4th April

St Martha's (& Facebook)

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

[St Martha's]

9.00am

11.00am

6.00pm

[11.30am]

3 Public Masses: by pre-booking only

The Paris Family

Intentions of Jim Gordan & Family

People of the Parish

[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

One Collection: Easter Collection in support of the Parish Clergy

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.