

# PARISH NEWS

25<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Easter B

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

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

## New Parish Email Address

We are migrating across to the diocesan email address:

[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

Please start to use this with immediate effect as the [stmm@btconnect.com](mailto:stmm@btconnect.com) which will still work for short time will be disconnected.

## Parish Office

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

Fr Simon released a statement on **First Holy Communion** two weeks.

It can be found here:

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

## Online Baptism applications:

[www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/](http://www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/)

and you will then be directed to the online preparation. Due to current restrictions, celebrations will be after 17<sup>th</sup> May.

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

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

The Stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

## Good Shepherd & Vocations Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> Sun).

Above the back wall of the Seminary was the inscription (in Latin): *'No, you did not choose me. No, I chose you, and sent you out to bear fruit, fruit that will last'*. Although ordination is always a free choice, the freedom comes in understanding that the vocation to which we are called is the one that will make us truly blessed and fulfilled. The Lord continues to call many men to the Priesthood but, perhaps, the problem is that we live in a noisy society and we need to foster a culture of vocation in our homes, schools and parish that helps people hear the call of the Lord: *'I am the good shepherd'*, says the Lord, *'I know my own and my own know me'*. To understand the Lord's call, we would do well to consider St John's words from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *'think of the great love that the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children'*.

## The Vine and the Branches (5<sup>th</sup> Sun).

I find the gospel of the vine one of the most challenging but hopeful passages. What in my life, spiritually and pastorally has died and needs to be pruned away in order to allow a new growth and flourishing? As the COVID restrictions are gradually lifted over the next few weeks, perhaps, we should not expect a full return to normal, for not everything we were doing before the lockdowns was good or healthy. We should not think, *'but this is the way we have always done it'* because for the past 18 months we may not have done it at all! Perhaps, our prayer over the next few weeks should all be about looking for new growth. With every blessing, Fr Simon.

**Fr Simon away: 21/4 to 3/5 inclusive**  
**Fr Rajesh away: 3/5 to 12/5 inclusive**

We welcome Fr Desmond to 9am Mass: 25/4, 2/5 & 9/5

**We pray for those who have died:** Elizabeth Klein RIP, Yvonne Doocey RIP  
**A&B Deanery Bereavement Support:** [simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk) T: 01293 651155

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

**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: 12<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mass Intentions:** These can be requested through the Parish Office by telephone or email. There is availability **for May and subsequent months**. Mass intentions are an integral part of our faith as we pray for the repose of the soul of the faithful departed and for the good estate of the living. While every effort is made to celebrate a Mass on a preferred date, we can only accept one intention per Mass, and these are booked on a first come – first served basis. There cannot be a strict guarantee on dates as they may need to be change because of funerals or other pastoral commitments which may be beyond the control of Fr Simon or Fr Rajesh. **Mass offerings:** Traditionally, the offering you give alongside the intention also provides the clergy with a small income throughout the year. £10 per intention is the recommended offering but you can give what you can afford, and no intention would be refused because of lack of funds.

**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](mailto:info@studylifelight.com) or 01844 351 514

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

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 Clergy:** Fr Simon Dray, Fr Rajesh Minz, Deacon Simon Kirkdale  
**Administrators:** Bonita Osmond-Maher & Lisa Young  
**Safeguarding:** Sylvia Cousins

**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.

**Mass with Bishop Richard for Engaged Couples:** 7pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June in Arundel Cathedral. Bookings: [Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk) or <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/5gcrcgiv>

**Additionally, 10-16<sup>th</sup> May is Marriage week:** A chance to celebrate the joy of marriage. Pope Francis says, "Marriage is like a plant. It is not an armoire, which is placed there, in the room, and it's enough to dust it every once in a while. A plant is alive, and it needs to be cared for every day: to see how it is doing, to give it water, and so it goes. Marriage is a living reality: the life of a couple should never be taken for granted, in any phase of a family's journey."

**Parish Mass Intentions and Diary (Continued from the Back Page)**

<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Mary Magdalene	<b>Eastertide</b> 6.30pm	<b>Thursday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b> <b>Public Mass:</b> Florence Raey RIP
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Mary Magdalene	<b>Eastertide</b> 10.00am	<b>Friday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b> <b>Public Mass:</b> Priest's Intentions <i>Even though it be Eastertide, Friday Abstinence is required.</i>
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene <a href="#">Facebook Live Mass</a>	<b>Eastertide</b> 10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter</b> <b>Public Mass:</b> Priest's Intentions Confessions and Adoration <b>No Vigil Mass</b>

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48, 1Jn 4:7-10 & Jn 15:9-17*

<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b> St Martha's (Fr Desmond) St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	<b>3 Public Masses</b> Priest's Intentions Priest's Intentions (+Facebook) People of the Parish
<b>Other Liturgies</b> <i>[St Martha's]</i>	<i>[11.30am]</i>	<i>[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]</i>

**Second Collection:**

**The Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese (Gift Aid)**

**Note: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Please note the obligation to attend has been suspended. There will be a Live Stream at 11am, a Primary School Mass at 2pm and a Public Mass at 6.30pm.**

**Extremely Vulnerable Lists.**

**(Updated Note)**

On the advice of the Department of Health, Fr Simon continues to be cautious with his social interactions. With Fr Rajesh away from 3<sup>rd</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> May, Fr Simon will gradually increase his in-person pastoral work. Please continue to respect the advice to maintain social distancing. In regard local parish sick calls please remember to plan these in advance. **Last Rites does not mean Last Minute** so as not to restrict the opportunity for the individual to make their Confession and Receive Holy Communion. As COVID protocols remain in hospitals, all visit requests must go through the Hospital Chaplaincy.

**Parish Mass Diary and Intentions**

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/stmbbexhill](http://www.facebook.com/stmbbexhill)

**Parish Office**  
Remains closed to casual callers.  
All enquiries: [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)

**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  
[bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk)  
01424 210 263 opt 4

out of hours  
[simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.**

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter tide</b>	<b>Saturday in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	<b>Public Mass:</b> Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions
<a href="#">Facebook Live Mass</a>	6.00pm	<b>No Vigil Mass</b>

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
GOOD SHEPHERD / VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

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

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>3 Public Masses:</b>
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
<i>[St Martha's]</i>	<i>[11.30am]</i>	<i>[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]</i>

**Second Collection: The Education of Future Priests (Gift Aid)**

<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter tide</b>	<b>Monday in 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b>
<a href="#">Facebook Live Mass</a>	N/A	<b>No Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter tide</b>	<b>Tuesday in 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b>
<a href="#">Facebook Live Mass</a>	N/A	<b>No Mass today</b>
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Requiem</b>	<b>Funerals are restricted to 30 people</b>
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	<b>Requiem:</b> Elizabeth Klein RIP
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Feast</b>	<b>Saint Catherine of Sienna</b>
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	<b>Public Mass:</b> Michael McElligot RIP
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter tide</b>	<b>Friday in 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b>
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	<b>Public Mass:</b> Paul Barker GE
	<i>Even though it be Easter tide, Friday Abstinence is required.</i>	
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Year of St Joseph</b>	<b>St Joseph the Worker</b>
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	<b>Public Mass:</b> The Unemployed GE
St Mary Magdalene	<b>10.45am</b>	Confessions and Adoration
<a href="#">Facebook Live Mass</a>	6.00pm	<b>No Vigil Mass, Int Moved to 6pm Sun.</b>

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Acts 9:26-31, 1 Jn 3:18-24 & Jn 15:1-8*

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>		<b>3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)</b>
St Martha's (Fr Desmond)	9.00am	Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Antonelli Family RIP <i>(moved from Sat 6pm)</i>
<i>[St Martha's]</i>	<i>[11.30am]</i>	<i>[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]</i>

**Second Collection: Maintenance to include Memorial Garden Upkeep**

<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter tide</b>	<b>Monday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b>
<a href="#">Facebook Live Mass</a>	N/A	<b>No Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Requiem</b>	<b>Funerals are restricted to 30 people</b>
St Mary Magdalene	1.30pm	<b>Requiem:</b> Yvonne Doocey RIP
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Easter tide</b>	<b>Wednesday in 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter</b>
Presbytery (Said Privately)	N/A	<b>No Mass today</b>

**Mass Diary and intentions for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May continued Page 3 inside**