

OUR LADY IMMACULATE &
ST MICHAEL, BATTLE
with
ST TERESA OF LISIEUX, HORNS CROSS
14 Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex,
TN33 0EG

Contact Office on
01424 773125

e-mail: battle@abdiocese.org.uk

PARISH PRIEST –

FR RICHARD A BLYTHEN

e-mail: richard.blythen@abdiocese.org.uk

07746 223651

website: battlewithnorthiam.parishportal.net

Cycle B for Sundays and Solemnities



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent
Weekend 14th / 15th December 2024

Saturday 14/12 6pm	Battle	Third Sunday of Advent	Helen O'Brien, RIP
Sunday 15/12 9am	Northiam		People of the Parish
Sunday 15/12 11am	Battle		Deceased Members of the Powell Family
Monday 16/12	NO MASS		
Tuesday 17/12 8am	Battle	Tuesday of the 3 rd Week of Advent	Christians in Battle Advent Devotions
Tuesday 17/12 6.30pm	Battle		No Intention
Wednesday 18/12 10am	Battle	Wednesday of the 3 rd Week of Advent	Deceased Members of the Cooper Family
Thursday 19/12 6.30am	Battle	Thursday of the 3 rd Week of Advent	No Intention
Friday 20/12 8am	Battle	Friday of the 3 rd Week of Advent	Christians in Battle Advent Devotions
Friday 20/12 10am	Battle		Stephen & Sarah Miller, RIP (FM)
Saturday 21/12 6pm	Battle	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Helen Ambrose, RIP
Sunday 22/12 9am	Northiam		People of the Parish
Sunday 22/12 11am	Battle		Deceased Members of the Attalah Family

During the Christmas Season there will be a Crib Collection for
the Catholic Children's Society A&B Crisis Fund

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- **First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**

Jesus, born in Bethlehem (the “House of Bread”) was to become the Bread of Life for all humankind.

- **Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10**

Christ is here to replace the Law’s sacrifices and holocausts with a simple trust in the Father. God prefers our trust and our service to our unthinking actions and “sacrificial offerings”.

- **Gospel: Luke 1:39-45**

Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb and in her heart, visits her cousin Elizabeth. We too are called to bring Christ to all we encounter and, in the same way, all those we meet bring Christ to us.

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

From Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael: Margaret Thunder, Stephen Bould, Pauline Fraser, Michael Conroy, Sheila Lilley, Madeleine Salter, Gretta Johnson, Ruth Ayres, Helen Powell, Tom Dodd, Suzanne McAdie, Hazel & Helena Lobo, Marianne Clemence, Marie & Sarah Skilton, Phil & Pauline Bedford.

From St Teresa’s: Christine Mooney, June Nottage, Maureen Webster, Eileen O’Shaughnessy, Margot Leahy, Jacquelyn Solly, Felicity Youlten.

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

Guy Hooper, Maureen Ashing, Gerard Leahy, Jo Watkins, Patrick Armstrong, Andrew Brodrick-Ward, Anthony Gibbons RIP, Katie Spall RIP, Cilla Wintle RIP.

- **Letter from Fr Kevin Dring - Updates to becoming a Moderated Parish.** Letters providing the latest information are available at the back of the Church, please take a copy which will help you understand some of the changes.
- **Crib Offering to Support the Catholic Children’s Society’s A&B Crisis Fund**

The Catholic Children’s Society (CCS) helps families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Through their A&B Crisis Fund they offer immediate practical support such as providing beds for children who have been found sleeping on the floor, or cookers for families who are unable to provide their children with a warm meal.

Recently CCS helped a two-year-old girl when her mother died and she moved in with her aunt. The little girl was very distressed, so her aunt took unpaid leave to care for her. This put a lot of strain on the family; they struggled to afford enough food and had no money to heat their home. CCS was able to provide a one-off grant to support this family during this very challenging time. The aunt is now back at work and her niece is happily settled at a local nursery. The aunt got in touch to say:

“Thank you so much for this support. I can’t believe help like this exists... it was so quick and discreet, I did not feel judged at all, only offered kindness. It made such a difference and allowed me to care for my niece when she really needed me. I’ll never forget this.”

There are many more families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. Every single penny donated will be ring fenced and used to provide immediate support for local children and families in need. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

- **Move-It Club:** Every Thursday in the Parish Room at 10am with Lindsey. New members always welcome! Please stay for a relaxed coffee and chat afterwards too. Contact the office for more information: 01424 773125 or battle@abdiocese.org.uk.
- **Giving Tree Gifts for Young Carers:** Thank you all for all the generous gifts donated so far to this worthy cause. If you still wish to donate a gift, even if you haven't picked up a tag off the tree, any gift suitable for teenagers or children would be very much appreciated. *Please have all gifts in by this coming weekend at the latest, as they are being collected on Monday 16th December.*
- **Christians in Battle, Advent Devotions:** Please join us for our Advent prayer sessions, an Advent Journey of Hope, every Tuesday and Friday morning at 8am ending this Friday, 20th December. The sessions will be held at Battle Catholic Church on Mount Street, followed by breakfast upstairs at the Baptist Church. Everyone is very welcome.
- **Battle Foodbank: Christmas 2024:** We have limited closures over the Christmas/ New Year period. We will be open as normal with the exception of:
 - Battle - Weds 25th December - Closed
 - **Battle - We will open Tuesday 31st December 11.30am - 1pm**
 - Battle - Weds 1st January - closed
 - Bexhill - Thurs 26th December - Closed

Our Regular Open Sessions for collecting food are -

 - Bexhill - Tuesday 1-3pm // Thursday 10-12noon // Friday 3-5pm
 - Battle - Wednesday 1-2.30pm

Alternate Battle Arrangements: As the Battle branch is not busy, we only have one opening time per week. If this session is not convenient, we do have an arrangement with a local partner for the client to be able to collect their food from an alternative venue in Battle Town. It does need to be organised in advance with the client but can work really well.

Items we need this week are: Tins of Custard; Tins of Cold Meat; Tins of Spaghetti Hoops; Jars of Coffee; Bottles of Squash; 500 gm bags of sugar and Cat and Dog food either wet or dry please - any toiletries, baby and household items are always welcome. Thank you so much for all your donations we have received a huge response for Christmas Treats and the first bags are packed ready for giving out tomorrow. Once again, thank you very much and we all wish you a very Merry Christmas (once we get there!). God bless you all, Michelle, Jenni, Gareth, Caroline and all the foodbank team.
- **Christmas Greetings:** Richard and Kate Grun wish all parishioners a Happy and Holy Christmas and a very Happy and healthy New Year. In lieu of cards this year, a donation has been made to the Salvation Army.
- **CAFOD: The Year of Jubilee, 'Pilgrims of Hope'** - This special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, invites us to return to a right relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. CAFOD have many resources and opportunities to get involved on our [Jubilee webpage](#) . I wanted to draw your attention to:
 - **Introducing Jubilee online session – 18th January 2025: 10:30am-12 noon.** Join us for An introduction to the Jubilee Year with special guests **Fr Jan Nowotnik**, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, **Christine Allen**, CAFOD

Director, and **Kayode Akintola**, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear how we're celebrating Jubilee as a global Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope, building a better world together throughout this holy year.

- **Our Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of hope reflection guide** is ideal for groups and individuals deepening faith and renewing hope in Jubilee through four reflection sessions. Guides can be ordered free from the above webpage, (downloadable Leaders' Guide also available). The guide may be helpful when visiting those who are housebound, in hospital or prisons etc. Please pass on to anyone who may be interested in leading this in the parish.
- **Jubilee Icon** CAFOD and the Bishops' Conference collaborated on a Jubilee Icon for the Church in England and Wales. Created by an Ethiopian artist, the Icon is based on Luke 4:18-19. and will be visiting dioceses during the year. Please get in touch with us or Diocesan Jubilee Coordinators for more information.

- Fr Richard is happy to receive Mass Intentions, please pop them in the letter box outside the office, or let Maggie know on 773125, e-mail battle@abdiocese.org.uk.

**** Christmas closure: The Parish Office will close on Friday 20th December and reopen on Thursday 2nd January. If you need to contact Fr Richard urgently please call 07746 223651 or e-mail: richard.blythen@abdiocese.org.uk ****



Fr Richard and the Parish Pastoral Team send all parishioners their prayers and good wishes for a very Merry and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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.

