

OUR LADY IMMACULATE & ST MICHAEL, BATTLE

with

ST TERESA OF LISIEUX, HORNS CROSS

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Cycle C for Sundays and Solemnities

Year 2 for Weekdays

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a

Registered Charity No. 252878



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

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Weekend 10th / 11th December

Weekend Services at Battle

10/12	6pm	Saturday Battle	Third Sunday of Advent	(Mary Flack, RIP)
11/12	9am	Sunday Northiam	Third Sunday of Advent	(Founders and Benefactors of St Teresa's)
11/12	10.45am	Sunday Battle	Third Sunday of Advent	(People of the Parish)

Weekday Services at Battle

12/12		NO MASS		
13/12	8am	Tuesday Battle	Ecumenical Prayer Group, followed by breakfast in the Baptist Church	
13/12	6pm	Tuesday Battle	St Lucy	(No Intention)
14/12	10am	Wednesday Battle	St John of the Cross	(No Intention)
15/12	6am	Thursday Battle	Third Thursday of Advent	(No Intention)
16/12	8am	Friday Battle	Ecumenical Prayer Group, followed by breakfast in the Baptist Church	
17/12	10am	Friday Battle	Third Friday of Advent	(No Intention)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

available after all Masses and upon Request

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for The Fourth Sunday of Advent:

- **First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14**

The people should not put God to the test, but they will be given a miraculous sign.

- **Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

The promise of God is revealed in God's Son and it is his Good News that the faithful are to take out to the world.

- **Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24**

The world is turned upside down but we need not be fearful.

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, Jim & Ruth Ayres, Richard & Brenda Widenka, Helen Powell, Tom Dodd, Dilys Fraser, Suzanne McAdie, Hazel & Helena Lobo, Keith Bourne.

From St Teresa's: Keith Bourne, Christine Mooney, June Nottage, Maureen Webster, Brian O'Connell, Eileen O'Shaughnessy, Margot Leahy, Jacquelyn Solly.

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

Una Wade, Frances Cresswell, Guy Hooper, Judith Bridge, Maureen Ashing, Henry Cheung, Gerard Leahy.

- If you used to receive a visit from one of our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (Special Ministers), please contact the office on 01424 773125 if you would like these visits to recommence, with a Minister or with Fr Richard direct on 07578 725914 or email battle@abdiocese.org.uk.
- Fr Richard is happy to receive Mass Intentions, please pop them in the new letter box outside the office, or let Maggie know on 773125, e-mail battle@abdiocese.org.uk, 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/>



Family Liturgy and Sacramental Preparation Group

Every Saturday at 1pm, up to and including Christmas Eve, decorating our Christmas Giving Tree. All family members are invited to come along to decorate the tree with our Giving Tags and decorations.

- **Christmas Tree Baubles!** It would be lovely if the children and parishioners could donate a bauble to hang on our Christmas tree over the coming week please. They need to be unbreakable (homemade would be fabulous!), but remember they will be going outside, just one per person/family would be lovely, thank you so much!
- **Ecumenical Advent Prayer:** Early morning prayer for Advent continues every Tuesday and Friday until Tuesday 20th December at 8am in our Church for about half an hour. This will be followed by breakfast at the Baptist Church. We shall be leading the prayers this Tuesday 13th December. Please join us if you can.

Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	6pm		Christmas Vigil Mass	Battle
		9pm		Christmas Mass	Battle
Sunday 25 th December	Christmas Day	9am	Christmas Mass		Northiam
	The Nativity of the Lord	10.45am	Christmas Mass		Battle
Monday 26 th December	St Stephen's Day		NO MASS		
Tuesday 27 th December	St John the Baptist		NO MASS		Battle

- **Date for your diaries: Exciting news!** On Sunday 15th January 2023 Richard will be visiting our Parish to celebrate the Induction of Fr Richard at the 10.45am Mass at Battle. This will be followed by a Parish Lunch, at Battle Memorial Hall, more details will follow in due course, but please keep this date free!
- **Flower ladies:** We have had a clear out of the cupboard in the Parish Room, if anyone has lent or donated any pots to the Parish and would like them back, please come and claim them before they go to the charity shop. Thank you!
- **Christmas Wishes:** Anne and David Auger wish all their parish friends a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. In lieu of our normal cards we are donating to CAFOD.
- **Parish 100 Club:** Congratulations to the winners of the December draw!
£12 – Robert Mulligan £24 - Helena Lobo £50 - Ros Vinall
- **Mill Hill Missionaries – Red Boxes:** It is time for the annual count, could you please drop your Red Box off at the Church or office for counting (thank you if you have already dropped your box in). If you have problems getting to Mass, please let me know and I can arrange collection. Thank you, Suzanne.
- **Battle Foodbank – Needs and Updates:** This week the Foodbank needs Tins of Soup, Tomatoes, Cold Meat and Fish; Small bags of Sugar; Biscuits; SweetTreats; Jars of Marmite and Peanut Butter and Boxes of 40's teabags. Please put items in the basket at the back of the Church. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

- **Journey of the Magi:** A spectacular Christmas treat by Springs Dance Company, Battle Memorial Hall; Tuesday 20th December 7.30pm & Wednesday 21st December 2pm. All tickets £5 each. For more information visit www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk.
- **St Michael's Hospice - Moonlight & Memories Sponsored Walk 2022:** Team Forge (Vicky Chainey, Ingrid Finch & John Reid) would like to thank everyone who contributed to the raising of £676 which, together with Gift Aid on most donations, means that this year we have contributed to almost 2 hours' worth of the hospice's daily running costs.
- The office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am – 12.30pm.
- The Parish Pastoral Team send all parishioners their prayers and good wishes.

News from our Diocese

Diocesan run events

- **Evenings of Reflection 7-9pm with a choice of venues across the Diocese**
 - Friday 13 January at St Michael's, Worthing
 - Saturday 21 January at St John the Evangelist, Horsham
 - Friday 3 February at St Martha's, Bexhill on Sea
 - Friday 17 March at The Sacred Heart, Cobham
 - Friday 24 March at St Dunstan, Woking
 - Saturday 11 March at 6.30pm at Arundel cathedral Centre followed by a Cathedral tour.
- **Bring your Confirmation or Youth group to join Bishop Richard and Lizzie, our Youth Adviser,** for an evening of prayer, reflection and a little bit of fun! Lizzie will talk to the young people about the need to listen to God's word in our lives, which will lead into Bishop Richard helping them experience Lectio Divina. Refreshments will be provided. These events are only open to young people who are part of an organised group. If you are under 18 and would like to attend independently, please ask your parent or carer to email E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk
- **Days of Reflection for Ministers, led by Bishop Richard**
 - Saturday 21 January 2023 at St Bernadette, Tilgate, Crawley – for Ministers of the Word
 - Saturday 18 February 2023 at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge – for Ministers of the Eucharist

Further details to follow.
- **Annual Justice and Peace Assembly - Hungry for Change. Saturday 28 January 2023 9.30-1.30pm. The Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP**
Please join us at our Annual Justice and Peace assembly which will explore food and conflict and positive steps we can make. With Bishop Richard and speakers from CAFOD, Pax Christi and the Ecological Conversion Group. This event is free of charge but booking is requested, so that we have an idea of numbers. This can be done through the Diocesan website or the following booking link [Annual Justice & Peace Assembly "Hungry for Change" \(28-Jan-2023\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)
For more information, please contact Tessa Ricketts E: Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk
- **World Youth Day**
Are you aged 18-35? If you are, we invite you to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lisbon to meet with the Holy Father. 31 July -7 August 2023. Join millions of other young people from all over

the world to celebrate our faith and make life long friendships. The week will include a trip to Fatima as well as all the amazing festival activities, not to mention Mass with Pope Francis. To find out more about this amazing opportunity please contact E:

lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

Externally run

➤ **Crib Offering to support the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund**

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is helping local disadvantaged families facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis. Through their A&B Crisis Fund, CCS is providing immediate, practical support to families in need. There are many vulnerable families in need of support with parishes across Arundel & Brighton donating their Crib Offering to support this important work. Every penny donated will be given out via CCS's A&B Crisis Fund to support local families in need. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website W:

www.cathchild.org.uk/crib Please contact Emily Mundon E: emilym@cathchild.org.uk if your parish would like to support the appeal and require posters, gift aid envelopes or any further information.

➤ **CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas**

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at W: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.



Vatican News

Pope at Angelus: With Jesus, we can always begin anew

Speaking to pilgrims gathered for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis spoke about the role of John the Baptist as recounted in the Gospel in inviting everyone to conversion, saying "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" John the Baptist was an austere and radical believer, the Pope said, calling people to conversion with a "cry of love to return to God."



Allergic to hypocrisy: The Pope said we might think that John the Baptist, given his severity, was a harsh person, even instilling a bit of fear, and we might wonder why he is our primary companion during the Season of Advent. Instead, rather than harshness, it was the Baptist's strong reaction when he encountered duplicity in persons. Recalling episodes when the Pharisees and Sadducees, known for their hypocrisy, approached him, he would challenge them, the Pope explained. They thought "they had it all together" and did not need repentance, he continued, and with this presumption and duplicity did not welcome this moment of grace and the opportunity to begin a new life.

"So, John tells them, "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance!" This is a cry of love, like the cry of a father who sees his son ruining himself and says to him, "Don't throw your life away!" Hypocrisy presents the greatest danger, the Pope said, because it can ruin even the most sacred realities. And this is why John the Baptist, and Jesus later, would be harsh with hypocrites, those without humility or any sense of their own sinfulness and weaknesses, and seeing these problems only in others.

“Therefore, bravura is not important to welcome God, humility is. It requires getting off the pedestal and being immersed in the water of repentance.”

The way of humility: The Pope said then we also need to think about our own behaviours and attitudes and consider if we also are at times a bit like the Pharisees recounted in the Gospel. Do we sometimes think we are better than others, that we have everything under control, or do not have daily need of God and our brothers and sisters?

“Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins and to welcome God’s pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended.”

When we ask God for forgiveness, we begin a new life, the Pope emphasised, and "there is only one way, the way of humility," that can lead us to being forgiven and purified from our weaknesses, sense of superiority, or hypocrisy, to realizing that we are all sinners. "Jesus as the Saviour...comes for us just as we are, with our poverty, misery and failings, above all with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved."

“And let us remember one thing: with Jesus, there is always the possibility of beginning again. Always!”

Jesus awaits us, and never gets tired of us, the Pope emphasized. And Advent offers us a special time of grace to return to the Lord, he added, praying that Mary may "help us to meet Him and our brothers and sisters on the way of humility."

Pray for peace: Following the Angelus prayer, the Pope recalled that this Thursday we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and that we might entrust to her intercession our prayers for peace, especially for the suffering people of Ukraine.

Among the groups of pilgrims present in St. Peter's Square, he also mentioned in particular those from Poland, expressing his gratitude for those supporting today's Day of Prayer and the collection of funds for to assist the Church in Eastern Europe.