

PARISH NEWS

5th December 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent, C.

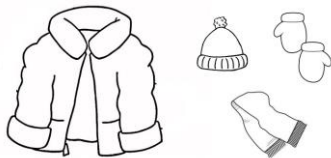
The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea
Comprising St Mary Magdalene, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

Honouring Sunday

Bishops Document on Sunday Worship:

<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** and need to be cautious, we can come to Mass when it is quieter or continue to Live Stream. Clergy and Musicians will celebrate with reverence and joy, but with simplicity and brevity in mind. Face coverings are now **mandatory**, unless exempt in law. We continue to ventilate the Churches, so even with the heating it can be chilly, so 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).

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad

A Voice cries in the wilderness:

'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'

Last Sunday, I met with a group of parishioners (*Ghislaine Cornfield, James Cosens, David Kelly, Monica Halse, Andrew Phillips, Chris Jones, Mary Carroll, and Sarah Surman*), who have offered themselves to me (*and therefore the Parish*) as a Pastoral Support Group. Their remit is to pray, listen, discern, and give counsel on the pastoral priorities for the Parish. This is not about quick fixes as this group are not here to *'do things for us'*, but to encourage us all to be at service of the parish's pastoral mission. On 1st Sunday of Advent, they reviewed the pastoral information from the Parish's **'Something to Celebrate'** event led by Fr Stephen Oritger, where a large cross-section of the parish spoke of what they *'appreciated'* in the parish and what their *'dreams'* were. From this, the Support Group identify and recommend four areas for our prayer and reflection throughout Advent: **"Welcome"**, **"One Parish Approach"**, **"Children & Young people's Spiritual Needs"** and **"Communication"**. For now, they are just headings, but over the next few weeks we will offer a few sentences to unpack them and invite you all to talk about these priorities to strengthen or adapt them. Then in 2022, we will all consider how to begin making our parish's pastoral priorities a reality, so that many will *'see the salvation of God'*. This Advent, we can all pray the Rosary (*even just a decade*) for the pastoral mission of the Parish. God Bless. Fr Simon.

Synod Reminder: *F.A.Q.s and the downloadable questions, and the response form:* <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

Parish groups can discuss the Synod questions. Anyone can form a small group at home or by going to a coffee shop to ponder and reflect on the Holy Father's Synod questions. We have until 4th February 2020 to complete this first stage.

We pray for those who have died: 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 (**Requiem Mass:** 11.30am in St Martha's, Little Common on Fri. 17th Dec **attendance by invitation of the family only** to keep to the recommended capacity of 112 people).

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, Cecila Weathers, Margaret, Carley, Jackie & Laurence Keep, & Fr Desmond.

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": 7.30pm, O. L. Ransom Eastbourne: **Mon. 6th Dec:** 'Gaudete! and the gift of Christian Joy.' (Fr Tristan). **Tues. 14th Dec:** 'COP 26 and its aftermath.' (Barbara Echlin).

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 at the 6pm Vigil Mass. If people would like to see the Repository open at other times, it needs a volunteer to step forward.

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

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.

CAFOD: Thanks from CAFOD for your prayers and support this year, and please sign up for the interactive Advent calendar on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar> & Advent appeal: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Advent-appeal>

MISSIO: a supply of 2022 Misso Calendars are available in the porch at St Mary Magdalene.

Weekday Masses: with a significant number of funerals and end of term school commitments, the weekday Mass schedule is subject to changes; please always check page 4 of the newsletter.

Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

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://stmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together-form/>

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

CONFIRMATION: Our second session is 4pm on Sunday 5th December. Applications are now closed.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Applications opened on 1st Sun. of Advent (28th Nov. 2021). **Application forms can be found here:** <https://stmbexhill.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.

St Martha's Crib Figures: these need some minor repairs (*mainly re-painting*), if you have the necessary skills in this regard, please let the office know.

Church Cleaning: both Churches could do with a good clean before Christmas. Volunteers to clean St Mary Magdalene at 11am on Sat. 18th December & 11am on Tues. 21st December 2021 at St Martha's.

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).

We have offers of lead musicians for the Christmas Eve Masses and 9am Mass at St Martha's. If you are musician or singer, let the office know and we'll put you in contact with each group.

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: 12.30pm at **St Stephen's Church Bexhill**. To book: 01424 213456 or infofall2020@gmail.com Delivery option available.

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

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.

Saturday 4th December **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 Mags (*Fr Chris B*) 5.15pm Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Mags (*Fr Chris B*) 6.00pm **Public Mass:** Jooa De Freitas RIP
No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own bench afterwards

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 (*Fr Chris B*) 9.00am People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene 11.00am Thanksgiving (V. Joseph)
St Mary Magdalene 6.00pm John Pontes RIP

Second Collection: Friends of the Holy Land

[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

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

Monday 6th December **Opt. Mem** **St Nicholas, Bishop**
Eastbourne Crematorium 11.00am Funeral Service of Katherine Hebb RIP

Tuesday 7th December **Funeral** **Requiem Mass (Mem. of St Ambrose)**
St Martha's 11.30am **Requiem Mass:** Peter Andrews RIP

Wednesday 8th Dec. **Solemnity** **Immaculate Conception of the BVM**
St Mary Magdalene 10.00am **Public Mass:** John O'Neil RIP

Thursday 9th December **Opt Mem.** **St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin***
St Mary Magdalene 6.30pm **Public Mass:** Margaret Keep & Jackie, Lianne, Carly & Lawrence & Family GE

Friday 10th December **Opt. Mem** **Our Lady of Loreto**
St Mary Magdalene 10.00am **No Mass – Reconciliations at St Richard's (All Day Commitment)**
St Mary Magdalene 7.00pm Adoration

Saturday 11th December **Ferial** **Saturday in 2nd Week of Advent**
St Mary Magdalene 10.00am **Public Mass:** Mary Bunyan RIP
St Mary Magdalene 10.30am Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene 12.30pm Baptism of Zachery Macabante
St Mary Magdalene 5.15pm Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene 6.00pm **Public Mass:** Margaret & Jimmy Hilder RIP, Mary, Pat, Theresa & Family.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7 & Lk 3:10-18

Sunday 12th December **Sunday** **3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)**
St Martha's 9.00am Nancy & Don Simmons RIP, June, Lionel & Laurence Keep RIP
St Mary Magdalene 11.00am Arthur & Bernard Holland RIP & Fr Fenning RIP & Tomy Frierly
St Mary Magdalene 12.30pm Baptism of Rosie Buckingham Forrest
St Mary Magdalene 6.00pm Joseph Thomas RIP

Second Collection: Parish Charity Fund

[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)