

Easing of COVID Precautions

Face coverings are personal choice.

You are advised to wear warm clothing.



We all have a responsibility to keep the Church clean and tidy, ready for the next liturgy. Holy water, hymn books, sign of peace, and bidding prayers are allowed. Our capacities are the current seating capacity of each Church, please do not stand in the isles of doorways.

Recommended Capacities

**190, St Martha's & 200, St Mary Mags.
Based on the new capacities, week on week the Churches are currently:**

6pm Vigil: 25% full

9am (St Martha's): 50% full

11am: 70% full

6pm Mass: 25% full

Parish Office

The Parish Office is open **by appointment only**. Please contact the office by:

Email: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk or

Telephone: 01424 210 263 opt 4

Office Hours: M-F: 09:15 and 4:45pm.

Synod

The Diocese has received over 500 synod questionnaires. Bishop Richard is planning a webinar at 7.30pm on 9th March to talk through the Diocesan Response. More details to follow as they are made available. Keep up to date at:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/home>

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord

1st March: Feast of St David

Falling on Shrove Tuesday, St David's Day allows us a celebration before the start of Lent, a season marked by *prayer, fasting, and almsgiving*, as we journey along the 'way of the cross'. St David (Dewi) was the 6th Century Bishop of Wales. He condemned Pelagianism, an ancient British Heresy still plaguing the Church, which suggested we can obtain salvation by our own merits. No, we need grace, found most readily in the sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist. Lent is a good time to return (*if we have not already done so*) to in-person participation at Mass. Surely, we do not need an obligation to take station at the foot of the cross and give thanks for our redemption!? No, it is a joy!

2nd March: Ash Wednesday

Purple is the Lenten colour, and a 'Roman purple' chosen for the Diocesan Vestment has a reddish tint to it, implying our participation in the Passion of Christ. Lent is also a penitential season, a time for us to make an integral confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, setting a good example to children preparing for their First Confession *at 10.30am on Saturdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March*. Fr Rajesh and I will be available to hear First and Parish Confessions on these Saturdays, and one of us will also hear parish confessions at 5.15pm on the Saturdays during Lent. We will be at St Mary Magdalene Primary School for Confessions on 17th March, and the Deanery Clergy dedicate a day for Confessions on 18th March at St Richard's Catholic College. '*The Lord has freed you from sin, go in peace*'. God bless. Fr Simon.

Congratulations to Tony Campbell.

Appointed a '*Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great*' for his outstanding contribution to the life, work, and mission of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton.

We pray for those who have died: Vera Stevens RIP (**Requiem Mass: 10.30am on 9th March 2022**).

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, Cecila Weathers, Margaret Carley, Jackie & Laurence Keep, Peter Stanley.

St Martha's Hall: with a growing number of hall hires, please do not enter the hall without checking with the parish office that it is free. Please leave the hall how you found it, in line with the COVID assessment.

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. Contacts: 211717 or 221803. **Coffee & Cake Morning after 9am Mass on Sunday 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.

CAFOD: keep abreast of news and campaigns: <https://cafod.org.uk/> Lent is approaching; information about CAFOD Family Fast Day can be found here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>
[No child should go hungry. Yet 200 million children around the world face the threat of malnutrition. Please visit the CAFOD website to see how you can stand alongside new mothers like Amie, the focus of this Lent appeal, and help them to access expert training and advice, so that they can give their children the best start in life. Be sure to watch the short video and see what a difference we can help bring about].

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, and will be followed by light refreshments in the hall. Everyone is welcome. Any volunteers who can help with serving light refreshments would be greatly appreciated, as will a few cakes please. Contact: Bridget Grant 01424 845015 / 07749 482033.

Fairtrade Fortnight (21st February - 6th March): Fairtrade Breakfast, St Martha's Hall, Sunday 13th March, after Mass. With guests Mayor Councillor Paul Plim and Deputy Mayor Claire Baldry. Raffles prizes would be greatly appreciated. Do try and remember to buy Fairtrade products whenever possible.

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

Triduum: Parish Music Group: Margaret Rafferty is coordinating a parish music group for the Triduum, singers and musicians wishing to participate should please speak with her or contact the parish office.

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. The Children should be finishing **Chapter Four of 'I Belong'**, ahead of **1st Confessions at 10.30am on Saturdays 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th March**. Please, then, work through Chapters 5-9. Once your child has made their 1st Confession, they may book in for their 1st Holy Communion Celebration at 12noon on either 11th June or 18th June in St Martha's Church. **At 9am on Saturday 5th and 26th March, Mrs. Surman will hold a session in St Mary Magdalene Church for anyone who would like support with their First Holy Communion Preparation. Open to all children on First Holy Communion but particularly suited to those not in the Catholic School.**

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

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

A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage: There are a number of pilgrims who require assistance, but the pilgrimage is currently short of helpers, nurses, and doctors. Please consider applying if you are able. The Pilgrimage Office is happy to answer any questions prior to applying. The application form they should use is available on our website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

World Meeting of Families (22-26 June 2022): Due to the ongoing COVID situation, the diocese will not be traveling to Italy for this event but will be looking to celebrate locally instead. More information about WMF can be found here: <https://romefamily2022.com/en/> On **Monday 28th February at 7.30pm**, there is a preliminary 'ideas and sharing' (online) session to suggest how our local communities might celebrate the World Meeting of Families. If you would like to 'attend', please register here:

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/hfqwhs6e>

Worth Abbey, Lenten Retreats: <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme-2022/>

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Saturday 26th February	Opt. Mem	Saturday Memorial of the BVM
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	10.00am	Shelagh Smith RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Teddie Eden
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	James Spittal RIP

EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Ecc. 27:5-8, 1 Cor. 15:54-58 & Lk 6:39-45

Sunday 27th February	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	Peter Chapman RIP
St Martha's	c.9.50am	CWL Coffee & Cake Morning
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Baptism of Dexter Picknell
St Mary Mags	6.00pm	Paula Murphy GE
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: Bexhill H.U.G. (Homeless Unity Group)

Monday 28th February	Ferial	Monday in 8th Week in OT
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Lochan Pennant-Shah RIP

Tuesday 1st March	Feast	St David, Bishop
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Peter Chapman RIP

The Beginning of the Sacred Lenten Season

Wed. 2nd March	Comm.	ASH WEDNESDAY
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Margaret Rafferty GE
St Mary Magdalene	7.00pm	People of the Parish
A Day of Fasting & Abstinence (offered especially for Peace in The Ukraine).		

Thursday 3rd March	Ferial	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Jane Hill GE

Friday 4th March	Ferial	Friday after Ash Wednesday
St Martha's	10.30am	World Day of Prayer Service
St Mary Magdalene	12 noon	Sheila M. Dray RIP (1 st Friday Mass)
St Mary Magdalene	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
St Mary Magdalene	7.00pm	Adoration (offered for Peace in Ukraine)

Saturday 5th March	Ferial	Saturday after Ash Wednesday
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	John De Freitas RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Parish & First Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	5.15pm	Confessions & Adoration
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	David McGurk & Louis Rosenay RIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT C

Deut. 26:4-10, Rom. 10:8-13 & Lk 4:1-13

Sunday 6th March	Sunday	
St Martha's	9.00am	Joan Horner RIP
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	People of the Parish
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Kathleen Standen GE
[St Martha's]	[11.00am]	[Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Second Collection: The SVP (Bexhill Branch)
[CAFOD Speakers ahead of the Fast Day on 11th March (Collection on 13th March)]

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.