

PARISH NEWS

24th December 2021 to 7th January 2022

Christmas & Epiphany (Double Edition).

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

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

“Government Plan B”

With the advent of Plan B, we are already acting in a cautious way at Public Liturgies. **Face coverings** are already mandatory, and we sign-in on arrival.



Clergy and Musicians will celebrate with reverence and joy, but with simplicity and brevity in mind. We continue to ventilate the Churches, so even with the heating on, it can be chilly, so wear warmer clothing:



Cleaning

Despite new guidance relaxing the need for sanitizing, the Church still needs cleaning, so please continue as normal.

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from 24th December to 3rd January 2022 (inclusive).

You can email non-urgent messages to: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk and the office will respond on reopening.

Emergencies, please email:

simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk &
rajesh.minz@abdiocese.org.uk

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

‘I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared’

The announcement of joy that the angels make to the shepherds prompts a reflection on **“communication”**, a third area of conversation suggested by the *‘Pastoral Support Group’*. The traditional means of communication for a parish is the newsletter. Not only does it inform us of events, but the front page also allows me as your own *‘pastor’* or *‘shepherd’* to reflect on the Christian life in a way which complements the homily. This Christmas season, let us emulate the shepherds who say, *‘let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us’*.

The COVID protocols of the past 18 months and reduced offertory has seen the newsletter moving online. The call for an increased awareness of environmentalism also suggests that printing lots of paper is not good stewardship. Fortunately, more and more parishioners have found our Parish Facebook page and are able to keep abreast of parish news. Many, but not all parishioners have access to the internet, so we need to be attentive to our neighbours who may not be able to access online material and may find this post-Covid world isolating and disorientating, for it will surely rely on the world-wide web. Moving forward, we need to consider further how we can use social media to our advantage to let people know of the opportunities to gather in worship and fellowship in the parish, deanery, and diocese.

In January, I will meet with the Diocesan Communications Officer because in 2022 we will need to embark on some significant and costly repair projects and we want to be able to inform and engage you, for without your support the projects will be impossible. In the meantime, we can rejoice in knowing, *‘the word was made flesh and lived among us... full of grace and truth’*. Merry Christmas. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Patrick Devitt, Scott Wilson, Simon Palmer & Fr Desmond Baker RIP

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.

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 of the parish clergy.

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 reference)*

Fr Desmond Baker RIP: of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Desmond who died on Monday 20th December. Fr Desmond was a great friend to our parish and to the Deanery, always happy to supply for the parish, and he loved celebrating Mass for the people. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace. Well done, good and faithful servant!

CAFOD & D.E.C. Afghanistan appeal: much of the population of Afghanistan is facing extreme hunger, with some parts of the country close to famine, the situation deteriorating with the onset of winter. Due to the instability of the country, many are leaving their homes in search of sanctuary elsewhere. CAFOD's partners and sister agencies are already at work in Afghanistan, but the numbers of people seeking aid increases daily: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/DEC-Afghanistan-Crisis-Appeal>

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.

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.

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.

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

Parish Diary Continued:

Monday 3rd January Facebook Live Mass	Opt. Mem 10.00am	Holy Name of Jesus Steven & Monica Hanks GE
Tuesday 4th January St Mary Magdalene	Ferial 10.00am	Mass of 4th January Public Mass: Lost Souls
Wed. 5th January Presbytery (said privately)	Ferial N/A	Mass of 5th January Holy Souls
Thursday 6th January St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene (& Facebook)	Solemnity 10.00am 6.30pm	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Public Mass: Priest's Intentions Public Mass: Michael & Maura McElligott RIP
Friday 7th January St Mary Magdalene	Ferial 10.00am	Mass of 7th January Public Mass: CWL Mass
Saturday 8th January St Mary Magdalene (& Facebook) St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene	Ferial 10.00am 10.30am 12.30pm 5.15pm 6.00pm	Mass of 8th January Public Mass: Pearl Lucy RIP Confession & Adoration Baptism of Zoe Beale Confessions & Adoration Public Mass: Christine Morgan RIP

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Ad Libitum Readings Year C: Is 40:1-5. 9-11, Titus 2:11-14. 3:4-7

Sunday 9th January St Martha's (& Facebook) St Mary Magdalene St Mary Magdalene [St Martha's]	Sunday 9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm [11.00am]	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served) Cyril Hanson RIP Gary & David McNamara GE & Family People of the Parish [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]
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Second Collection: Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC)

Psalm Responses: Christmas Eve: Today a saviour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord. **Christmas Day:** This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us (*Dawn*) & All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God (*Day*). **Holy Family:** They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord. **2nd Sunday of Christmas:** The Word was made flesh and lived among us. **Epiphany:** All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord. **Baptism of the Lord:** Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Applications forms: <https://stmmbehill.co.uk/first-holy-communion/>
(Closing Date: 4th Jan 2021). Please carefully read the notes for guidance on page 2 of the form.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please plan ahead, especially with COVID protocols in place which make 'out of hours' visits undesirable. 'Last Rites do not mean Last Minute'. A priest should be requested in good time to hear the person's confession, to anoint them, and give Holy Communion. 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. Due to the condition of the presbytery, we are not always on-site, and with the Christmas office closure, please do not rely on answerphones, please use both email addresses listed on the front & back page of this newsletter and between them, Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh will reply as quickly as possible.

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.

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Capacities: 112 in St Martha's and 150 in St Mary Mags. Please only attend one Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to maximise capacity.
Collection: Christmas Eve to Boxing Day: Christmas Gift to Clergy

CHRISTMAS EVE

Readings and Propers of Midnight Mass

Friday 24 th December	Christmas	4 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	6.00pm	Fr Desmond Baker RIP
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	6.00pm	Sick & Housebound of the Parish
St Martha's	8.00pm	Priest's Intentions
St Mary Magdalene	8.00pm	Priest's Intentions
[St Martha's]	[10.00pm]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

CHRISTMAS DAY

9am Dawn Mass & 11am Day Mass of Christmas

Saturday 25 th December	Christmas	2 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	The intentions of the SVP
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	11.00am	People of the Parish
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY (BOXING DAY) C

Ad Libitum Readings for Year C: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28, 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 & Lk 2:41-52

Sunday 26 th December	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's (& Facebook)	9.00am	Int of the Young, Bourne, Mistry Families
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Florence Raey RIP
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

NB: No Sat Vigil Mass of the Sunday (25th) and No Sunday evening Mass (26th)

Monday 27th December Facebook Live Mass	Feast 10.00am	St John, Apostle & Evangelist No Mass
Tuesday 28th December St Mary Magdalene	Feast 10.00am	Holy Innocents, Martyrs Public Mass: Rudi Jaconelli RIP
Wed. 29th December Presbytery (said privately)	Feast N/A	St Thomas a Beckett, Bishop & Martyr No Mass
Thursday 30th December St Mary Magdalene	Christmas 6.30pm	6th Day of the Christmas Octave Public Mass: Edna & Fred Herring RIP
Friday 31st December St Mary Magdalene	Opt. Mem 10.00am	St Silvester, Pope Public Mass: Ron Hopkinson RIP
Saturday 1st January 2022 St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	Solemnity 12noon	Holy Mary, Mother of God Public Mass: John Wimsey & Ellen Ripley RIP
St Mary Mags	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	6.00pm	Public Mass: John A. De Freitas GE

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Ecc. 24:1-2. 8-12, Eph. 1:3-6. 15-18 & Jn 1:1-18

Sunday 2 nd January	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	11.00am	Margaret R. McNamara GE
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Michael Halse RIP
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Parish Charity Fund

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