

“Government Plan B until 26th January”

Face coverings are mandatory, unless exempt. Masses will be celebrated with reverence and joy but with simplicity and brevity in mind. The Church is ventilated so please wear warm clothing.



Cleaning

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

Parish Office in Plan B

The Parish Office is closed to casual callers (**access by appointment only**). Please do not come to the presbytery unless you have an appointment. Instead, please email: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk and the office will respond. Alternatively, you can ring 01424 210 263 opt 4 between 09:15 and 4:45pm but you may need to leave a voicemail. Many thanks. Fr Simon.

Halls: Parish groups wishing to use St Martha's should contact the Office to complete their individual risk assessment. St Mary Magdalene is closed.

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)

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Sunday of the Word of God.

In 2019, Pope Francis designated the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as *'The Sunday of the Word of God'*, so that we may know that the Lord's words are *'spirit and they are life'*. In the Mass, we find that *'the Word of the Lord'* permeates the Liturgy, not just in the readings but also in the various antiphons and psalms, hence why they have a high priority for singing, ranking above devotional hymns in our planning. In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church encourages us not to have our heads buried in a personal missal but to sit up and listen to the 'Word' being **proclaimed**. This prepares us for service, the fulfillment of our baptismal dignity to *'go and announce the Gospel of the Lord'*, so people appreciate that the scriptures continue to be *'fulfilled today, even as we listen'*. At the height of social distancing, both Fr Rajesh and I were minimizing our close contacts, restricting access to the sacristy and sanctuary, meaning we employed the exception of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal: *'the readings are to be read by a reader, but the Gospel by the Deacon or Priest'* but if no *'suitable reader is present, the Priest celebrant should... proclaim the other readings as well'* (GIRM 59). Overtime, we have seen a gradual return to parishioners proclaiming the readings, but occasionally the exception is needed. If you are a parish reader, when you arrive at Mass, do please make yourself known to a welcomer or the celebrant to see if you are needed, as it is not always immediately obvious who is available until the last minute. Ideally, those called upon to read will have prayed with the readings during the week, using material such as the *"Wednesday Word"* so that they may read with clarity and understanding, to aid in the listening mentioned above. If you can take on the role of a Reader's Coordinator for a Parish Mass, please contact the parish office. God bless. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Peter Retout*, Mary McKenna, Janie Butcher, Simon Palmer, and Maria Capaldi RIP. [*Maria Capaldi's Funeral Mass: 11am on Fri. 4th Feb. in St Mary Magdalene*].

We pray for the sick: Jim Green, 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, Cecilia Weathers, Margaret, Carley, Jackie & Laurence Keep

Synod (deadline 4th Feb): The Synod Questionnaire can be completed by existing parish groups (or individuals). The diocesan website has the F.A.Q.s, downloadable questionnaire, and the response form for this first stage in the synodal process: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

'Ministry of Welcome' for the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary:

6pm Vigil Mass at St Mary Magdalene: volunteer coordinator required.

9am Mass at St Martha's: Sarah Phillips, Jo and Adam Seal co-ordinate this Mass and invite others to join the team. Please contact them via bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk or speaks with them at Mass.

11am Mass at St Mary Magdalene: Monica Halse has agreed to co-ordinate a team of welcomers. Please contact her on cuinpastelero@icloud.com or on 01424 810131 or speak to her at Mass.

6pm Mass at St Mary Magdalene: Sarah Surman has agreed to co-ordinate a team of welcomers. Please contact her via bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk or speak to her at Mass.

***Peter Retout RIP:** Peter's Requiem Mass is 10am on Fri. 28th January in St Mary, Star of the Sea, Hastings, followed by a wake at the Royal Victoria Hotel afterwards. Peter, as well as being a parishioner in Bexhill, had long standing family connections to 'Star of the Sea' Parish and to Fairlight.

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.

The Catenians: an association of Catholic laymen whose principal purpose is to establish a network of friends to support each other, their families, and any widows in the practice of Faith. More information, please contact Robert on 07394925611.

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.

CAFOD School Volunteers: CAFOD are looking for volunteers to visit schools to give assemblies and lead workshops in areas of overseas development and global justice. More info: call CAFOD on 01483 573273 or Email: arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk **Afghanistan appeal:** The News this week highlighted the plight of Afghans, and so the appeal is still active: <https://cafod.org.uk/>

Memorial Garden: Temporarily closed due to vandalism & trespass incident. Police & Network Rail aware. We will need to affect repairs to gate and lock. The Memorial and Ashes plots were untouched.

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

The Sacraments

Adult Baptism (Aged 18+): new applications can be submitted from September 2022 for Baptism at Easter 2023. Prospective applicants can book an initial appointment to see Fr Simon from Easter 2022.

Infant Baptism (Aged 0-6): applications submitted via the website: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptism/>

Children of Catechetical (Aged 7-12): Children aged 7+ have reached the age of reason and need to be prepared individually. These applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis and an initial interview with Fr Simon may be necessary before accepting your application. Applications can be submitted via the website: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/we-journey-together/> (*Please also use this form for children baptized in the Anglican Communion now seeking to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church*).

Young Adults (Aged 13-17): Please book an appointment to see Fr Simon to discuss your needs. It is likely that we will prepare you using the Confirmation Course which begins in the autumn of 2022.

First Holy Communion: Applications are now **closed** for First Communion 2022. Children should now be working on the 1st Chapter of I Belong ahead of their 1st Confession during the first half of Lent.

Marriage: those getting married in 2023 should see Fr Simon soon, as 12 months' notice is required.

Appointments: email the parish office: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Sacrament of the Sick: Please plan ahead. COVID protocols 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, so please do not rely on answerphones, please use both email addresses listed on the back page of this newsletter.

One-off, non-urgent pastoral visits: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/visiting-the-sick-and-housebound/>

A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: Online applications for able pilgrims: www.lourdes.abdiocese.org.uk or <https://www.my-holiday-booking.co.uk/.../index/i/17/eid/13> Assisted pilgrims, please email the Lourdes Office with your name and postal address: office@ablourdes.org

Evening Prayer for Divorced, Remarried & Separated Sun 6th Feb. 2.45pm, at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Horsham: Those who may be separated, divorced, or who have married again, are invited to meet and pray with +Richard. Book: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/chpfxz58>

World Day of Prayer (10.30am on Fri. 4th March, St Martha's): An Ecumenical Service, prepared by Women across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The service is celebrated with Little Common Methodists and St Marks. All welcome. Any volunteers who can help with welcoming and / or the serving of light refreshments greatly appreciated. Contact: Bridget Grant 01424 845015 / 07749 482033.

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

Recommended Capacities: 112 in St Martha's and 150 in St Mary Mags.

www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 22nd January	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: John De Freitas RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	6.00pm	Public Mass: Peter McGuckin RIP

THIRD SUN. IN OT C (SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD)

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10, 1 Cor 12:12-30 & Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Sunday 23rd January	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	Peter & Nicola Koe RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Good Estate of the OLR Bexhill Parish
St Mary Mags (Fr Chris B)	6.00pm	People of the Parish
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Parish Lourdes Fund

Fr Simon and Fr Rajesh are also supplying Battle & Northiam this weekend

(Fr Desmond Baker RIP had originally been booked to supply).

Monday 24th January	Memorial	St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Hester & Ellis Eyre RIP
Tuesday 25th January	Feast	The Conversion of Saint Paul
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: for the unity of Christians
Wed. 26th January	Memorial	Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Presbytery (said privately)	N/A	No Mass
Thursday 27th January	Ferial	Thursday in 3rd Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	No Mass
Friday 28th January	Memorial	St Thomas Aquinas
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Dennis Driscoll RIP
Star of the Sea, Hastings	10.00am	Requiem Mass: Peter Retout RIP
St Mary Magdalene	7.00pm	Adoration

Saturday 29th January	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Margaret Mulligan RIP and Mulligan & Griffin Families RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Public Mass: Virginia Edozie RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Jer. 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13 & Lk 4:21-30

Sunday 30th January	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	Mary Thompson RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Roy Strickson RIP
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Crib Offering

Our Crib Offering this year is for the Catholic Children's Society

Clergy Leave: Fr Rajesh: 24th Jan. to 9th Feb. Fr Simon: 9th Feb to 19th Feb.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) will be celebrated publicly at 10am in St Mary Magdalene on Wednesday 2nd February 2022.