

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!

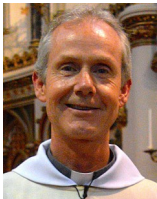


Catholic Parish of Eastbourne & St Leonards

Parish Newsletter : December 2025

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)



Looking forward with Expectation by Fr Kevin Dring

Welcome to the first edition of our new Parish Hub Newsletter.

We thank Andrew, Caroline, and Liz for bringing the Newsletter to fruition! We hope this will help us get to know each other, and see all the varied and rich opportunities for prayer, worship, service, and mission across our communities.



Parish Mission Prayer

Loving God,
empower us through our baptism to live as vibrant
and welcoming communities centred on the Holy Eucharist. In flame 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.

For the past year we have had regular meetings of Leadership Groups, clergy and laity, reflecting on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and how to move from being a Deanery of 8 Parishes to becoming a single Parish of 15 churches. The legal institution of the new Parish will likely happen in May, but preparations have been underway for many months.

Already we are sharing in delivering our Sacramental Programmes, in looking together how to care for our many beautiful buildings, and most importantly how to reach and best care for people, the sick and all in need. The clergy will continue to live and serve where they are, but working in a new Team Ministry, sharing responsibilities for different areas of parish life. Many of you also already exercise important ministries, but as we move forward we hope everybody will think about the part they can play in our Mission to live and share the Joy of the Gospel.

As we enter Advent, beginning a new Church Year, this is a great moment for us to open our hearts and communities afresh to hope-filled renewal under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We invite you to take and pray our new Parish Mission Prayer cards from the back of the churches.

We bid farewell to Fr Eamonn Monson, who has left St Mary Star of the Sea (Hastings) after many years of kind and faithful service. We pray for the community as they await the appointment of a new priest.

On behalf of the clergy team, I wish us all the most Blessed of Advents.

Masses during the Week

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

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.  Syro-Malabar liturgy

Celebrating our Communities

St Anthony of Padua

The church of St. Anthony of Padua, Rye has been widely praised for its artistic and architectural magnificence. It has been called “a cathedral in miniature” . But, it is very much more than a work of artistic beauty. It has a heritage of spiritual adventures, and a history filled with pastoral activities Our Parish Pastoral Committee meet on the first Tuesday of each week to build a programme of community building, outreach and pastoral care in the Rye Area.

St Thomas’ & Holy Redeemer

We are a vibrant & diverse community spread over two churches; St Thomas’ and Holy Redeemer.

We look forward to our **Advent Service of Taizé Music and Prayer** on Sunday 14th December at 4 pm in St. Thomas of Canterbury Church. Please put the date in your diary.

Also on Sunday 14th December, the Third Sunday in Advent it is **Bambinelli Sunday**. This is a beautiful Advent Tradition, instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II during his Papacy. Please bring along your baby Jesus ‘ to be blessed to any weekend Mass.

Advent Reconciliation available at St Thomas’ at 7pm on Monday, 15th December in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

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, founded so many decades ago in our community as the vital expression of Christ’s love for our neighbour, works indefatigably to bring to life their mission- to turn concern into action, by helping those most in need both at home and in public. 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, don’t forget to say hello to alpacas in the field next door if you come to visit. On **27th November** 2pm, Battle - Donkey Roads and Camel Treks: A pilgrim’s guide for **Advent**, talk by Sister Gemma Simmonds. **29th November** – preparation of Advent Giving Tree from 10am with



seasonal refreshments, followed by Battle Christmas Procession at 1.45pm with Christmas Lights switch on at 5.30pm

Advent Devotions during December 8am at Battle followed by light breakfast on Tuesday 2nd, Friday 5th, Tuesday 9th, Friday 12th, Tuesday 16th and Friday 19th. Sunday, 14th December, 3pm: **Taizé Service** of music and prayer Christmas Eve Mass 8pm at Battle Christmas Day Mass 9am at Northiam and 11am at Battle.

St Mary Star of the Sea

Located in the heart of Hastings Old Town since 1883, St Mary Star of the Sea Church, designed by renowned architect Basil Champneys and served by the Pallottine Fathers, is an historic treasure within our united parish community. Its stunning Gothic revival architecture and welcoming spirit have made it a place of prayer, belonging, and reflection for generations. Whether you’re drawn by its beauty or its commitment to fellowship, St Mary’s remains a cherished gathering place for all who seek faith, history, and community. Fr Eamonn sadly leaves the Parish after 8 years of dedication and unwavering service, at the beginning of November for pastures new. We send with him our sincere thanks, gratitude and love for all he has given us here in Hastings and wish him the best of luck in his new chapter.

Please remember Fr Emmanuel RIP in your prayers and the St Mary Star of the Sea Community as they come to terms with their losses.

Enquiries and feedback 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 — All the ways we listen to and worship God

Divine Mercy prayer meetings: Fridays at 9.30am St Mary Star of the Sea. **Anointing of the Sick** on the last Saturday of each month.

In St Leonards & Hollington : **Advent** from the first week of December we will be praying the morning prayer of the church at 9.30 in both churches. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be 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. **Wednesday Scripture Group** first Wednesday of the month from 10am in the John Fisher Room. **Holy Hour** First Sunday of the month at 3pm at St Thomas’.

At Rye after the Tuesday morning Mass we pray the intercessions of St Anthony through the celebration of the Liturgy of St Anthony.

At Our Lady of the Rosary devotion to the Holy Mass is the keystone of the community. And yet the Holy Spirit inspires so many of our faithful parishioners to create and develop their own devotions. Whether it be in our informal prayer groups, such as Wild Goose, in Adoration and Benediction on Saturdays, or in countless personal devotions, our community is one devoted to prayer.

Formation — All the ways we grow in faith and love of God

In St Leonards & Hollington the 2026 Confirmation and First Holy Communion Programmes have commenced and have 13 Catechumens on their RCIA journey’s. Also Children’s Liturgies are thriving at both Churches.

In Rye A children’s formation group is being run from 30th November for all children 6yrs old – 6 years old to help them to build a relationship with Jesus. The gathering will take place on the last Sunday of each Month. **In Bexhill & Little Common there is** a superb catechetical team for

Confirmation. 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 — All the ways we share the Joy of the Gospel with others

Grandparents’ Meeting: Third Wednesday of each month, with Mass 10am at **St Mary Star of the Sea. Community Club** meets Mondays 10:15–12 in the church hall.

Synod Action Group meet monthly on the third Saturday of the month in Holy Redeemer Hall from 10.45.

Parish Afternoon Tea gather on the third Tuesday of the month in Concordia Hall from 2 until 4.

SVP President for St Leonards is Pat Holmes email patpete-holmes@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.

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

Adoration

St Mary Star of the Sea Every Friday after 10am Mass, the first Wednesday of the month and the last Sunday at 6pm. **Holy Redeemer** Every Tuesday 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 9am 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 following all Masses on the first weekend every month, plus Saturdays from 10.30 at Holy Redeemer and from 5pm at St Thomas’ **St Mary Magdalene** 10:30am & 5.30pm on Saturday. **St Mary Star of the Sea** 10:30am and 7pm Saturday. **St Mary Immaculate, St Teresa of Lisieux** after any Mass.