

27th Jan 2022: COVID Precautions

Although Face coverings are no longer legally required, case rates, especially in our schools, remain significant. The bishops therefore recommend their continued use for now. The Church is ventilated, so please wear warm clothing.



Although our liturgies continue to have brevity in mind, we will see a gradual return of suspended items, such as holy water, hymn books, sign of peace, and bidding prayers, but let us remain kind and patient with one another and not expect everything in one go.

Although sanitizing is not strictly needed, it remains a courtesy to others to leave where we have been sitting clean and ready for the next person, so please continue to wipe down your place.

Parish Office

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.

My lips will tell of your help.

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you'

An old school friend asked me when I got the call to priesthood. I told him it was after a conversation with a priest during World Youth Day 2005. However, I now realize that was wrong. I did not get the call when I was twenty-six, but only heard the call at that time. Jeremiah's call makes clear, *'before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations'*. Our vocation is a call from eternity, not a decision solely on our part. As Our Lord told his disciples, *'you did not choose me, no I chose you and sent you out to bear fruit, fruit that will last'*. Discerning our vocation, then, means to discover why God has created us. As Cardinal Newman said: *'God knows me by my name and has created me to do him some definite service which he has committed to me, which he has not committed to another. I have my mission – I may never know it in this world, but I shall be told it in the next'*. We should not talk about vocations to the priesthood & the religious life in negative terms, such as *'the person has to give up so much'*. What nonsense! If it is the vocation the Lord is calling them to, then actually they give up so little to experience and share in the joy of the Lord. As St Paul says, *'Be ambitious for the higher gifts'*; in short, he says, *'there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love'*; and there is no greater love than to lay down our lives for the sake of the Gospel, and we can do that in whatever vocation we are called: marriage, Holy Orders, Religious Life and even in the single life. None of us are necessary beings; we are brought into being by God so that we may know, love, and serve him, in this world and be happy with him in the next. Wishing you every blessing as you discern the service from the Lord to which you have been called, and in doing so, may you bear much fruit. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Mary McKenna, Janie Butcher, Simon Palmer, and Maria Capaldi RIP. [*Maria Capaldi's Funeral Mass: 11am on Fri. 4th Feb. in St Mary Magdalene and Mary McKenna's Funeral Mass: 12noon on Tuesday 15th Feb at St Martha's*]

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

'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.

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: Catholic Association for laymen (& their widows) whose purpose is to establish a support network of friends. More info: Robert on 07394925611. New Website: <https://sussexcatenians.org/>

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.

Churches Together: There will be gathering at the Peace Pole, Galley Hill at 11.30am on Candlemas (2nd Feb 2022). A Litany and Chant for Peace will be prayed. More info: 01424 214327. Bring own seat.

Memorial Garden: the fence along the railway was cut (**twice**) by trespassers exposing the electric third-rail railway line. Network Rail have (**again**) repaired the fence, so the garden has reopened (**for now**).

Worth Abbey Retreats: 'The Wisdom of St Benedict' (15-17th Feb) and 'Time Out' (18-24th Feb). More info: <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme-2022/> Book: retreats@worth.org.uk

Beginning Experience (8-10th April): Residential weekend at the Sion Community, Brentwood - for those single again following divorce, separation or death of your partner to help you to heal. More info: E: besouthofengland@gmail.com or Freda: 01322 838415 or Maura 07795 498445

CAFOD: keep abreast of news and campaigns: <https://cafod.org.uk/>

Weekday Masses: the 10am Mass on Monday & Wednesdays (*subject to funerals, school commitments, clergy leave etc.*) will be celebrated publicly again from Monday 21st Feb 2022 (i.e. after Feb half term).

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 2022. Throughout February the children should be aiming to complete **Chapters 3 & 4 of 'I Belong'**, ahead of 1st Confessions 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/>

Halls: groups wishing to use St Martha's should contact the Office to complete their risk assessments.

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.

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 Mass Diary and Intentions

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

www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

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 Mags (& Facebook)	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 (& Facebook)	9.00am	Mary Thompson RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Roy Strickson RIP
St Mary Mags	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 A&B Crisis Fund

Monday 31st January	Memorial	St John Bosco, Priest
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Robert Stevens RIP
Tuesday 1st February	Ferial	Tuesday in 4th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Public Mass: Jack Lucy RIP
<i>Fr Simon has Year 8 Service at St Richards, necessitating a later parish Mass</i>		
Wed. 2nd February	Candlemas	The Presentation of the Lord
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Irene Herring RIP
<i>Mass is being said publicly; cribs are taken down after today</i>		
Thursday 3rd February	Memorial	St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: Pearl Lucey RIP
<i>Blessing of Throats at the end of the evening Mass</i>		
Friday 4th February	Funeral	Requiem Mass
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Public Mass: Maria Capaldi RIP and after at Bexhill Cemetery.
Saturday 5th February	Memorial	St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Lost Souls
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Public Mass: William & Veronica Hayes RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Is. 6:1-8, 1 Cor. 15:1-11 & Lk 5:1-11

Sunday 6th February	Sunday	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Ela Szcrepinska & Roger Bates RIP
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Sienna Morgen
Presbytery	4.00pm	Confirmation Session
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Ursula Dawe RIP
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Parish Maintenance

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

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.