

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



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Weekend 3rd / 4th December

Weekend Mass Times

1pm Saturday 3rd December, Battle - Family Liturgy & Sacramental

Group - Giving Tree Decorating

6pm Saturday 3rd December, Second Sunday of Advent - Battle

(David Reynders, RIP)

9am Sunday 4th December, Second Sunday of Advent - Northiam

(People of the Parish)

10.45am Sunday 4th December, Second Sunday of Advent - Battle

(Norman, Millicent & Gillachrist Moore, RIP, FM)

Weekday Masses at Battle

NO MASS Monday 5th December

8am Tuesday 6th December - Battle, Ecumenical Prayer Group, followed

by breakfast in the Baptist Church

6pm Tuesday 6th December, Second Tuesday of Advent - Battle

(No Intention)

10am Wednesday 7th December, St Ambrose - Battle

(Holy Souls)

Followed by Coffee & Cake in the Parish Room - all welcome!

7pm Wednesday 7th December, Battle - Parish Advent Taizé Evening

6am Thursday 8th December, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary - Battle (Mass of Thanksgiving)

8am Friday 9th December - Battle, Ecumenical Prayer Group, followed by

breakfast in the Baptist Church

10am Friday 9th December, Second Friday of Advent - Battle

(No Intention)

Sacrament of Reconciliation available after all Masses and upon Request

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

- **First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6.10**

Desolate, dry places will be transformed into paradise. Creation's praise joins human praise, recognising God's marvellous works. We daily need to renew our faltering faith.

- **Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

James emphasises patience, explaining that we must wait patiently just as a farmer waits for seeds to grow.

- **Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

Jesus wants to assure both John and his disciples that he is the Messiah. He also reminds them that his power is displayed in humble acts of service rather than spectacular displays of political power.

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

This started last Saturday, and will continue 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.

Advent Taizé Evening this Wednesday, 7th December at 7pm at Battle.

Please come and join us for an evening of song, light and prayer.

- Don't forget coffee and cake in the Parish Room after the 10.45am Mass this Wednesday 7th December, please come and join us!

- **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 Friday 9th and Tuesday 13th December. Please join us if you can.
- **Battle Music Group** - we meet at 7pm on Tuesday evenings for one hour in the church in Battle and everyone is invited. All are welcome (no auditions!) and we are particularly hoping that we can increase the number of singers and instrumentalists as we plan further services for those affected by the war in Ukraine, and knowing that Advent and Christmas services are not too far away. Please join us if you can, the next meeting is at 7pm on 13th December.
- **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!
- **Peter and Claire wish everyone in the Parish a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS!** Instead of cards, this year we are going to send 2 goats from CAFOD to a family, probably in Africa.
- **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; Sweet Treats; 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.
- 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

- **'God so Loved the World...' an Advent Retreat 14-18 December at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell, Godalming.** Preparing for Christ to be born once more in our hearts With Br. Adrian Peelo OFM. Residential or non-residential options available, for more information or to book please E: franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk or T: 01483 675575.
- **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.

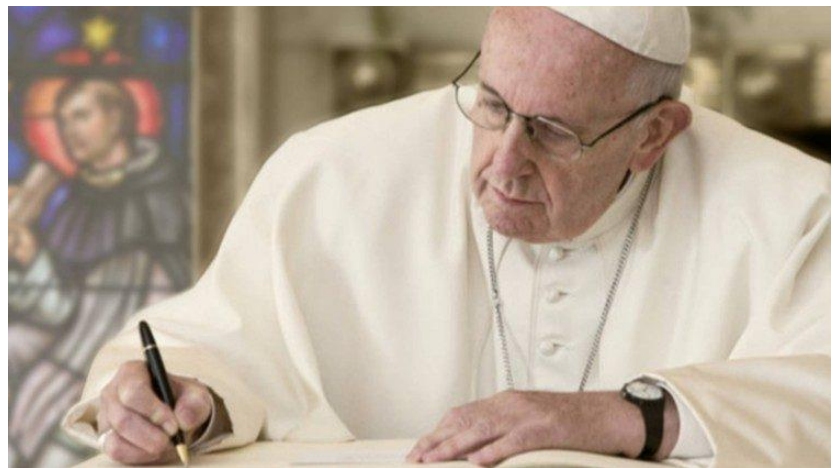


➤ **Study Day on Saturday 10 December 2022 at Chilworth Abbey by Fr John Seddon OSB** of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism', Episode 4, 'Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast', on Our Lady. Mass, 9.00am, Presentations and Talks 10.15-3.30pm. Bring a packed lunch and a friend if possible. See W: chilworthbenedictines.com for more details.

Vatican News

Pope to Catholic Action: Listen attentively with an open heart

Pope Francis addressed a message to the International Forum of Catholic Action (FIAC) that took place in Rome in recent days, offering first his greetings to the new leadership. He also greeted all members at the conclusion of Sunday's Angelus in St. Peter's Square, recalling their assembly meeting that brings together Catholic Action coordinators from around the world.



The Pope recalled that their journey

started more than 30 years ago when Cardinal Eduardo Pironio saw the need to create the Forum so that Catholic Action could contribute to the challenges of the new evangelization, bringing together the richness of each place and culture. He writes, "many of you have decisively followed this intuition and contributed your own abilities and desire to proclaim the Gospel despite the difficulties of the times, since in previous years there were no means of communication and rapprochement between countries."

Difficult times and hopes

Looking at today's world, the Pope notes that in some places individualism has been revived and led to the scourge of violence between countries and peoples, undermining the hope for universal fraternity. "Nevertheless, difficult times can be challenging and transformed into times of hope," the Pope writes quoting Cardinal Pironio who spoke about the importance of being a sign in this life. But not a sign of emptiness or death, but a sign of light that communicates hope. "Hope is capable of overcoming the difficulties, the disagreements, the crosses that arise in daily life," affirms the Pope.

Walking together and dialogue

Pointing out that the Church is going through times when the synodal spirit needs to take root precisely in the way of being Church, the Pope writes "this means that we walk together in the same direction...what God expects from the Church of the third millennium." This means regaining the awareness of being a people on a journey and embarking on it together. With this spirit he invites Catholic Action to encourage the regional associations in the various local churches.

"With a synodal spirit it is necessary to learn to listen to each other, to relearn the art of dialoguing with others without barriers or prejudices, in a special way even with those who are outside, on the margins, so we seek to be near them, which is God's style," writes the Pope.

Listening to everyone

The Pope urges the new FIAC leadership "to be men and women of listening," not "'leaders' of the desk, papers and Zoom," not to fall into the temptation of institutional structuralism that designs and organizes from statutes, regulations and inherited projects, in the past good and useful but perhaps not meaningful today.

He asks that they listen to the men, women, elderly, young and children, in their own places, and hear their silent cries they express. And he invites them to have "an attentive ear so as not to give answers to questions that no one asks or say words that no one is interested in hearing." In summary, he suggests they listen with "ears open to newness and with a Samaritan heart" while also "listening to the beats of the signs of the times."

The voice of the Spirit

"The Church cannot stand on the margins of history, entangled in its affairs," the Pope underscores, as "it is called to listen to and see the signs of the times, to make of history with its complexities and contradictions a story of salvation." For the Pope, it is necessary to be "a vitally prophetic Church that with its signs and gestures shows there are alternatives for harmonious coexistence, human relations, work, love, power and service," and therefore "it is necessary to listen to the voice of the Spirit."

"In every age," he concludes, "the Spirit opens us to his newness," teaching the Church of "the vital need to go out, the physiological need to proclaim, not to close in on itself." And while the worldly spirit pushes one to focus only on one's own problems and interests, tenaciously defending one's own affiliations and groups, the Spirit frees us and "invites us to walk ancient and ever new paths: those of witness, poverty and mission, to free us from ourselves and send us out into the world."

Follow Mary's example

In conclusion, the Pope urges an active listening, which gives rhythm to one's work and is necessary to "be a Church that breathes missionary life." That's what the Virgin Mary did as "she listened, got up and walked to go and serve" others. The Pope then assured the International Forum of Catholic Action members of his prayers so they can "make this time a time of grace, with the audacity to listen, the serenity to discern, and the courage to proclaim" the Gospel through their daily witness.