

Our Parish: A Community of Communities

We cover a large geographical area of East Sussex, from Eastbourne to Rye, consisting of fifteen churches, five schools, and around 3000 parishioners. We are one parish but work in two centres (Hubs), the West Hub in Eastbourne and the East Hub in St Leonard's.

See our Parish Website for details of all the churches and other information about the Parish: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

Our Clergy

East Hub: Fr Max McKeown, Deacon Simon South (Rye); Deacon Duncan Brown (Hastings); Fr Miceal Beatty, Deacon Ian Moon (St Leonards); Fr Richard Blythen (Battle & Northiam); Fr Stephen O'Brien, Deacon Simon Kirkdale (Bexhill)

West Hub: Fr Kevin Dring, Fr Charles Ezejide (Eastbourne); Fr Neil Chatfield, Deacon Eugene Adams (Langney & Hampden Park); Fr Rory Kelly (Polegate & Hailsham)

Our Hub Leadership Team

Fr Kevin Dring is the Moderator of the Clergy Team (Team Leader) and in each Hub the clergy work closely with a representative group of lay people (Hub Leadership Group) drawn from across the churches and schools. See the Parish Website for further details: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Charity registered in England, number 252878

Each church has its own safeguarding representative. The diocesan team can be contacted on 01293 651148

Our Parish Schools

We are blessed with five wonderful schools, four Primary and one Secondary:

Primary: Sacred Heart (Hastings), St Mary Star of the Sea (St Leonards), St Mary Magdalene (Bexhill), St Thomas a Becket (Eastbourne);

Secondary: St Richard's Catholic College (Bexhill)

Our Diocese

We are part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, founded in 1965, under the care and leadership of Bishop Richard Moth.

We cover the counties of East and West Sussex and Surrey. Soon this extensive area will be served by just eleven large parishes like our own.

Our Diocese is part of the worldwide Catholic Church under the spiritual leadership of Pope Leo XIV.

Useful contacts

Parish: www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk
Diocese: www.abdiocese.org.uk
Catholic Church in England & Wales: www.cbcew.org.uk
Vatican: www.vatican.va

East Hub Secretary: Elizabeth Fitch stleonards@abdiocese.org.uk 01424 602077
West Hub Secretary: Cheryl Wood eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk 01323 723222

Churches in our two Hubs

St Agnes: 10 Whitley Road, Eastbourne BN22 8NJ: 01323 723222

St Anthony of Padua: Watchbell Street, Rye TN31 7HB: 01797 222173

Christ the King: 3 Princes Road, Langney BN23 6HT: 01323 760048

St George: Eastbourne Road, Polegate BN26 5DF: 01323 841504

St Gregory: Victoria Drive, Eastbourne BN20 8QY: 01323 723222

Holy Redeemer: 24 Upper Church Road, St Leonards TN37 7AS: 01424 602077

St Joachim: 106 Broderick Road, Hampden Park BN22 9NY: 01323 760048

Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael: 14 Mount St, Battle TN33 0EG: 01424 773125

Our Lady of Ransom: 2 Grange Rd, Eastbourne BN21 4EU: 01323 723222

St Mary Star of the Sea: 1 High St, Hastings TN34 3EY: 01424 421263

St Martha: 77 Cooden Sea Road, Little Common TN39 4SL: 01424 210263

St Mary Magdalene: Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RH: 01424 210263

St Teresa of Lisieux: Horns Cross, Northiam TN31 6JQ: 01424 773125

St Thomas of Canterbury: 31c Magdalen Rd, St Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6ET: 01424 602077

St Wilfrid: South Road, Hailsham BN27 3JG: 01323 841504

Church websites and emails are linked on www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

All are welcome at any church!



Catholic Parish of Eastbourne & St Leonards

Parish Newsletter: January 2026

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. Isaiah 43:5 ESV

Churches of St Anthony of Padua, Holy Redeemer, St Mary Magdalene, St Martha, Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael, St Mary Star of the Sea, St Teresa of Lisieux, and St Thomas of Canterbury, in Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Little Common, Northiam, Rye, and St Leonards (East Hub)



A few words from Father Míceál Beatty

As we draw close to the celebration of Christmas and prepare to step into a new year together, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for all that you bring to the life of our parishes. Christmas reminds us that God walks with us in our ordinary lives, in our joys and in our challenges, and it is in the daily faithfulness of our parishioners that I see this truth lived out so beautifully.

Over this past year, there has been real evidence of growth, generosity and shared purpose across our



Parish Mission Prayer

Loving God,
empower us through our baptism to live as vibrant
and welcoming communities centred on the Holy Eucharist.
Inflame us with your Holy Spirit to encourage others
to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
Recognising all things as your gift to us,
to be treasured and shared with love,
give us a heart for the poor,
a passion for justice,
a concern for creation,
so that all may live
with peace and dignity.
Our Lady and all the Saints,
pray for us.
Amen.

parishes. It has been particularly encouraging to see how well our churches are working together, supporting one another and collaborating on so many different projects and ministries. Whether through shared worship, community outreach, fundraising, social gatherings or pastoral care, a wonderful sense of unity is continuing to develop among us.

As we look ahead to the coming months of the New Year, there is much to feel hopeful about. New plans are forming, fresh ideas are emerging, and there is a genuine energy about where we are being called as a parish. Of course, the journey is not always easy, and change can sometimes feel uncertain, but we move forward together with faith, patience and confidence that God is guiding us.

I want to encourage every parishioner in all our communities to continue to feel part of this shared journey. Whether you contribute quietly or visibly, whether you are long established or newly arrived, you belong. Each prayer offered, each act of kindness, each moment of service strengthens the whole body of our parish families.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, may your homes be filled with peace, joy and love. And as the New Year begins, may it bring renewed hope, fresh courage and a deep sense of purpose for us all. Thank you for walking this path of faith together — I look forward with gratitude and anticipation to all that lies ahead for our communities in the months to come.

With every blessing,
Father Míceál
St Leonards & Hollington

Masses during the Week

Vigil Masses on Saturday

16:00 St Thomas of Canterbury StL
17:00 Our Lady Immaculate Battle
18:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
18:00 St Mary Magdalene Bexhill
18:00 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs

Sunday

8:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
9:00 Holy Redeemer StL
9:00 St Martha Little Common
9:00 St Teresa of Lisieux Nrthm
10:00 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs
10:45 St Anthony of Padua Rye
11:00 Our Lady Immaculate Battle
11:00 St Martha Little Common 
11:00 St Mary Magdalene Bexhill
11:00 St Thomas of Canterbury StL
11:30 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs

Monday

9:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
10:00 Holy Redeemer StL
10:00 St Mary Magdalene Bexhill

Tuesday

9:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
10:00 Holy Redeemer StL
10:00 St Mary Magdalene Bexhill
10:00 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs
18:00 Our Lady Immaculate Battle

Wednesday

9:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
10:00 Holy Redeemer StL
10:00 Our Lady Immaculate Battle
10:00 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs

Thursday

9:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
9:45 Our Lady Immaculate Battle
10:00 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs
10:00 St Thomas of Canterbury StL
18:30 St Mary Magdalene Bexhill

Friday

9:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
10:00 Our Lady Immaculate Battle
10:00 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs
10:00 St Mary Magdalene Bexhill
10:00 St Thomas of Canterbury StL

Saturday morning

9:00 St Anthony of Padua Rye
10:00 Holy Redeemer StL
10:00 St Mary Star of the Sea Hstgs
10:00 St Mary Magdalene Bexhill

Additional celebrations of Mass are offered on holy days. Check local websites for any changes to mass times.

 Syro-Malabar liturgy

Celebrating our Communities

St Anthony of Padua

We were very pleased to host our Christmas carol service on 13 December which was wonderfully attended, coming together as a community, reconnecting with childhood memories and making new ones together.

We had a truly blessed Christmas, with many visitors attending the Masses and joining our parish family celebrations.

Our youth group continues to meet and we are now turning our thoughts and ideas to planning for our Lenten preparations.

St Thomas' & Holy Redeemer

In December our parish Faith in the Family Group prepared over 40 Advent Family & Wreath making packs which were distributed through both our churches and our local Catholic Primary School; St Mary Star of the Sea. There was also an event in the school for families, to help them prepare for Advent.

Both our Advent Service of Taizé Music and Prayer and the blessing of our Baby Jesus' on Bambinelli Sunday were well supported- a real joy!

For January please note there will be no weekday Masses in our churches from Monday, 12 January resuming with 10:00 am Mass on Friday, 30 January. Weekend Holy Masses remain unchanged. Mass times and intentions are displayed for the month of January in both churches.

St Mary Magdalene's and St Martha's,

At St Mary Magdalene, and St Martha, we have a vibrant community of communities. We celebrated with great aplomb and festivity our patronal feasts. To serve a town like Bexhill, founded on its medieval roots in the Old Town, but

grown to welcome so many people over the 19th and 20th Centuries, is a privilege. To its motto -sol et salubritas, (sun and health), we are striving, to do, to add caritas- the love of God. Our Society of St Vincent de Paul, works indefatigably to bring to life their mission- to turn concern into action, by helping those most in need. They foregather monthly for their outreach programme, Tea at Three, and their book club.

The Catholic Women's League does much to support devotion in their monthly meetings. We seek to continue the Rosminian charism that caritas plenitudo legis [est]- God's love is the fullness of the law. To bring God's love to Bexhill, Sidley and Little Common is our duty and our joy.

Our Lady Immaculate & St Teresa of Lisieux

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael, Battle with St Teresa of Lisieux, Northiam. We are a small, friendly Catholic Church situated in the heart of the market town of Battle, the home of the Battle of 1066 and Battle Abbey. Our sister Church St Teresa of Lisieux, is situated in the beautiful countryside at Horn's Cross, Northiam, Our Masses are Christmas Eve - Christmas Vigil Mass - 8:00 pm Battle Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord 9:00 am Northiam & 11:00 am Battle Boxing Day - No Mass The Feast of The Holy Family Saturday 27 Dec 5:00 pm, Battle Sunday 28 Dec 9:00 am - Northiam Sunday 28 Dec 11:00 am - Battle January is a quiet time for the Church and dedicated to the Holy



Our Lady Immaculate & St Teresa of Lisieux (contd/)

Name of Jesus. We celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord on Tuesday 6 January and the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday 11 January after which we begin Ordinary Time. January is also a time to reflect on the joy and festivities of the Christmas season and look forward to another year and what it will bring.

St Mary Star of the Sea

We continue to be blessed by the ministry of the visiting Pallottine priests who are caring for us while we remain without a resident parish priest. Fr Tony Harris and Fr Johnny Sweeney have been looking after our weekend Masses with great kindness. The children were especially delighted by Fr Johnny's joyful songs about Jesus' love, which brought many smiles to the parish. We were also grateful for the recent visits of Fr Liam O'Donovan and Fr Tom Daly, whose presence and support were much appreciated.

Warmest thanks go to Dominic and his team for organising our Christmas Bazaar. Despite the weather, the event was a remarkable success, raising over £2,250 for the parish. We are deeply grateful to everyone who prepared, donated, baked, served, and attended. As a parish navigating change, we are reminded of our mission to be a welcoming and compassionate community. Let us continue to reach out to those who may be isolated and to share the hope of the Gospel in small but meaningful ways.

As we begin this new year, we hold fast to the words of the psalmist: "The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Ps 27:1). May Christ's light guide our parish and our homes with peace and hope.

Enquiries about this newsletter to Hub Secretaries, as shown on the back page. For more information on our Parish and churches see our Parish website www.eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

Prayer— Ways we listen to and worship God

Divine Mercy prayer meetings:

Fridays at 9:30am St Mary Star of the Sea

Morning prayer of the church at 9:30 in both churches; Mondays at Holy Redeemer and Fridays at St Thomas'. **The Divine Mercy Chaplet** is said after Mass on Mondays at Holy Redeemer and the Rosary will be prayed on Tuesday mornings after Mass - during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Anointing of the Sick at St Mary

Star of the Sea on the last Saturday of each month.

Wednesday Scripture Group first Wednesday of the month from 10:00 am in the John Fisher Room.

Holy Hour First Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm at St Thomas'. Each week at **Rye** after the Tuesday morning Mass we come together to ask for the intercessions of St Anthony through the celebration of the Liturgy of St Anthony and **Weekly Adoration/Holy hour** is

celebrated on Saturdays before the Vigil Mass and on Sunday between our two morning Masses, to spend time with our Lord and prepare ourselves for the joy that is the Eucharist. **At Our Lady of the Rosary** devotion to the Holy Mass is the keystone of our whole community. And yet the Holy Spirit inspires so many of our faithful parishioners to create and develop their own devotions.

Formation— Ways we grow in faith and love of God

In St Leonards & Hollington our RCIA programme continues with a total of 11 men and women journeying towards full communion with the Catholic Church. We also celebrated three infant Baptisms.

In Rye we are setting up a faith group for parents/grandparent in February

to build a network of friendship, support and sharing of our faith together. Our weekly **Scripture Group** continues to meet on **Monday's** to explore the scripture together for the upcoming Sunday. All are welcome to join us at the Hub at the top of Rye Hill 3.30p.m. – 5.00p.m.

In Bexhill & Little Common This year, we have begun full parental catechesis for First Holy Communion, and this already has produced great results. Similarly, our refreshed RCIA programme is leading our catechumens and candidates to Christ with great joy and success.

Mission— Ways we share the Joy of the Gospel with others

Grandparents' Meeting: Third Wednesday of each month, with Mass 10am St Mary Star of the Sea

St Mary Star of the Sea Community Club meets Mondays 10:15–12 and Laudato Si group every other Tuesday in the church hall of St. Mary's Star of the Sea. 7:00 -- 9:00pm

SVP President for St Leonards is Pat Holmes, E:patpeteholmes@gmail.com **SVP President** for Bexhill is Chris Jones email popsy57@outlook.com

Coffee and Cake first Sunday of the month at **Northiam** after the 9am Mass and every Wednesday at **Battle** after the 10am Mass.

Parish Afternoon Tea third Tuesday of the month in Concordia Hall from 2–4.

In Rye our Pastoral team are building events for the year ahead to invite members of the wider community to come along and share the hope of our faith. Last year we welcomed many new members to the Church as we hope to do this year.

Refreshments are available after 9am Mass at **Holy Redeemer** in the hall. All are welcome.

Adoration

St Mary Star of the Sea last Sunday of each month at 6.00pm, during the Men's Group every fortnight, and at the monthly meeting in honour of St Carlo Acutis.

Holy Redeemer Tuesdays following 10am Holy Mass until 11:30am **St Thomas'** every Thursday following 10am Holy Mass until 11:30am **St Anthony of Padua** first Saturday of the month following 9:00am Mass.

Rosary

Holy Redeemer 9:30am Tuesday. **St Mary Star of the Sea** 10:30am–noon Friday; 10:30 on the first Saturday.

Confession

St Anthoy of Padua Saturdays at 10:00 am on the first Saturday of each month or by appointment

Confession Contd/

St Thomas' & Holy Redeemer after all Masses on the first weekend every month. Saturdays from 10.30 at Holy Redeemer and 5pm at St Thomas'. **St Mary Magdalene** 10:30am & 5:30pm on Saturday. **St Mary Star of the Sea** 10:30am and 7:00pm Saturday. **St Mary Immaculate, St Teresa of Lisieux** after any Mass.