

OUR LADY IMMACULATE & ST MICHAEL, BATTLE

with

ST TERESA OF LISIEUX, HORNS CROSS

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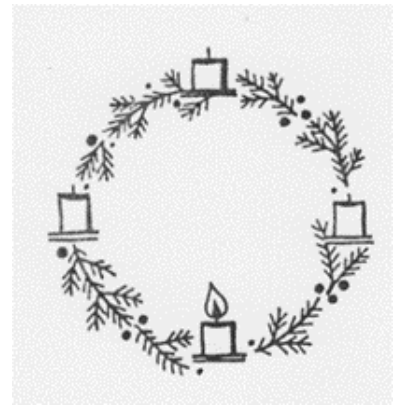
Parish Priest: Fr Anthony White

Cycle C for Sundays and Solemnities

Year 1 for Weekdays

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a

Registered Charity No. 252878



Weekend Mass Times

6pm Saturday 27th November -
Battle (People of the Parish)

9am Sunday 28th November -
Northiam (People of the Parish)

10.45am Sunday 28th November -
Battle (Deceased members of
the Ferlaino Family)

10am Wednesday 1st December -
Battle (Celebrant's Intention)

Sacrament of Reconciliation after
6pm Mass Saturdays

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Weekend 27th / 28th November 2021

Introduction to the Scripture Readings:

- **First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The prophet looks forward to a time when honesty and integrity will flourish.

- **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2**

Paul urges the Christian community to live the life that God wants.

- **Gospel: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36**

Jesus tells his disciples that despite the world's troubles and turmoil, liberation is close at hand.

We pray for the Sick and Housebound Members of our Community:

From Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael: Margaret Thunder, Jo Cooper, Stephen Bould, Pauline Fraser, Michael Conroy, Sheila Lilley, Madeleine Salter, Gretta Johnson, Jim & Ruth Ayres, Richard & Brenda Widenka, Helen Powell, Tom Dodd, Dilys Fraser, Anthony Gibbons, Rosemary Parkes, Suzanne McAdie.

From St Teresa's: Keith Bourne, Gerard Scothern & his family, Christine Mooney, June Nottage, Maureen & Cyril Webster, Dominic Leahy.

Prayer Intentions - please remember the following people in your prayers this week:

Una Wade, Frances Cresswell, Jack Morgan, Guy Hooper, Di Bean RIP, Judith Bridge, Maureen Ashing, Henry Cheung, Sam Baker, Trish Archutowski RIP, Gillian Mitchell RIP. Please also remember David Amies and his family.

- If you feel you need to contact Fr Paul for any reason, his phone number is: 01323 670156.
- If you used to receive a visit from one of our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (Special Ministers), please contact the office if you would like these visits to recommence, 01424 773125 or battle@abdiocese.org.uk with a Minister or with Fr Paul, who is happy to make home visits.
- Fr Paul is happy to receive Mass Intentions, please either give them directly to Fr Paul after Mass or let Maggie know of any future Intentions on 773125, e-mail battle@abdiocese.org.uk, or drop a note through the Presbytery door, thank you.
- If you wish to follow a live Mass please follow this link from our Diocesan website <https://abdiocese.org.uk/livestream> or via <https://www.churchservices.tv/>

Children's Liturgy: Children's Liturgy has now restarted during the 10.45am Mass at Battle. If you have any children that have missed this during the restrictions and would like to join into these sessions again, please bring them along.

- **Ecumenical Advent Prayer** These services will be held in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's, Battle at 8am on Tuesdays and Fridays from 30th November until 21st December inclusive and last about half an hour. Our Church is leading the service on Friday, December 10th. Please join us if you can.
- **Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7pm - Parish Advent Taizé Service**
This service has become a much-welcomed ecumenical Advent event, drawing Christians of the town together in our candle-lit church as Christmas approaches - the beautiful, prayerful chants and hymns this year will focus on the underlying theme of 'Hope' and invoke the light and wisdom and healing of the Holy Spirit. The storm of the pandemic invited all of us, whether we like it or not, to rethink how we live in our world. So, we should look to Our Blessed Lord, not only to give us strength, but also to give us patience and the ability to endure - better things are yet to come! *Battle Music Group*
- **Music Group in Battle:** We meet for practice for an hour each week beginning at 7pm on Tuesday evenings in church. Now that we are back singing at Mass, it would be wonderful if more parishioners were able to join the group - especially as we are now planning for our Advent Taizé-type service, and beginning to get ready for Christmas! Singers and instrumentalists alike will be made very welcome - no auditions, all you need is a smile, so everyone is invited! *Battle Music Group*
- **Battle Food Bank Christmas Food Hampers for families in need:**
This year it is going to be organised by the Foodbank, operating from St Mary's upper church hall. Christmas treats include: **Cakes, Puddings, Mince Pies, Yule Logs, Savoury and Sweet Biscuits, Shortbread, Chocolate Treats, Pringles and Christmas Crackers**, as well as the usual items. All donations by **7th December** please, so that packing can begin and Hampers can be given out to families the following week. If anyone thinks they would be able to help either with packing or with deliveries, please email Shelagh: shelaghfranks@btinternet.com.

Donations can be taken to the Foodbank on Tuesday mornings 10-12 and Wednesday afternoons 12.30pm-3pm, or placed into the Foodbank collection basket in the church porch as usual. We shall be preparing hampers for all the clients / families who come to Foodbank. In addition to these, if any of the churches are aware of any families or individuals who would benefit from a hamper, please could you let Shelagh know. It is not necessary to give names, but simply the size of the family and, if applicable, the ages of the children. These hampers will be individually prepared for them and given to you to deliver to the people you know. **Please could you give any requests to Shelagh by 7th December.**

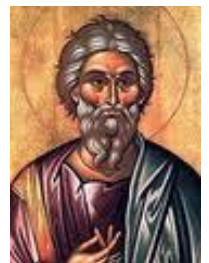
News from our Diocese

- **Young Adults' (18-30's) Advent Retreat: 3rd-5th December** It is a Christian tradition to use the four weeks leading up to Christmas to prepare oneself for the celebration of Jesus' birth. This weekend retreat will provide an opportunity to start your preparations for the Advent season, including talks, small group discussions, opportunities for reflection and prayer. All this revolving around the rhythm of prayer of the Benedictine community of Worth Abbey. This retreat is offered by The Open Cloister, Worth Abbey in collaboration with The Wellspring Community, Brighton. For more information visit www.worth.co.uk/retreats or contact our youth adviser lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk
- **PACT: Operation Elf:** Bishop Richard writes: *'In the last part of this difficult year, we can begin to look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. For those families where a parent is in prison, Christmas can be a particularly painful time. Through PACT's Operation Elf, parishes and individuals can support prisoners to give a gift to their child, sharing a little love and joy and strengthening the family bond. This simple act can nurture the hope that redemption and a fresh start is possible.'*
Register at parishaction@prisonersadvice.org.uk, buy a Gift card with the value of £10, and post to PACT. Full guidance and details at www.prisonadvice.org.uk Thank you.

Saints of the Week

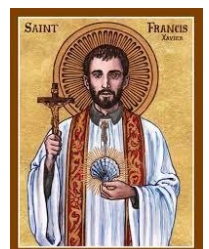
Feast of St Andrew, Apostle – 30th November

St Andrew (first century) was born at Bethsaida and worked as a fisherman. He is called the Protokletos or 'first called', for he was originally a disciple of St John the Baptist before following Christ and bringing with him his brother, St Peter. After Pentecost he zealously preached the Gospel and was crucified at Patras (Greece). He is Patron of Scotland, where his relics were formerly venerated at St Andrews.



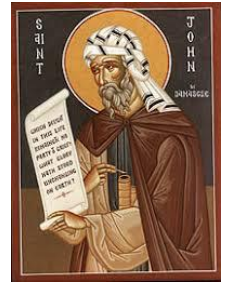
Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest – 3rd December

St Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was born near Pamplona in what is now Spain and studied in Paris, where he became a follower of St Ignatius Loyola. A founding member of the Society of Jesus, he tirelessly brought the Gospel to India, Borneo, Indonesia and Japan. He died of fever on Shangchuan Island in 1552 while travelling to China.



Memorial of St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor – 4th December

St John Damascene (c.657-749) was born in Damascus (Syria), already under Muslim rule, and became a monk in the monastery of St Sabbas, near Jerusalem. He wrote many theological works and hymns, including 'The day of Resurrection'. He is considered the last Eastern Father of the Church; he was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1890.



The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice - that time in the year when the sun reaches its southern most point in the heavens and the days are the darkest and most gloomy.

Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens in their celebration halls.



There they awaited the return of their sun-god thinking of the warmth and life he brought.

Celebrations culminated in the 'nativity' of the sun - the turning point of the year. As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life; the nativity of the Saviour. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for this saving birth.

The season of Advent prepares us to look at the world through Christ's eyes: it prepares us for his coming into our lives in a deeper way. Sometimes people think that we prepare by ignoring the world we live in, or imagine that the difficulties of this life are an obstacle between ourselves and God. But Christ makes it plain that we prepare for his coming precisely by taking a searching look at this world and perceiving, through the disorder, the guiding hand of God. With Christ's insight we can recognise that God is truly with us.

Advent is a time set aside to stop and reflect on how Christ comes into our lives. First, Advent directs us to the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Our faith is founded on a real event in human history: that in the birth of Jesus Christ, God came into the world as a human being.

Second, Advent directs our attention to Christ's coming in our everyday life. He comes when we least expect him: in the awkward person we have to deal with; when we are feeling unwell or tired with the difficulties of life. Our daily prayer can help us to prepare for those moments.

Finally, Advent directs us to Christ's coming for the last time - the "day (that) will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap". If we have contemplated his coming at Christmas in our daily life, this final coming will be no fearful scanning of the horizon, hoping we will not be caught unawares. It will be a welcoming of a Lord who has been as close to us as he is in our celebration of the Eucharist: a God with whom we have been in such close communion that we have learned to see the world through God's eyes.

- The office remains open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am - 12.30pm.
- The Parish Pastoral Team send all parishioners their prayers and good wishes.

Vatican News

Pope names Cardinal Mamberti as envoy for 150th anniversary of Pro Petri Sede

The *Pro Petri Sede* (or "For the See of Peter") Association is set to celebrate its 150th anniversary at the Basilica of Kokelberg in Brussels. The association is active in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, and helps raise funds for initiatives of the Pope and the Holy See. Pope Francis on Saturday appointed Cardinal Dominique Mamberti as his special envoy for the celebrations.



The Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura will preside over the Mass in Brussels on 27 November.

Solidarity against indifference: The Pope also sent a letter (written in Latin) to Cardinal Mamberti to accompany the appointment. He noted that the anniversary celebrations are taking place one year late, due to pandemic restrictions in 2020. Pope Francis said the *Pro Petri Sede* Association has spent a century and a half carrying out "an active work of solidarity and charity to ward against indifference and individualism." By sending the Cardinal as his special legate, the Pope said he wishes to confirm the association in that important mission.

Renewing apostolic zeal: He said Cardinal Mamberti will preside over the celebrations in his name. "You will greet and encourage all those present to renew their apostolic zeal so that by virtue of the hope that arises from faith, inspired by love for God and piety, they may offer praise to Him with their lives, for his mercy endures forever." The Pope concluded the letter entrusting the Cardinal to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Blessed Pius IX, who was Pope when the Association was formed.

Pre-pandemic audience: Pope Francis had met with members of the *Pro Petri Sede* Association on 24 February 2020 for an in-person audience in the Vatican, just ahead of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. At that audience, he encouraged them to continue their good works, with which they "participate in the missionary action of the Church, which fights for the integral human development of every person."

Pope to Mexico City Ecclesial Assembly: listen and be creative

Pope Francis addressed a message to the first Ecclesial Assembly bringing together Caribbean and Latin American countries encouraging them to "listen" to the voice of the people in their discernment and be open to "abundant" creativity in their renewed missionary outreach. The week-long meeting represents an outcome of the synodal path recently initiated by the Pope with more than one thousand participants gathered in Mexico City and online. He refers to the three key words in preparation for the 2023 Synod - *communion, participation and mission* - while offering two other words for consideration.



Listen, especially to the forgotten: In 2007 in Aparecida, Brazil, where the future Pope was also present, the protagonists were the Latin American bishops. The Pope recalled that back then they were called "to be missionary disciples" and to "encourage hope" leading "to the horizon of the Guadalupe Jubilee in 2031 and the Jubilee of the Redemption in 2033." He noted

that before those still distant celebrations, the Synod will take place with the aim of changing certain structures, giving new space and importance to the voice of all the baptized, something different from when it concerned a meeting of only bishops.

The Ecclesial Assembly in Mexico City marks a first important reflection of this new process, and Pope Francis invites them to focus their work especially on the dynamic of "*listening*." He says this process also includes "dialogue and discernment," and this type of assembly "facilitates mutual exchange, 'listening' to the voice of God to the point of hearing the cry of the people with Him and listening to the people to the point of sharing with them where God is calling us," especially when the cry comes from the forgotten.

Courageous missionaries: The second word the Pope highlights is "*overflow*" or abundance. Over and beyond prayer and dialogue that requires "community discernment," there is also the need for finding "ways to overcome differences so that they do not become divisive and polarizing," the Pope explains. In conclusion, the Pope prayed that "your Assembly be an expression of the 'overflow' of the creative love of the Spirit, who urges us to go out to encounter others without fear, and who encourages the Church to become ever more evangelizing and missionary through a process of pastoral conversion."

Pope encourages players in friendly soccer match to team up for inclusion

Pope Francis on Saturday received in audience the representatives of the "World Rom Organization" and the "Pope's Team - Fratelli tutti" who will play a friendly football match on Sunday to promote the values of inclusion and fraternity. The 'Fratelli Tutti football match' will take place at 2:30 pm on the training grounds of Italy's Lazio football club at Formello, some 25 kilometres north of Rome. It is organized by the Pontifical Council and Athletica Vaticana, the Vatican's sporting association.

Inclusion: a simple normality: Those playing for the Vatican team - made up of Swiss Guards, Vatican employees, priests serving in the Roman Curia and the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy - will also include three young migrants hosted by the Community of Sant'Egidio, and a young man with Down's syndrome who participates in Special Olympics events. The team's inclusive make-up was remarked on by Pope Francis who, in his address, thanked players for accepting to join the 'Pope's Team- Fratelli Tutti', where "there are no barriers" making inclusion "a simple normality".

The 'Kick to exclusion' project: Welcoming the Zagreb-based World Rom Organization's proposal to play the soccer friendly in Rome, he noted that their competing team expresses a passion for sports which is "lived with solidarity and gratuitousness, and with an amateur and inclusive spirit." Pope Francis also encouraged the 'Kick to exclusion' project sponsored by the Diocese of Rome to promote the inclusion of the Roma and other vulnerable people. On the occasion of the special sporting event, funds will be raised to support the project.

Sports is a place of encounter: Pope Francis finally remarked that the World Rom Organization's efforts to promote inclusion and friendship through sports, is "a sign of hope". "All children have the right to grow up together without discrimination," concluded the Pope. "Sports is a place of encounter and equality, and can build communities through bridges of friendship."