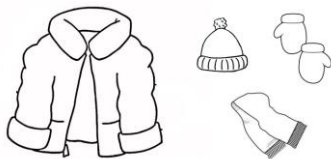


“Government Plan B”

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:



Sanitizing & Cleaning

We are working through new guidance on the need for sanitization but for this weekend please carry on as ‘normal’

Parish Office in “Plan B”

Working from home is exceedingly difficult for the Parish Office, so the administrator will be in the office during office hours (Mon – Fri, 9.15am to 4.45pm). Access to the presbytery is **strictly by appointment only**. If you do not have an appointment, please do not come to the Parish Office. Instead, email: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk or if necessary, telephone: 01424 210 263 opt 4 and leave a voice mail. Fr Simon.

Sing and shout for joy

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

‘I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord’

The pastoral support group (Ghislaine Cornfield, James Cosens, David Kelly, Monica Halse, Andrew Phillips, Chris Jones, Mary Carroll, and Sarah Surman) recommended four areas for conversation. Today, I offer a couple of initial thoughts on “Welcome”. On 1st Sunday of Advent, I said ‘welcome home’ to those who were returning for the first time since the 2020 lockdowns. Feeling at home in the Church is important because God’s family is a place where we feel God’s love, and are encouraged to grow in holiness, all with the support of the community and sacraments of the Church. Most profoundly, then, it is the Lord Jesus Christ who welcomes us, by greeting us four times in the Mass with these or similar words, ‘The Lord be with you’ to which we reply, ‘and with your spirit’. Everyone plays their part in creating the atmosphere for these words to be heard. During the COVID restrictions, we had stewards to help us remain safe and secure but in the most part this ministry of welcome has lapsed. Certainly, it would be good to have ‘steward welcomers’ at our Christmas Masses and perhaps become a permanent feature. The sanitizing of the benches the past year has been a real courtesy to others and even as the guidance changes, a clean church is a clear sign of welcome. In 2016, the bishops reminded us that silence is an important aspect of welcome, creating space for the Lord to greet us, teach us and commission us. Perhaps you have seen signs in other Churches that suggest: ‘we talk to God before Mass, allow God to talk to us during Mass, and then talk to each other after Mass’. This, then, means the ministry of welcome continues in the various acts of hospitality, prayer and formation that make up the life of the parish. As we pray the Rosary for ‘Welcome’, may God continue to bless us, so we may ‘always be happy in the Lord’. God Bless, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: 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.

NB: Sue Petritz (from Crawley Parish) nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk is our Diocese Link for the National Board of Catholic Women. Please feel free to make contact with her.

Final OL Ransom Faith Talk: 7.30pm, 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.

To a Safer Shore: Justice & Peace Assembly: At 9.30am on 15th Jan **but now an online Webinar.** +Richard and other speakers will consider the challenges faced by people who leave their home to seek refuge in other countries. 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>

Synod Reminder: Response form: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

Surviving Christmas, Hastings: if you can help providing items for hampers (food, chocolates, hats, scarves, socks) please contact: Sue Peck on supeck@btinternet.com or 07834 386278 or drop them off at The Salvation Army Hall, St Andrews Square, Hastings.

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*)

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 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 infofol2020@gmail.com Delivery option available.

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

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 or Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Zachery Macabante
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	6.00pm	Public Mass: Margaret & Jimmy Hilder RIP, Mary, Pat, Theresa & Family

No stewards, maintain social distance and clean own bench afterwards

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 Mary Mags (& Facebook)	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]

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

Monday 13th December	Memorial	St Lucy, Virgin Martyr
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	All Souls
Tuesday 14th December	Memorial	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Maria Conceicao Gomes RIP
St Mary Magdalene (Fr Paul)	11.30am	Public Mass: Traditional Latin Mass (EF)

Wednesday 15th Dec.	Ferial	Wednesday in 3rd Week in Advent
Presbytery (said privately)	N/A	Maria E Pontes GE
St Mary Magdalene (Fr Paul)	11.30am	Public Mass: Traditional Latin Mass (EF)

Thursday 16th December	Ferial	Thursday in 3rd Week in Advent
Hastings Crematorium	12.15pm	Funeral Service of Sally Saunders RIP
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: Beltane Alton RIP

Friday 17th December	Advent II	17th Dec: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)
St Martha's (& Facebook)	11.30am	Requiem Mass: Peter Koe RIP
St Mary Magdalene	7.00pm	<i>(attendance by family invitation only)</i> Adoration

Saturday 18th December	Advent II	18th Dec: O Adonai (O Lord)
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Michael Halse RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Adoration & Confessions
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Public Mass: Beltane Alton RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10 & Lk 1:39-45

Sunday 19th December	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	Hanson / Driscoll Families RIP & GE
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Allana M McNamara GE
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Iris Reynolds
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection: Parish Building Maintenance

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

Christmas Mass Times on page 3

(Boxing Day is a Sunday)

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.