

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
Year 1 for Weekdays
Arundel and Brighton Trust is a
Registered Charity No. 252878



4th Sunday of Easter
Weekend 10th / 11th May 2025

Saturday 10/05	6pm	Battle	4th Sunday of Easter	Mr Epiphany Fernandes, RIP
Sunday 11/05	9am	Northiam		People of the Parish followed by coffee & cake
Sunday 11/05	11am	Battle		In Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Gemma Simmonds, CJ and Sr. Jane Livesey CJ
Monday 12/05	NO MASS			
Tuesday 13/05	6.30pm	Battle	Tuesday of the 4th Week of Eastertide	No Intention
Wednesday 14/05	10am	Battle	Saint Matthias Apostle	Janet Thomas, RIP
Thursday 15/05	6.30am	Battle	Thursday of the 4th Week of Eastertide	Paul Evers, RIP
Friday 16/05	10am	Battle	Friday of the 4th Week of Eastertide	No Intention
Saturday 17/05	6pm	Battle	5th Sunday of Easter	Special Thanksgiving
Sunday 18/05	9am	Northiam		People of the Parish
	11am	Battle		Paul Weller, RIP

There will be a Second Collection this weekend for Education of Priests (Gift Aid)

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for 5th Sunday of Easter

- **First reading First reading: Acts 14:21b-27**

They declared to the Church all that God had done with them.

- **Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a**

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

- **Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.

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

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

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, Paul Weller RIP, Michael Conroy RIP, Fr Wilson RIP, Maureen Shaw RIP.

**** NEW PARISH OPEN MEETING - POSTPONED:** this meeting will now be rescheduled to a later date soon, to be advised. Thanks and sorry for any inconvenience. **

- **Move-It Club:** Every Thursday morning, in the Parish Room at 10am with Lindsey. Please stay for a relaxed coffee and chat afterwards too. If you would like to join, please contact the office for more information: 01424 773125 or e-mail battle@abdiocese.org.uk.
- **Battle Foodbank:** Our needs this week are Tins of Tomato Soup, Tins of Potatoes, Tins of Cold Meat and Tins of Fish (not Tuna) and 500gm packs of Spaghetti please - toiletries, baby and household items are always welcome - thank you so much for your donations they are very much appreciated.
- **Everyone is very welcome to join us for coffee and cake after the Northiam Mass this Sunday 11th May.**
- **SAVE THE DATE:** There will be a Jubilee of Hope Summer picnic for all the communities of the St Leonards Hub (Rye, Battle, Hastings, St Leonard's and Bexhill,) on SUNDAY 6th JULY, 12 30-4pm, at HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH GARDENS AND HALL. Further details will come in early June. Please put this date in your diaries. Thanks, Ursula Lucas, lay representative of St Leonards.
- 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
- The office is open Monday and Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm

Diocesan run news/events

Diocesan run events

- **Liturgy of the Word with Children Leaders' Training Event - Saturday 24 May 10-1.30pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley:** Do you support the work and mission of the Church by delivering Children's Liturgy in your parish? Join Lucy Hall for a fantastic free workshop exploring new and exciting ways to explore the liturgy of the word. To find out more and book your place, please click here W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events> For more details contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage and Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk, M: 07415 306222.
- **Faith In Action moderation is taking place at St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley on Saturday 14 June from 10-3pm, with lunch provided. Would you be interested in supporting and championing young people?:** The Faith in Action Award is a national project designed to say a huge thank you to our young people for all the incredible acts of service they have undertaken throughout the academic year both in school and in their local parishes and communities. Currently running in 18 of our Diocesan Schools. the award offers an opportunity for them to reflect on their service in light of Catholic Social Teaching through guided reflection sessions, journaling and creating a final piece of work that encapsulates their journey of service. The Diocese are looking for individuals to be moderators of the Faith in Action work. Full training will be provided, as well as lunch! E: Bex.driver@abdiocese.org.uk to register your interest or find out more.

Vatican News

One hundred thirty three cardinals gathered on Thursday in the Sistine Chapel, where they've been casting their ballots to make one among them the next leader of the Catholic Church's more than 1 billion members worldwide.

Black smoke -- fumata nera in Italian -- again rose from the chapel chimney on Thursday morning, signifying the end of the second round of voting -- and three ballots -- with no consensus. A successful candidate to replace Pope Francis, who died April 21, will require a two-thirds majority of the voting cardinals. White smoke -- fumata bianca -- will signify that a new pope has been elected, as will the ringing of the bells of St. Peter's Basilica.



How locking cardinals in a room became known as a conclave

Rome has not always been the seat of power for the papacy. For two notable periods of Church history, Popes lived outside of Rome and served as the successor of St. Peter away from the Eternal City. You may have heard of the Avignon Papacy – a period of 68 years in the 14th century when pontiffs resided in Avignon, France following a conflict between the papacy and the French monarch. But, perhaps a lesser-known and potentially more significant period was the brief time a small city just 90 minutes north of Rome became not only the residence of nine Popes, but also the birthplace of the conclave as we know it today. But why was this city of Viterbo even an option as a seat of papal power?

Just 90 miles north of Rome: Rome in the 13th century was very different to what we see

today. It was filled with violence and division. Two families – the Guelphs and the Ghibellines – ruled and were battling over who had the authority to appoint bishops and abbots. One believed the secular ruler had the power, while the other defended papal authority. As a result, the city of Rome had been overwhelmed with conflict. It was ruled unsafe and Pope Alexander IV chose to transfer the papal see to Viterbo. The Via Francigena is an ancient pilgrimage route running from Canterbury, England to Rome and then to Apulia, Italy. (© Stefanie Stahlhofen (Radio Vatikan/Vatican News)). The small city held a number of advantages: its proximity to Rome, its ties to the Guelph family, and its two-and-a-half-mile circular wall. For Christians, Viterbo was significant because it is located along the important pilgrimage route called the Via Francigena. With all these strengths, in 1257, Rome was abandoned as the residence of the Popes and Viterbo was adopted.

How to elect a Pope...back in the day: For 24 years – from 1257 to 1281 – the Palace of the Popes in Viterbo was the residence of the pontiffs. It was here that nine men were chosen to be head of the Catholic Church. However, until 1268, the election process was much different from today's, which is much more clearly-defined and thorough. Historians and canonists generally hold that until the 13th century, the papal role was filled like any other diocese, meaning the election of a new Pope was made by neighbouring bishops, clergy, and the faithful of Rome. Others argue it was not until the 4th century after Pope Sylvester I that the lay people were included in part of the election process. Sometimes, European emperors and monarchs nominated a successor. Nevertheless, the idea of the conclave had not been formed until the death of Pope Clement IV, marking a drastic change in how pontiffs were elected.

Lock them in until they decide: In 1268, the Church was facing a *sede vacante* (a vacant see) and the election of a new Pope. At that point, 19 of the 20 cardinal electors traveled to Viterbo to take part in choosing a successor. Little did anyone know, this election would become the longest conclave in Church history. After a year without a new Pope being chosen, the citizens of Viterbo took matters into their own hands. In an attempt to pressure the cardinals to make a decision, they, together with the captain of the people, Raniero Gatti, locked the cardinals in the Palace of the Popes with a key or “cum clave”, in Latin from which the word conclave is derived. The cardinals, locked in from the outside, were also limited to bread and water. Finally, in September of 1271, after more than three years without a pontiff, Pope Gregory X was elected.

Lessons learned: Following the experience in Viterbo, some of the cardinals realized that the long and unofficial process of electing Popes was outdated. The recently elected pontiff, Gregory X, published an Apostolic Constitution, *Ubi periculum*, with concrete rules for the selection of a new Pope. This apostolic constitution remains the basis for the modern-day process the Church still uses today. Even with the publication of these new rules, the new process was not adopted immediately. It was not until Pope Boniface VIII named the *Ubi periculum* as the only means of electing a Pope by incorporating it into canon law. With that, Viterbo – also called the City of Popes and the location of the longest papal election in history – became the birthplace of the conclave.