

25th July 2021

PARISH NEWS

The Feast of St Martha, St Mary, & St Lazarus.

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

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

Grandparents Sunday

25th July 2021

This Sunday is the 1st World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme chosen by the Holy Father is *'I am with you always'* (c.f. Mt 28:20) which is a way of expressing the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging pandemic times. Mass for our grandparents (GE & RIP) will be offered at 6pm on Sat. 24th July 2021. You can read Pope Francis' message for this Day for Grandparents:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20210531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

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.'*

I will bless the Lord at all times.

Or

Taste and see that the Lord is good

New Feast of St Martha, Mary & Lazarus

Thursday 29th July is the new Memorial of St Martha, Mary, and Lazarus (*but it remains the patronal feast of the community at St Martha's in Little Common*). As such, all Sunday Masses this weekend in the parish are of this new Memorial, it ranking locally as a Solemnity. Originally, the Feast of St Martha came on the octave day of the Feast of St Mary Magdalene, as for many years, people believed that Mary Magdalene and Mary of Bethany were the same person following an ancient sermon by Pope Gregory the Great in 591AD in which he asserted that the two Mary's were one and the same, clearly a view still popular when the Rosminians dedicated St Martha's. More modern scholarship, however, believes that the two have been erroneously conflated, and so, Pope Francis has updated the Roman Calendar to reflect this new thinking that Mary of Bethany is not the same person as Mary Magdalene. Now in the same celebration, all three friends of Jesus: Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, with whom he stayed while visiting Jerusalem share the Feast Day commemorated on 29th July 2021. Pope Francis' intention is to celebrate *'the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, in believing that he is the resurrection and the life'*. With my prayers, Fr Simon.

Sunday Obligation: as it may not yet be possible or appropriate for everyone to return to Mass at present, the obligation to hear Mass on a Sunday remains suspended, to be restored on **1st Sunday of Advent (28th November 2021)**. The bishops letter 'Sunday – It is our Day' can be found here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/sunday-it-is-our-day/>

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, and Roy Mitchell.

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

Quinquennial Buildings Survey (w/c 26th July 2021)

The five-year building inspection takes place this week. Over the last five-year period, we had 18 months without a Parish Priest and now 18 months of COVID with a significantly reduced income. This means that many tasks identified last time will be carried over to this new survey. Once the surveyor had provided us with the report, we will inform you of **what work is required, the costs involved and the fundraising targets to be set** to maintain the mission here in Bexhill. This will require a significant effort from all.

Parish Halls (updated)

We had hoped to have a clearer picture on the use of parish halls. The step 4 guidance asks for a risk assessment to be completed for each activity and space being used, and to take a copy of the hirer's public liability insurance. This is because the communal nature of such spaces makes them vulnerable to the spread of coronavirus. As these venues need to be COVID-secure, the parish priest, as venue manager has a legal duty of care to ensure people using the hall are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. The cleaning of the venue, (including surfaces & toilets) remain the major stumbling block in reopening St Martha's Hall, as our own diocese says we cannot leave the cleaning to the hall hirer. Additionally, (as above), we begin the Quinquennial Buildings inspection this week and so, we will revisit the opening of the halls after that report and see if anything has changed. As reported in the last newsletter, any opening of St Martha's Hall may be limited, especially as St Mary Magdalene Hall remains out of commission while repairs are made following the flood damage and it depends also on what work the survey suggests for the presbytery and parish office, which may have a knock-on effect.

The Open Cloister @ Worth Abbey: Desert Wisdom: the power of thoughts - Online Day Retreat:

Sat. 24th July 2021, 10am-4:30pm. To book: go to www.worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats

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>

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: 2.30pm on Sunday 15th Aug. in the grounds of St Martha's, including several stalls and a raffle. Tickets on sale before all Masses on 25th July: £4 per adult & £2 per child.

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

**Fr Boniface writes to wish all parishioners a
happy and holy feast of St Mary Magdalene and also of St Martha (Mary & Lazarus).**

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/stmmbexhill

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 24th July	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Ann & Charles Wright RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration, Confessions & 1 st Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	12.00pm	Baptism of Karissa Williams
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Mags. & Facebook	6.00pm	Public Mass: All Grandparents GE & RIP

No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own bench afterwards

THE FEAST OF ST MARTHA, ST MARY & ST LAZARUS
(Transferred from 29th July 2021)
1 John 4:7-16 & Jn 11:19-27

Sunday 25th July	Solemnity	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's (& Facebook)	9.00am	Parish of OL Rosary, esp. St Martha's.
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Intentions of Sr Mary of Jesus
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection: Parish Charity Fund
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Volunteers required from each Mass community to step forward please and clean the benches after each Sunday Mass.
At public weekday Masses, each individual cleans their own seat.

Monday 26th July	Memorial	Saint Joachim & St Anna, OL's parents
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Fr Simon's Grandparent's RIP
Tuesday 27th July	Ferial	Tuesday in 17th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Michael O'Conner RIP
Wednesday 28th July	Ferial	Wednesday in 17th Week in OT
Presbytery (Said Privately)	N/A	Hester & Ellis Eyre RIP
Thursday 29th July	Solemnity	St Martha, Mary & Lazarus
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: People of the Parish
Friday 30th July	Ferial	Friday in 17th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Paul & Angela Wilson GE
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St Mary Magdalene	7.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Parish Office is closed today (30th July) due to staff holiday

Saturday 31st July	Feast	St Ignatius Loyola, Priest
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Peter McGuckin RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	11.15am	Baptism of Bella Attwater
Memorial Garden	2.00pm	Burial of Ashes of Paddy Pearson RIP
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Public Mass: Priest's Intentions

No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own seat 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	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	Vincent Frain RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Irene Hulewicz RIP
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Thomas Boeck
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection: Retired Priest's Fund
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Volunteers required from each Mass community to clean after Sunday Mass