

PARISH NEWS

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.

Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

In last week's Diocesan Newsletter, Bishop Richard's preface contained the encouragement, *'while livestreaming is a valuable gift, now is the time to return to be with our brothers and sisters at the celebration of Mass. Our meeting with the Lord in the Eucharist is the greatest way to grow in our relationship with Him, to listen to His Word, to be nourished by Him, together with the rest of the Body of Christ.'* I agree that livestreaming has been a useful tool, a way for people at home who are vulnerable, isolating, or unable to travel (*especially in the case of a funeral*) to unite their prayers to the celebration taking place in real time at the Altar in their parish Church. It does not substitute for our desire to gather with the rest of the community who *'give thanks'* (Eucharist) for our redemption as we are nourished in Word and in Sacrament, the encounter most profound when we are present in Christ's Real Presence. In the Holy Mass, heaven and earth are united, and we join the whole company of angels and saints in singing the praise of the Triune God:

'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of their glory. Hosanna in the Highest'

Such an encounter with God should inspire a deep sense of joy and the need for a messenger to go out and invite others to come and gather with us. *'Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger? I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'* Every parishioner is commissioned, *'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord'*, sharing the Words of Eternal Life proclaimed throughout the Mass. Therefore, the *'ministry of welcome'* and the *'ministry of reader'* are the first two essential services being restored in our rebuilding of the parish as a vibrant place of encounter with the Lord. God Bless. Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Mary McKenna and Derek Knoll RIP.

Mary McKenna's Funeral Mass: 12noon on Tuesday 15th Feb at St Martha's

We pray for the sick: Jim Green, 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

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

Please consider joining the '*Ministry of Welcome*' at one of our parish Masses

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

A) 1st in person meeting since COVID – Monday 7th Feb at 7.30pm in St Martha's Hall.

B) Coffee & Cake Morning after 9am Mass on Saturday 27th Feb in St Martha's Hall. Donations of Cake requested.

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: Living Through and Surviving Tragedy Zoom Talks. 7pm on Tues. 8th Feb 2022

Avigail Simmonds: Rosten: Jewish Programme Manager & Cambridge History Graduate speaks on the trauma legacies of the holocaust and impact on Jewish identities, including Polish visits for young Jewish people, in the context of Jewish identity formation and trauma. **Alex Mvuka Ntung:** A security analyst & international relations expert, esp. in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Alex has been exposed to constant conflicts in his home country of Congo, losing many family members. He then fled to Rwanda, witnessing genocide in 1994 before escaping to the UK, receiving a MA in Anthropology of Conflict & Violence from Sussex University. **Meeting ID: 845 7334 0509, Passcode: 870257.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573340509?pwd=aXhVbUxSWTdTK0NQMIg3TEtIQzBsdz09>

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/>

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.

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.

Clergy Leave: Fr Simon is away 9th – 19th Feb. If possible, please resist sending him or copying him into emails, contacting bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk instead or if urgent, emailing rajesh.minz@abdiocese.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 Mass Diary and Intentions

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

www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

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| 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 Mags (& Facebook) | 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

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

Second Collection: Parish Maintenance

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| Monday 7th February | Ferial | Monday in 5th Week in OT |
| Facebook Live Mass | 10.00am | No Mass |
| Memorial Garden | 11.00am | Burial of Ashes of Peter Andrews RIP |

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| Tuesday 8th February | Ferial | Tuesday in 5th Week in OT |
| St Mary Magdalene | 10.30am | Public Mass: Elizabeth Francis RIP |
| <i>Fr Simon has Year 9 Service at St Richards & Deanery meeting at 11.15am</i> | | |

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| Wed. 9th February | Ferial | Wednesday in 5th Week in OT |
| Presbytery (said privately) | 10.00am | No Mass |

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| Thursday 10th February | Memorial | St Scholastica, Virgin |
| St Mary Magdalene | 6.30pm | No Mass |

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| Friday 11th February | Opt. Mem | Our Lady of Lourdes |
| St Mary Magdalene | 10.00am | Public Mass: Sebastian Stewart GE |

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| Saturday 12th February | Opt. Mem | Saturday Memorial of the BVM |
| St Mary Magdalene | 10.00am | Public Mass: Holy Souls |
| St Mary Magdalene | 10.30am | Confessions & Adoration |
| St Mary Magdalene | 5.15pm | Confessions & Adoration |
| St Mary Magdalene | 6.00pm | Public Mass: David McGuckin GE |

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Jer. 17:5-8, 1 Cor. 15:12, 16-20 & Lk 6:17, 20-26

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|--|---------------|---|
| Sunday 13th February | Sunday | 3 Public Masses (first-come, first served) |
| St Martha's | 9.00am | May Chapman RIP |
| St Mary Magdalene | 11.00am | People of the Parish |
| St Mary Magdalene | 6.00pm | Joseph Thomas RIP |
| [St Martha's] | [11.00am] | [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass] |

Second Collection: Diocesan Lourdes Fund

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 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.