

OUR LADY IMMACULATE &
ST MICHAEL, BATTLE
with
ST TERESA OF LISIEUX, HORNS CROSS
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FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

**The First Sunday of Advent
Weekend**

30th November / 1st December 2024

Saturday 30/11 6pm	Battle	First Sunday of Advent	Intention of the Ashing Family, living & deceased
Sunday 01/12 9am	Northiam		People of the Parish followed by Coffee & Mince Pies
Sunday 01/12 11am	Battle		Antony Gibbons, RIP
Monday 02/12	NO MASS		
Tuesday 03/12 8am	Battle	Saint Francis Xavier	Christians in Battle Advent Devotions
Tuesday 03/12 6.30pm	Battle		No Intention
Wednesday 04/12 10am	Battle	1st Wednesday of Advent	Sheila Desmond, RIP
Thursday 05/12 6.30am	Battle	1st Thursday of Advent	No Intention
Thursday 05/12 7pm		Carols by the Christmas Tree with mince pies & mulled wine	
Friday 06/12 8am	Battle	1st Friday of Advent	Christians in Battle Advent Devotions
Friday 06/12 10am	Battle		Deceased Members of the Finn Family
Saturday 07/12 6pm	Battle	Second Sunday of Advent	David Reynders, RIP
Sunday 08/12 9am	Northiam		Founders & Benefactors of St Teresa's
Sunday 08/12 11am	Battle		People of the Parish

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 Second Sunday of Advent

- **First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9**

God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory.

- **Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11**

St Paul's prayer is that our love for each other may increase.

- **Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**

The word of God comes to John the Baptist in the wilderness.

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.

- **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.
- **On Thursday evening, to coincide with late night shopping in Battle, we will have Carols by the Christmas Tree from 7pm onwards, (weather dependent). Mince pies and mulled wine will be available. Please come and join in!**
- **Battle Foodbank:** Needs this week are: Cartons of Pot Noodles; Biscuits; Chocolate Treats; Red Sauce and Vegetable or Sunflower Oil - any toiletries, baby and household items are always welcome - we are happy to start receiving any long date Christmas Treats: Mince Pies, Cake, Puddings and Sweets/Chocolates etc. ready for packing the goodie bags we give out during the last two weeks before Christmas. Thank you for your donations.
- **Do you enjoy singing? Can you read music?** We are looking for one or two more singers to join the Music Group for the 11.00 Sunday mass in Battle and other services (e.g. Taizé services) which we organise. We rehearse from 7.00 - 8.00 pm on TUESDAYS in the Church in Battle and would love to see you. Some sight-reading ability is useful, but not absolutely essential. Do come and chat to us after mass on a Sunday to find out what's involved.
- **APF MILL HILL MISSIONS - RED BOXES: BATTLE:**
I am now undertaking the annual return when we ask all Battle/ Northiam Red Box holders to hand in their box at church to be emptied so that I can complete our annual return. Please can you bring your box into Mass over the next couple of weeks or by the end of November and hand it to Father or me. If anyone has difficulty bringing in their box, please can you let me know. Thank you Suzanne - 07958 353722.

- **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 starting 3rd December and ending 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.
 - **Christmas Giving Tree:** Our Christmas tree will be up ready for the start of Advent this weekend. This year your gifts will go to support young carers for East Sussex County Council, through the charity Imago. Please take a tag, each one will have a suggestion for a suitable gift. Thank you so much for your generosity and support for this venture.
 - **Rwanda Action Quiz Night:** Out of the 8 teams playing, the St. Teresa's Team were victorious against some very stiff opposition. Well done! Congratulations to Father Richard, Wendy Atkinson, Sally Anne Hart, Bill Doherty, Nick and Ginny Gilbert, John and Jen Lloyd. They are now in possession of a large silver cup for the next year!
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- **Sunday 1st December:** Coffee, mince pies and other goodies after the 9am Mass at St. Teresa's. All welcome!
 - **Newenden Art Exhibition:** Wednesday 4th December 7pm, at the White Hart, Newenden. One of our talented Parishioners from St Teresa's, Elizabeth Norris, is displaying her photography at this exhibition – why not spend the evening enjoying mulled wine, mince pies, listening to music and looking at some beautiful art work?
 - 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 on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am – 12.30pm.
 - Fr Richard and the Parish Pastoral Team send all parishioners their prayers and good wishes.

News from our Diocese

Diocesan run events/news

- **SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 20 September 2025 Festival of Hope**
Join us for a Diocesan Celebration of the Jubilee year and the 60th Anniversary of Arundel & Brighton. Tickets will be available for 1,200 parishioners from across the Diocese for a day of family friendly activities and events. With speakers from the Church Mission Society and the Sion Community, as well as music from One Hope Project and our amazing schools' choirs, this festival will uplift and inspire and be a great day out for all. Taking place at the South of England Showground, tickets will be allocated proportionally to Parishes according to Mass attendance. We'd love to see you there so pop the date in your diary now!
- **Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word – Saturday 25 January 11 - 4pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Burgess Hill:** Led by Bishop Richard. The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. The booking link can be found here [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(25-Jan-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

- The Diocesan website events calendar, through which places for events can be booked, can be found at W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>
- The Diocese sends out a weekly E-Bulletin newsletter which includes Bishop Richard's Weekly Reflection, and details of formation and events taking place across the Diocese and our wider Catholic community. Please do encourage parishioners to sign up it's a great way to stay in touch! You can click on the link to sign up mailchi.mp/7529e811ae63/joinourlist

Vatican News

Pope: Church needs theological reflection on synodality centered on Christ

As the Pontifical Theological Commission holds its Plenary Session, Pope Francis praised its work on a document to shed light on the profession of faith of the Council of Nicaea. The 2025 Jubilee marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council, which developed the Nicene Creed stating that the Son is consubstantial with the Father. "A document of this sort could prove invaluable, in the course of the Jubilee Year, to nourish and deepen the faith of believers and, based on the figure of Jesus, to offer insights and reflections useful for a new cultural and social paradigm inspired by the humanity of Christ," he said during the audience with participants on Thursday.



Theology done 'close to heart of Jesus': In this same vein, Pope Francis invited all theologians to always put Christ at the center of their studies, while also developing a theology of synodality. The Holy Year, he said, offers an opportunity to rediscover the face of Christ, saying theologians need to place their head "close to the heart of Jesus," as did the Apostle John at the Last Supper. "By remaining close to the heart of the Lord, your theology will draw from the source and bear fruit in the Church and in the world," he said. The Pope noted that theology should seek to foster an encounter with Christ for all the faithful, even those who have not undertaken higher studies. "In Jesus," he said, "we come to know the face of God and, at the same time, the face of humanity, and thus realize that we are sons and daughters in the Son and brothers and sisters of one another." This fraternity, he added, should guide Christians to foster peace and justice, especially in our world marred by conflict.

Missionary Church with a sense of humour: Pope Francis went on to urge theologians to explore the implications of synodality, recalling the recent Synod's call for continuing research. He invited them to consider the ecclesiological dimension of synodality, with a special focus on the Church's missionary purpose. "The time has come," he said, "to take a courageous step forward and to develop a theology of synodality, a theological reflection that can help, encourage and accompany the synodal process, for a new, more creative and daring missionary phase, inspired by the *kerygma* and involving every component of the Church's life."

In conclusion, Pope Francis reminded theologians not to lose their sense of humour, even amid the important study they undertake each day. "The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us in this dimension of joy and of good humour."