

### First Holy Communion (updated)

**2020 Children:** our delayed parish celebrations are either 25<sup>th</sup> June (full) or 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Each family is allocated one bench, which holds six people (*including the candidate*). Although, we hope the restrictions are lifted on 21<sup>st</sup> June, we plan cautiously in case some limitations remain. Twenty children per celebration allows us to keep space between each family, and six per bench keeps us under the 50% capacity permitted for one-off celebrations.

**2021 Children:** our priests are hearing First Confessions at **10.30am on Saturdays: 12<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> June.** As the end of the school year approaches, we encourage you to make use of these dates. So far, 28% of those who signed up for the 'at home' course have made their Confession. Remember, you need to have watched & read the gospel, be attending Mass either in person or via Live Stream and completed the 1<sup>st</sup> four chapters of the '*I Belong*' book before your First Confession. We encourage Catholic parents also to make a confession. Help sheets:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/fhc-reconciliation-children-and-parents.pdf>

After your First Confession you can book a place for your First Holy Communion on either 25<sup>th</sup> September or 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 12noon at St Martha's, and also complete the remaining six chapters of '*I Belong*'.

### It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

#### St Richard of Chichester, Bishop

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June is the local feast of St Richard Wych, Catholic Bishop of Chichester (1197-1253). He is the secondary patron of the Arundel & Brighton Diocese, Patron of Sussex, the Patron of St Richard's Catholic College, our Deanery Secondary School, which located within our parish boundary makes him a secondary patron of our parish.

He is a suitable patron for our secondary school having completed his studies at Oxford University and being well versed also in Canon Law. His prayer remains a praiseworthy model for forming a Catholic student, affirming the blessings that the faith brings, which is enhanced in having a personal relationship with Christ:

*Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ  
for all the benefits Thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, my friend and brother,  
may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly and  
follow Thee more nearly, day by day.*

Bishop St Richard insisted that all children should be able to pray and recite the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer both foundational prayers of our profession of faith.

With every blessing for our local feast day, Fr Simon.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> June: A Word of Caution

We are waiting to hear if all remaining COVID restrictions will be lifted on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Even if they are, we should not expect everything that we had prior to COVID to resume overnight. We will work through any guidance received from the Bishops' Conference and from our own Diocese and implement and restore pastoral activity as appropriate and sustainably as volunteering and finances allow. It will be like a '*mustard seed*', it may start small but in time it can flourish.

**We pray for those who have died:** Martin Murphy RIP, Stewart (Jim) Gordon RIP & Anna Vent RIP (NB: Although the 30 limit on funerals was lifted on 17<sup>th</sup> May, we understand the COVID capacities apply (see below). Other COVID precautions may still apply.

**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: 50 units of people** (up to a max of 66 individuals) at St Martha's and **60 units of people** (*max 80 individuals*) at St Mary Magdalene. See note below "Government Roadmap".

**Parish Halls:** There is a requirement that the parish must ensure (*either by paying a contractor or training a parish volunteer team*) that the hall is sanitized after every booking, and that we cannot leave it to the hall hirer. This is what is currently preventing us from re-opening St Martha's hall. Hopefully, this requirement will be relaxed when all restrictions are lifted on 21<sup>st</sup> June, until then, at the earliest, we do not have a date for re-opening. St Mary Magdalene Hall is currently undergoing, via an insurance claim, extensive repairs following the flood at Easter. Further investigations this week, suggested the damage may have been more significant and a further survey may be needed. Initial conversations with our heating engineer also suggest the boiler in St Mary Magdalene Hall has reached the end of its life.

**Gift Aid Offertory Envelopes:** we have not ordered any new gift aid offertory envelopes this year as they are expensive and most (*due to the pandemic*) lay uncollected last year. If you need envelopes, **please contact the parish office** who will see if your envelopes from last year are still available or put together a pack for you. Alternatively, you could buy a pack of envelopes from any good shop and simply write your gift aid number and date on it. Better still, why not move your offertory online by setting up a standing order. If you need help doing so, contact your bank or the parish office.

**From CAFOD:** In November, the UK will host the 'COP26' climate talks in Glasgow. Many of the poorest countries are struggling to cope with the effects of climate change such as increased droughts, floods, and cyclones. We need world leaders to put the poorest people at the heart of their talks and the UK has a critical role to play as host. Sign the petition: <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home>

**Bexhill Fairtrade Group:** Jack Doherty has provided an update, which can be found in the newsletter section of our parish website: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/latest-update-from-the-bexhill-fairtrade-group-may-2021.pdf> which includes suggestions on how we might begin to create the future we want: a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world. Please do click on the link and write out your aspirations for a better just world on your own piece of 'bunting'.

**New Group for Catholic Young Adults:** This new group launches this week. Please tell anyone you know who is 18-35 years old to get in touch with [lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk) to find out more.

**Day for Catechists Saturday 25 September, Worth Abbey:** A gathering of Catechists from around the Diocese, to share our experiences and offer support and resources. The day ends with mass with Bishop Richard. To book contact [ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk)

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

**Baptism:** applications can still be submitted: [www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/](http://www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/) and you will then be directed to the online preparation. Baptisms are now permitted as part of the Roadmap Stage 3.

**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.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) & Christian Initiation of Children of Catechetical Age (7+) (CICCA):** these courses are not due to begin until October and November respectively, and we will update you on plans later in the summer, once we have more certainty with the unlocking.

**Non-Urgent Pastoral Visits to the Housebound:** If you need the Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 01424 210263 or email [bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk) to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

**Grandparents' Pilgrimage to the Shrine at West Grinstead:** All Grandparents, or honorary grandparents, are invited to join Bishop Richard for our annual pilgrimage to West Grinstead on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, from 10 am. This is always a lovely event. It is a day to meet other grandparents and share the joys and excitement of this wonderful vocation. There will be opportunities for Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, and a visit to the Secret Chapel (flat shoes advised). Packed lunch needed. Drinks provided. To book a place: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/wpjpxxir>

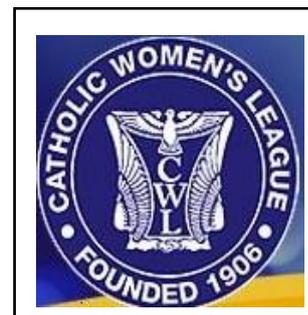
**Catholic Women's League (updated):** We are a National and International Organization for all women of the parish. We share our faith, skills, and friendship; support the local community, keeping the parish and worldwide Church in our hearts. We also invite speakers to enrich and entertain us; we go on pilgrimages and outings, have good laughs, drink tea and wine! **Come & Join Us** (*when the restrictions allow, and the parish halls reopen*): 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month at 7.30pm St Martha's. While we cannot meet physically at the moment, we meet on ZOOM. If you would like to be included contact us: 01424 21803 or 211717.

Please join us for our Sponsored walk for the Medaille Trust (8<sup>th</sup> July):

The Medaille Trust is a UK Charity founded by several Catholic Congregations which aims to bring freedom from human trafficking. They offer safe housing, support victims, raise awareness in communities and work with law enforcement offices. Pope Francis: " An economy without human trafficking is an economy of care."

- 15<sup>th</sup> August: Summer Garden Party & Fair at St Martha's

[Please also see note about the halls on page 2 of this newsletter]



## 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.**

# Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill](https://www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill)

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Facebook Live Mass

Memorial

10.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

**The Immaculate Heart of Mary**

**Public Mass:** Mass of Thanksgiving

Confessions and (including 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliations for 2021 children)

Vigil of Sunday: Joseph Thomas RIP

## 11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

*Ez 17:22-24, 2 Cor 5:6-10 & Mk 4:26-34*

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June

St Martha's (& Facebook)

St Mary Mags

St Mary Magdalene

[St Martha's]

Sunday

9.00am

11.00am

6.00pm

**Second Collection: Lepra**

[11.00am]

**3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)**

Joy (Maisie) Brown RIP & Brown Family

Fr Rajesh Minz GE

People of the Parish

[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Facebook Live Mass

Ferial

10.00am

**Monday in 11<sup>th</sup> Week in OT**

Holy Souls

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

Facebook Live Mass

Ferial

10.00am

**Tuesday in 11<sup>th</sup> Week in OT**

Yvonne Barry RIP

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Presbytery (said privately)

Memorial

N/A

**St Richard of Chichester, Priest**

Herbert Whitehead RIP

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

12noon

6.30pm

**Requiem / Thurs. in 11<sup>th</sup> Week in OT**

**Requiem Mass:** Stewart (Jim) Gordon

**Public Mass:** Norah Eileen Moran RIP

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Ferial

10.00am

10.30am

7.00pm

**Friday in 11<sup>th</sup> Week in OT**

**Public Mass:** Robert Stevens RIP

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

Memorial

10.00am

10.30am

6.00pm

**Saturday Memorial of the BVM**

**Public Mass:** James Gordon RIP

Confessions and Adoration *including 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliations (Confessions)*

Vigil of Sunday: Capaldi Family RIP

Facebook Live Mass

## 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

*Job 3:1-8, 2 Cor 5:14-17 & Mk 4:35-41*

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June

St Martha's

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene

[St Martha's]

9.00am

11.00am

6.00pm

**3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)**

People of the Parish, esp. our Dads.

Mary Driscoll RIP

Neil Jenkins RIP

**Second Collection: Day for Life**

[11.00am]

[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

**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.**

**Mass Intentions:** there is availability throughout the summer for Mass Intentions.

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