

Church Cleaning

Thank you to the 99% of people who happily cleaned their own seat after each Mass last week, and for being attentive to those parishioners who needed a little help. This requirement of personal responsibility will be with us for some time, so please be vigilant in ensuring you leave your space COVID-secure for the next person to use the Church. Post COVID (*whenever that may be*), as the cleaning of the Church is being handed back to parishioners, each Mass community might wish to establish its own cleaning teams to ensure that the House of God is always ready for our worship of God.

Legal Restrictions have been lifted but precautions remain

(*find our local guidance here*):

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/bexhill-parish-stage-4-guidance-19th-july-2021.pdf>

'It is most important that we exercise great caution in the implementation of this guidance' (Bishop Richard Moth)

Face Coverings: Face coverings are strongly recommended to be worn by those in Church. Bishop Richard says, *'the wearing of face coverings is a protection for others, I urge most strongly that face coverings continue to be worn during the course of celebrations, in accord with the now well-established practice.'*

The Lord gave them bread from heaven

The Bread of Life Discourse

Throughout August (*except when interrupted by the Assumption*), we hear *'the Bread of Life Discourse'* in the Gospel. I would encourage all parishioners to take the *'Bread of Life Discourse'* as their "Lectio Divina" throughout August, especially so if you are preparing for First Holy Communion. John Chapter 6 is essential reading in understanding what or more importantly, who we receive in Holy Communion.

In this chapter we learn:

- Jesus is the bread of life, who has come down from heaven, and he gives himself for the life of the world.
- Our souls are hungry to be fed, *'give us this bread always'*, the people say. Jesus is the living bread; whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread he gives, is his flesh for the life of the world.
- People struggle to understand the reality of his body and blood, and even today, people tend to reduce the meaning to a symbolic or metaphorical understanding.
- **However**, Jesus is clear: *"Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.*
- Jesus' teachings can be hard, and some people choose to walk away. But like the Apostles, we stay: *'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'*

With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: no new parish notifications

We pray for the sick: Roy Cox, Margaret Pink, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Samuel Barden, Roy Mitchell, Pete Cornfield and Baby Neveah O'Leary

Recommended Church Capacities: 112 people at St Martha's and 150 people at St Mary Magdalene.

Quinquennial Buildings Survey (updated)

The five-year building inspection has been completed this week and the final report will be with us later this summer. Once the report is received, we will work out with the Diocesan Property Team on how to proceed. Leaving aside the presbytery (*which needs a major refurbishment*), first indications are that the estate is in reasonable condition, but some works are needed, and with our reduced funds and current low income any work presents a significant challenge, so we will update you on any fundraising targets in due course. The Diocesan Property team are looking to move forward for plans for the refurbishment of the presbytery and we are working out possible plans based on cost and viability.

Parish Halls (updated)

The Diocesan Property Team (*based on the advice of the insurers*) has issued new guidance on hall opening. The requirements are extensive, and we must move forward slowly and cautiously. To open, all the usual Health & Safety precautions must be in place, and all checks up to date. Secondly, each activity requires its own detailed risk assessment. Thirdly, determined by the risk assessment, some of the COVID precautions (*face coverings, restricted capacity, and social distancing*) may still be required. **Finally, and most importantly**, regular cleaning is required: not only, must the hirer clean after their activity, the parish must perform a daily clean. At present, as the parish cannot afford to pay a contractor to clean weekly, let alone daily, this is a major stumbling block. Therefore, to open the hall, even in a limited way, needs a **volunteer team of cleaners (and coordinator) to step forward and be trained**. [Remember, St Mary Magdalene Hall is out of commission due to the flood damage].

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

Beginning Experience Weekend: 8th – 10th October, at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex: A residential weekend for those who are single again following divorce, separation, or the death of a partner. To book or discuss: Freda 01322-838415, Maura 07795-498445, besouthofengland@gmail.com.

40th Anniversary of the Diocesan Youth Service: This will be 2pm to 5pm on 4th September in Arundel Cathedral. To book a place: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/10x4omvx>

Sunday Obligation: as it may not be possible for everyone to return to Mass at present, the obligation to hear Mass on a Sunday remains suspended; restored on **1st Sunday of Advent (28th November 2021)**.

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

Sacraments:

Baptism: applications can still be submitted: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/

First Holy Communion: please do not submit applications for 2022. We are not ready to receive them, as we have not yet determined the arrangements for the course.

Confirmation: Confirmation Mass at 7pm in St Mary Magdalene on Friday 8th October 2021..

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 to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

CWL Summer Garden Party (updated): as the parish is not ready to reopen St Martha's Hall at present, a decision has been made not to hold the garden party on 15th August, as it would need hall resources.

Redundant iPads & Laptops: needed by the Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group. An IT company will 'clean' devices to remove any data. These devices enable a person in detention or after release, to help themselves; to access classes for speakers of other languages, to communicate with friends, family, our staff, their volunteer visitor and to access resources such as Food Banks and to join our post detention services. Contact Josie at: josie@gdwg.org.uk. Thank you.

Anniversaries Mass: Taking place at St Joseph's Guildford, on Saturday 9th October, at 11.30 am, with Bishop Richard. For couples and their families celebrating a landmark or significant anniversary. Numbers limited to 150. Parking off site. You can sign up by emailing: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Syro-Malabar First Holy Communions (11am Mass on 15th & 29th August): St Martha's Church will be decorated the day before each celebration, so we can expect a colourful Church at the 9am 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 add a suitable reference)

Mass Intentions: Requests to: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmbexhill

Parish Office
Remains closed to casual callers.
All enquiries:
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
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.

Saturday 31st July
St Mary Magdalene 10.00am **Feast St Ignatius Loyola, Priest**
St Mary Magdalene 10.30am **Public Mass:** Peter McGuckin RIP
St Mary Magdalene 11.15am Adoration & Confessions
Memorial Garden 2.00pm Baptism of Bella Attwater
St Mary Magdalene 5.15pm Burial of Ashes of Paddy Pearson RIP
St Mary Magdalene 6.00pm Adoration & Confessions
Public Mass: Priest's Intentions
No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own bench afterwards

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15, Eph 4:17, 20-24 & Jn 6:24-35

Sunday 1st August
St Martha's 9.00am **Sunday 3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)**
St Mary Mags. (& Facebook) 11.00am Vincent Frain RIP
St Mary Magdalene 12.30pm Irene Hulewicz RIP
St Mary Magdalene 6.00pm Baptism of Thomas Boeck
St Mary Magdalene People of the Parish
Second Collection: Retired Priests Fund
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Please clean your own bench at the end of each Mass.

Monday 2nd August
Facebook Live Mass **Ferial** **Monday in 18th Week in OT**
10.00am **No Mass, closed for maintenance.**

Tuesday 3rd August
St Mary Magdalene 10.00am **Ferial** **Tuesday in 18th Week in OT**
Public Mass: Ouseph Joseph RIP

Wednesday 4th August
Presbytery (Said Privately) **Memorial** **St John Vianney, Priest**
N/A **No Mass**

Thursday 5th August
St Mary Magdalene 6.30pm **Opt. Mem** **Dedication of St Mary Major Basilica**
Public Mass: Priest's Intentions

Friday 6th August
St Mary Magdalene 10.00am **Feast** **The Transfiguration of the Lord**
St Mary Magdalene 10.30am **Public Mass:** Brian Keaveny RIP
St Mary Magdalene 7.00pm **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
No Adoration during August
Front section of St Mary Magdalene Church roped off to allow for Wedding Preparation

Saturday 7th August
St Mary Magdalene 10.00am **Opt. Mem** **Saturday Memorial of the BVM**
St Mary Magdalene 10.30am **Public Mass:** Pearl Murphy RIP
St Mary Magdalene 11.30am **No Adoration & Confessions**
Wedding Service of Sophia Green & Christopher Slatter
St Mary Magdalene 5.15pm Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene 6.00pm **Public Mass:** Buckle Family RIP
No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own seat afterwards

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

1 Kings 19:4-8, Eph 4:30-5:2 & Jn 6:41-51

Sunday 8th August
St Martha's 9.00am **Sunday 3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)**
St Mary Magdalene 11.00am Pamela R. Bourne GE
St Mary Magdalene 12.30pm Terrance & Josephine Dolan RIP
St Mary Magdalene 6.00pm Baptism & FHC of Christianne Jamieson
St Mary Magdalene People of the Parish
Second Collection: Church Flowers
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own seat afterwards