

PARISH NEWS

Honouring Sunday

The UK Bishops have issued a document on Sunday Worship, asking us to reflect on how we keep the Lord's Day Holy.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>

If we can go shopping, to school, work, restaurants, cinemas, sporting events and other indoor events, perhaps we can be at Sunday Mass. **If we remain vulnerable** to the virus and need to be cautious in our mixing with others, then we can come to Mass when it is quieter or continue to Live Stream. As a reassurance, Clergy and Musicians will celebrate with reverence and joy, but with **simplicity and brevity in mind**. To help others, we strongly recommend the continued wearing of face coverings in Church and subsidiary buildings. We continue to ventilate the Churches, so even with the heating on it is cooler, so please wear warmer clothing:



Sanitizing & Cleaning

Please continue to sanitize your place after each Mass, Liturgy or Service.

Parish Office

The office is open in-person only to those with pre-booked appointments, otherwise the administrators can assist you by email or telephone (Mon-Fri, 9.15am to 4.45pm).

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For a Synodal Church:

Communion, Participation & Mission.

Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be in communion with one another, how we participate in the life of the Church and how we prioritize the mission to announce the gospel in our homes, schools, and parishes. Stage 1 of this walking together begins in our Diocese in December. Our Synod page, which includes **F.A.Q.s and the downloadable questions, and the response form** can be found here:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

Existing groups (such as: CWL, Mother's Prayers, Charismatic Prayer Group, SVP, Catholic Teachers, Musicians and Catechists) might spend some time during Advent and January discussing the Synod questions, being well placed to have the pulse of the parish community. Any parishioner, however, can form a small group in their homes (as COVID precautions allow) or by going to a coffee shop to ponder and reflect on the Holy Father's Synod questions. If you are forming a group, do let the parish office know and we will publish the details in the newsletter.

Looking at the questions, this is not about creating a shopping list of what we want but a deep reflection of what we need as a Church to listen to and accompany people, to communicate and celebrate the good news, and to discern our engagement with the world. The deadline for submissions is Friday 4th February 2022. God bless, Fr Simon.

RCIA Service of Acceptance

This Sunday, at the 11am Mass, we formally admit Adults for Baptism into the Catechumenate and welcome Candidates seeking full Communion with the Catholic Church. Please pray for them in their journey in faith. Adult Baptisms and Receptions are a great sign of the fruitfulness of our parish.

We pray for those who have died: Serge Adam RIP (**Requiem Mass:** 12noon in St Mary Mags on Mon. 29th Nov); Leanne Hearne RIP (**Requiem Mass:** 11.00am on Wed, 1st Dec in St Mary Mags). Katherine Hebb (**Funeral:** 11am, Mon. 6th Dec, Eastbourne Crematorium), Peter Andrews RIP (**Requiem Mass:** 11.30am in St Martha's, Little Common on Tues. 7th Dec.), Sandra (Sally) Saunders, 12.15pm on Thu. 16th Dec at Hastings Crematorium and Peter Koe RIP, *date and time are still being worked out.*

We pray for the sick: Roy Cox, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Samuel Barden, Pete Cornfield, Baby Neveah O'Leary, Veronica Phillips, Stanley Pryke, Winifred Broughton, Vera Stevens, Fr Louis Kitt and Fr Desmond Baker

Parish Pastoral Support Team: This Sunday, as Fr Simon meets the group of parishioners who have approached him, offering themselves as a pastoral support team, ***we invite all parishioners to pray the Rosary throughout Advent to support the Parish's Pastoral Mission.*** The team reviews the "Something to Celebrate" reflections, grounding their remit in the people's hope and dreams for the parish.

Follow-Up from the Music Formation Session: We have two main objectives for the present time, to resource the parish celebrations of Christmas, and to focus our human resources as best as we can to cover our Sunday liturgies, with a renewed sense of working together as one parish.

Advent Taize Service: 4pm on Sunday 12th Dec in St Thomas of Canterbury, St Leonard's. Poster: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/11/advent-taize-poster-2021-revised-date.pdf>

Catholic Women's League (CWL): CWL is the only group for women within the Parish who share faith, skills, and friendship, while supporting the local community and keeping the parish and world-wide Church in our hearts. Our group invite speakers to enrich and entertain us, we go on pilgrimages and outings. CWL meets: first Monday of each month @ 7-30pm. Contact: 211717 or 221803 for more details.

"Enriching our Catholic Faith": Talks in Parish Centre at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church. **Tues. 30th Nov:** 'Jesus: who do people say I am?' (John de Waal). **Mon. 6th Dec:** 'Gaudete! and the gift of Christian Joy.' (Fr Tristan). **Tues. 14th Dec:** 'COP 26 and its aftermath.' (Barbara Echlin). 7.30 – 8.30pm.

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP): If you feel you need help or support, please contact our team on 07783 598238, or e-mail popsy57@outlook.com and they will be happy to speak with you.

Repository: the first steps in re-opening the repository begin on Saturdays, opening after the 6pm Vigil Mass. If people would like to see the Repository open at other times, it needs a volunteer to step forward.

U.N. International Day for Abolition of Slavery: On 2nd Dec, please offer 1 minute of silent prayer to end Modern Day Slavery and for the world's 40 million slaves (of which 136,000 slaves are found in the UK).

To a Safer Shore: Justice & Peace Assembly: At 9.30am on 15th Jan at St Francis School, Crawley, +Richard and other speakers will consider the challenges faced by people who leave their home to seek refuge in other countries. Please wear a face covering and warm clothing. Refreshments will be available, but please bring your own mug or flask. To book: **E:** Tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

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

Sacramental Programmes

RCIA: This course has now begun, and registration is now closed for 2022.

Christian Initiation (Baptism) of Children of Catechetical Age (7+) (CICCA):

Applications via the website: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together-form/>

Infant Baptism (aged 0-6 years): applications via: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/

CONFIRMATION: This course has now begun, apply immediately if you still wish to join the course.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Applications open this Sunday, 1st Sun. of Advent (28th Nov. 2021).

Application forms can be found here: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/>

Please carefully read the notes for guidance on page 2 of the form, esp. regarding Mass attendance.

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.

Pastoral Facilities: any parish group wishing to use St Martha's Hall should contact the Parish Office (*before restarting*) to complete their individual risk assessment. St Mary Magdalene Hall remains closed.

Christmas Mass schedule: our proposed schedule designed to spread the capacity, no booking required:

Christmas Eve (Friday): 6pm & 8pm Mass at St Martha's & 6pm & 8pm Mass at St Mary Magdalene

Christmas Day (Saturday): 9am at St Martha's & 11am Mass at St Mary Magdalene. (No Sat Vigil Mass)

Boxing Day (Sunday): 9am at St Martha's & 11am Mass at St Mary Magdalene. (No Sun Eve. Mass).

Volunteer Stewards for each Mass would be desirable, and each Church community needs to arrange choirs for all Masses and agree their plans with the parish priest, otherwise it is CDs.

Christmas Collection in support of the Clergy: the Christmas collection supports the priest's income, *who do not receive a salary from the parish or diocese* but rely on the offerings the people give in Mass offerings and stole fees. The Christmas collection equates to about 25% of their annual income, so your generosity is appreciated. Green envelopes will be available at Christmas Masses. If you currently have an online standing order or direct debit this is your parish offertory and cannot be transferred to the Christmas collection. Please either use a green envelope at your Christmas Mass or make a separate BACs transfer with an explicit reference of "Christmas", so it is paid to the priests. Many thanks for your support.

Christmas Day Lunch: In person event: 12.30pm at **St Stephen's Church Bexhill**. To book: contact Tim on 01424 213456 or email: infofoll2020@gmail.com Delivery option also available. More information, see the poster uploaded to our parish website: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/11/the-friends-of-lossie-long-christmas-lunch-poster-2021.pdf>

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 27th November	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Robert Stevens RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration or Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Luca Cruz Cabanlit
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	6.00pm	Public Mass: Margaret Kenny RIP

No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own bench afterwards

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

Jer 33:14-16, 1 Thess 3:12-4:2 & Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Sunday 28th November	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	Gloria Lindsay-Vail RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Gerard Noel McNamara RIP <i>with RCIA Service of Acceptance</i>
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Brandon O'Donoghue
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection: Christmas Flowers
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

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

Monday 29th November	Funeral	Requiem Mass
St Mary Magdalene	12noon	Requiem Mass: Serge (Hedley) Adam RIP
Tuesday 30th November	Feast	St Andrew, Apostle
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Mae Pinent RIP
St Mary Magdalene	4.30pm	Reception of the body: Leanne Hearne RIP
Wednesday 1st Dec.	Funeral	Requiem Mass
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Requiem Mass: Leanne Hearne RIP
Thursday 2nd December	Ferial	Thursday in 1st Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: Betrane Alton RIP & Baptisms of Teddy & Albert Perris
Friday 3rd December	Memorial	St Francis Xavier, Missionary Priest
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	7.00pm	Adoration
Saturday 4th December	Ferial	Saturday in 1st Week of Advent
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Robert Stevens RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Mags (<i>Fr Chris B</i>)	5.15pm	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Mags (<i>Fr Chris B</i>)	6.00pm	Public Mass: Jooa De Freitas RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

Baruch 5:1-9, Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 & Lk 3:1-6

Sunday 5th December	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's (<i>Fr Chris B</i>)	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Thanksgiving (V. Joseph)
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	John Pontes

Second Collection: Friends of the Holy Land
[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Online Offertory via Diocesan Website:

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/> .

For Mass intentions & other payments: BACs: Name: St Mary Magdalene,

Acct No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20. (Please add a suitable reference)

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 &

rajesh.minz@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.