

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

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Parish Priest: Fr Anthony White

Cycle C for Sundays and Solemnities
Year 2 for Weekdays

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a
Registered Charity No. 252878



Weekend Mass Times

6pm Saturday 8th January -
Battle (People of the Parish)

9am Sunday 9th January -
Northiam (Emily Sheila Fry, RIP)

10.45am Sunday 9th January -
Battle

(Dorothy & Bernard Chasty, RIP)

10am Wednesday 12th January -
Battle (Rosemary Bentley, RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation after
6pm Mass Saturdays

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Weekend 8th / 9th January 2022

Introduction to the Scripture Readings:

- **First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
The prophet consoles God's people who are in exile in Babylon.
- **Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
The writer tells us that God has saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth.
- **Gospel:** Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

At his baptism, Jesus hears the voice of God his Father: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

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

From Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael: Margaret Thunder, Jo Cooper, Stephen Bould, Pauline Fraser, Michael Conroy, Sheila Lilley, Madeleine Salter, Gretta Johnson, Jim & Ruth Ayres, Richard & Brenda Widenka, Helen Powell, Tom Dodd, Dilys Fraser, Anthony Gibbons, Rosemary Parkes, Suzanne McAdie.

From St Teresa's: Keith Bourne, Christine Mooney, June Nottage, Maureen & Cyril Webster, Dominic Leahy, Rodney Atkinson, Brian O'Connell.

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

Una Wade, Frances Cresswell, Jack Morgan, Guy Hooper, Di Bean RIP, Judith Bridge, Maureen Ashing, Henry Cheung, Sam Baker, Trish Archutowski RIP, Gillian Mitchell RIP. David Amies and family.

- If you feel you need to contact Fr Paul for any reason, his phone number is: 01323 670156.
- If you used to receive a visit from one of our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (Special Ministers), please contact the office if you would like these visits to recommence, 01424 773125 or battle@abdiocese.org.uk with a Minister or with Fr Paul, who is happy to make home visits.
- Fr Paul is happy to receive Mass Intentions, please either give them directly to Fr Paul after Mass or let Maggie know of any future Intentions on 773125, e-mail battle@abdiocese.org.uk, or drop a note through the Presbytery door, thank you.

Children's Liturgy: Children's Liturgy has now restarted during the 10.45am Mass at Battle. If you have any children that have missed this during the restrictions and would like to join into these sessions again, please bring them along.

- 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/>
- **Crib Collection 2021:** This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund. This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib is used exclusively within the diocese and will be given out through emergency grants to help local children and families.
- **Advance Notice - White Flower Day:** There will be a White Flower appeal for SPUC next weekend 15th/16th January 2022. Without the support of the Catholic Community, SPUC's political and educational work, as well as its pro-life support services, would be seriously affected.
- **Parish 100 Club:** Congratulations to the winners of the last draw for this present 100 Club:
 £12 - Helen Ashing £24 - Flora Weller

The forms for 2022 are now available - please think of joining or re-joining for this year. The £12 is divided, half for prizes and half for Church maintenance. Please fill in an application form and hand it in to the Parish Office for the attention of Maggie. Thank you.

News from our Diocese

- We are very pleased to let you know that we have opened online applications for the 2022 Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage from 29 July - 4 August 2022 by Air, or for those who need assistance: 28 July - 5 August 2022 by Redshirt Coach / Jumbulance / Helper Coach. Online applications for all those who do not require any assistance in Lourdes or on the journey can be found on our website lourdes.abdiocese.org.uk or you can [click here](#). Paper applications for those who require assistance will be posted out in the new year. If you or someone you know would like to receive an Assisted Pilgrim Application Form, please email office@ablourdes.org with the name and postal address. The closing date for online applications is 30th April 2022.

- To A Safer Shore? Online event on 15th January 9.45am - 2pm. To book your place please e-mail tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk or book online at: www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/jp2022

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

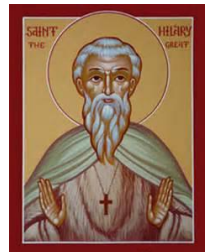
Memorial of St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot - 12th January

St Aelred (1109-1167) was born at Hexham and joined the Cistercian monastery of Rievaulx in Yorkshire. He served as Abbot at Revesby, Lincolnshire, and Rievaulx, and became known as a preacher and writer, the 'Bernard of the North'. He delighted in friendship and wrote: 'he who dwells in friendship, dwells in God and God in him.'



Memorial of St Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop, Doctor - 13th January

St Hilary (c.315-368) was brought up a pagan and married young. He later converted to Christianity and, as Bishop of Poitiers, was a leading defender of the Church against the Arian heresy, which caused him to be exiled to Phrygia by the Arian emperor Constantius. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1851.



- The office remains open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am - 12.30pm.
- The Parish Pastoral Team send all parishioners their prayers and good wishes.

Vatican News

Pope at Audience: Joseph shows fullness of adoptive fatherhood

Pope Francis continued his catechesis series on St. Joseph at the Wednesday General Audience, focusing his remarks on his role as the father of Jesus. The Pope noted that the Gospels of Luke and Matthew present Joseph as the "foster-father of Jesus" and not as his biological one.

The evangelist Matthew avoids the term "father of" in his genealogy, while Luke said he was the father of Jesus, "as was supposed".

Venerable practice of adoption: Pope Francis recalled that the practice of adoption was much more common in ancient times in the East than it is in our own societies.

He gave the example of the requirement in ancient Israel for a man to marry the widowed wife of his deceased brother, if he died without a male heir (Dt 25:5-6).

In this case, the legal father of the firstborn son from such a union would be the deceased man, ensuring both an heir for the deceased and the preservation of his estate.

Instilling an identity: The institution of fatherhood also included the right to name a son, as Joseph named Jesus, thereby legally recognising Him.

"In ancient times, the name was the compendium of a person's identity. Changing one's name meant changing oneself."

The Pope offered the examples of God changing Abram's name to Abraham and Jacob's to Israel,

both of which involved a change to the patriarchs' identity.

In choosing Jesus' name, he added, Joseph already knew God had prepared a name for His Son, one meaning "the Lord saves."

Becoming parents: Pope Francis went on to reflect on fatherhood and motherhood, saying people become parents by taking up their responsibility for their children.

"Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

(Apostolic Letter Patris Corde)"

Adoption a 'risk' worth taking: The Pope then turned his thoughts to the institution of adoption. He said Joseph shows that adoption is not based on a secondary type of bond with a child, but rather exemplifies a high form of love.

"How many children in the world are waiting for someone to take care of them!" said the Pope.

"And how many spouses wish to be fathers and mothers but are unable to do so for biological reasons; or, although they already have children, they want to share their family's affection with those who have been left without."

Pope Francis encouraged willing families to choose the path of adoption, and to "take the risk of welcoming children." Speaking off-the-cuff, the Pope lamented the "demographic winter" facing parts of the world, and urged married couples to welcome children—through natural birth or adoption—rather than buying more dogs and cats in place of children.

"Having a child is always a risk, whether naturally or by adoption. But it is more risky not to have them, to negate fatherhood or motherhood, be it real or spiritual."

And he urged civil institutions to promote legal adoption, "by seriously monitoring but also simplifying the necessary procedure to fulfill the dream of so many children who need a family".

Bond of paternal love: Finally, the Pope prayed that no child may be "deprived of a bond of paternal love."

"May Saint Joseph exercise his protection over and give his help to orphans," he prayed, "and may he intercede for couples who wish to have a child."

Pope Francis concluded his catechesis with a prayer to St. Joseph:

*Saint Joseph,
you who loved Jesus with fatherly love,
be close to the many children who have no family
and who wish for a father and a mother.
Support the couples who are unable to have children,
Help them to discover, through this suffering, a greater plan.
Make sure that no one lacks a home, a bond,
a person to take care of him or her;
and heal the selfishness of those who close themselves off from life,
that they may open their hearts to love. Amen.*