

Easter Collection: Thank You!

Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh would like to thank you for your exceedingly generous Easter Offering and for your prayers.

Parish Office

The Parish Office remains closed to **casual** callers. Access only by pre-booked appointment to the meeting room only and not to any part of the priest's accommodation. Any business, please, that can be conducted via email or telephone should continue in this way.

Sacrament of Reconciliation.

A priest is available at 10.30am in St Mary Magdalene Church on Saturdays to hear Confessions which remains the ordinary means of dealing with mortal (*or serious*) sin. If you are conscious of mortal (*or serious*) sin and cannot come on a Saturday or wait until Saturday, we can once again now have Confessions by appointment in the Parish Office Meeting Room. If '*getting out and about*' is still difficult for you **and you are only conscious of venial or minor sin**, you do not strictly need to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time and are invited to make a good '*act of contrition*' before approaching the most august sacrament of the Eucharist. As a small penance, we would recommend an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be, which you might offer for Vocations to the Priesthood, especially as we head towards Vocations Sunday.

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord

Resurrection Appearances

The Gospels attest that Jesus rose from the dead in a physical body. He who died on the cross and was buried is risen from the dead. His Resurrection is not a ghost or a vision, and Jesus affirms this by inviting the disciples to touch him and eat with him. Even now, we still have tangible access to Jesus in the Sacraments. In Holy Communion especially, we believe that Jesus is truly and substantially present and we receive him Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. All three of our readings stress the need for repentance, and it remains the teaching of the Church that we should be in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion, meaning that we should have confessed our mortal or serious sins sacramentally in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions continue to be available on Saturdays at 10.30am, or by appointment.

Stewarding, Musicians, Flowers

I am sure that you will join me in thanking those who stewarded our Public Masses at Easter and continue to do so. These requirements remain for the foreseeable future, so we welcome more parishioners onto these teams, perhaps even to open up more days for public worship. Please contact the office if you can help (*you still need to be under 70 and free from underlying health conditions*) and have some level of safeguarding awareness. Thank you also to those who provided Music for the celebration, so that we could celebrate the principal feasts of the Easter with great Solemnity. In the same manner, we thank those who decorated the Churches with flowers, an offering of love from the parish to the Lord.

With every blessing, Fr Simon.

MISSIO Red Boxes 2020:
£824.53 Thank You! More
information: www.missio.org.uk



We pray for those who have died: Elizabeth Klein RIP, Yvonne Doocey RIP (**NB: it is taking about three weeks 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.

Government Roadmap: 2: 12th April to 16th May: the current routines of social distancing, stewarding, and cleaning remain unless further guidance is received to the contrary from the Bishops of E&W.

Fr Simon will be away from Wednesday 21st April, returning on Monday 3rd May 2021. Please refrain, if possible, from sending him or copying him to emails. Please send urgent message to the parish office and the Assistant Priest will action them. Then, **Fr Rajesh** will be away the following week 4th – 12th May.

Syro-Malabar Rite: Moving forward, Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite at St Martha's will be 11.30am on Sundays, and 5pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. All assurances on cleaning have been given and signed off by the diocese, accepting that they are an integral part of our parish community.

Parish Halls: With a growing confidence in the community, there have been enquiries about our parish halls. At present they remain closed to pastoral activity as the cleaning requirements of the Insurers make hiring ill-advised. There are currently two exceptions, the Bexhill Food Bank have, with the Bishop's permission, been using St Martha's Hall as a sorting hub, and both halls will be used for the Local Elections on 6th May and the Council have provided assurances regarding COVID-security. We hope restrictions will be lifted in line with the "Roadmap" but until we receive further guidance, they remain closed. We have no date for reopening as we do not know what the ongoing requirements will be.

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.

Bishop Richard will be talking about his Benedictine Journey at 8pm on 25th April: Since he was a Seminarian, he has been an oblate of Pluscarden Abbey. Hosted by the Lay Community of St Benedict (on their 50th anniversary), the bishop's talk will be livestreamed on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfRiPXjiTi5GGal6gJ4UfYQ/>.

More info: lcsb50.2021@gmail.com or you can visit www.laybenedictines.org.

Worth Abbey: The Open Cloister: with Fr Peter Williams OSB

- 1) Finding the Silence on Saturday 24th April
- 2) The Wisdom of the Desert Fathers & Mothers Saturday 8th May

Bookings: www.worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats Enquiries: toc@worth.org.uk

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

Fr Simon released a statement on **First Holy Communion** last week. It can be found here:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/statement-on-first-holy-communion-april-2021.pdf>

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.

Confirmation: Bishop Richard will celebrate the Confirmation Mass at 7pm in St Mary Magdalene on Friday 8th October 2021. We are very fortunate to have our own parish celebration.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS): a good programme of study for those who would like to know more about their faith. Suitable for anyone teaching in our schools or a catechist in a parish, but equally good for any Catholic's on-going formation. More information: <http://brs-ccrs.org.uk/>

You can learn the course in person, by distance learning or online - details below:

Centres (in person learning): <http://brs-ccrs.org.uk/index.php/course-centres>

Life-Light Home Study Courses (distance learning): info@studylifelight.com or 01844 351 514

CCRS Online (online learning): ccrsonline@hope.ac.uk or 0151 291 3055

From CAFOD: Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day. In 2018, we featured Marian and Svondo in Zimbabwe. The vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support also provided soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in homes. Thank you for your support.

From Christina Lucey: Thank you to parishioners who sponsored her 10,000 steps a day, for the 40 days of Lent. The donation page can be found here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/Christina-Lucey>

CAFOD, Climate Change Petition: The UK will host world leaders for the 'COP26' climate talks in Glasgow in November 2021. Prime Minister, Boris Johnson must push world leaders to measures to keep temperature rises below the disastrous 1.5-degree threshold. This means all countries must play their part. With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. Sign the petition at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home> For those without internet access, petition

cards can be ordered from the CAFOD Shop: 0300 011 5680. Thank you.

From Fr Simon: Advice for those on the Extremely Vulnerable Lists.

As you know, on the advice of the Department of Health, my shielding period ended on 1st April, which allowed me to celebrate Easter with you. Although this formal shielding period ends, all those on the extremely vulnerable list are advised to limit our social contacts and I have discussed this with Bishop Richard. *The most significant impact are local parish sick calls which Fr Rajesh will manage.* As he does not drive and COVID protocols are in place, please plan in advance, remembering *that Last Rites does not mean Last Minute.* As COVID protocols remain in hospitals, all visit requests must go through the Hospital Chaplaincy Team.

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 17th April	Eastertide	Saturday in 2nd Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Andy Perrin GE
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions
Facebook Live Mass	6.00pm	People of the Parish

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER B

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 Jn 2:1-5 & Lk 24:35-48

Sunday 18th April		3 Public Masses: (first-come, first served)
St Martha's (& Facebook)	9.00am	Dennis Connor RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Gerard Hemsworth RIP
<i>[St Martha's]</i>	<i>[11.30am]</i>	<i>[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]</i>
Second Collection: No formal second collection today		

Monday 19th April	Eastertide	Monday in 3rd Week of Easter
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	H.R.H. Prince Philip RIP

Tuesday 20th April	Eastertide	Tuesday in 3rd Week of Easter
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Priest's Intentions

Wednesday 21st April	Memorial	Saint Anselm of Canterbury
Presbytery (Said Privately)	N/A	Priest's Intentions

Thursday 22nd April	Eastertide	Thursday in 3rd Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: Mary Herring RIP

Friday 23rd April	Solemnity	St George, Patron of England
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Ernest & Lily Whitehead RIP
St Mary Mags. Primary	2.15pm	School Mass: Mass to be confirmed
<i>St George ranks as a Solemnity in England, and so no abstinence required today</i>		

Saturday 24th April	Eastertide	Saturday in 3rd Week of Easter
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions and Adoration
Facebook Live Mass	6.00pm	No Vigil Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B GOOD SHEPHERD & VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Acts 4: 8-12, 1 Jn 3:1-2 & Jn 10:11-18

Sunday 25th April		3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's (Fr Desmond)	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Robert Stevens RIP
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Joseph Thomas RIP
Second Collection: The Education of Future Priests		
<i>[St Martha's]</i>	<i>[11.30am]</i>	<i>[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]</i>

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.

Next weekend's newsletter will be a double edition

Mass Intentions: can be booked via stmm@btconnect.com