

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE &  
ST MICHAEL, BATTLE**  
with  
**ST TERESA OF LISIEUX, HORNS CROSS**  
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PARISH PRIEST –

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Cycle B for Sundays and Solemnities

Year 1 for Weekdays

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a

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**The Solemnity of  
the Epiphany of the Lord  
Weekend 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

<b>Saturday 04/01</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Battle</b>	<b>Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	<b>No Intention</b>
<b>Sunday 05/01</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Northiam</b>		<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 05/01</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Battle</b>		<b>Edith Mary Oding, RIP (FM)</b>
<b>Monday 06/01</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>			
<b>Tuesday 07/01</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Battle</b>	<b>Tuesday after Epiphany Sunday</b>	<b>No Intention</b>
<b>Wednesday 08/01</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Battle</b>	<b>Wednesday after Epiphany Sunday</b>	<b>No Intention</b>
<b>Thursday 09/01</b>	<b>6.30am</b>	<b>Battle</b>	<b>Thursday after Epiphany Sunday</b>	<b>No Intention</b>
<b>Friday 10/01</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Battle</b>	<b>Friday after Epiphany Sunday</b>	<b>No Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 11/01</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Battle</b>	<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>Dorothy &amp; Bernard Chasty, RIP (FM)</b>
<b>Sunday 12/01</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Northiam</b>		<b>No Intention</b>
<b>Sunday 12/01</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Battle</b>		<b>People of the Parish</b>

**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 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

- **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-47. 6-7**

Centuries before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah gives us a description that fits perfectly.

- **Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38**

St Peter also gives a brief description of Jesus' life and mission and explains that the Good News is for everyone.

- **Gospel: Luke 3:15-16. 21-22**

St Luke describes how the humble Christ comes to be baptised by John in the river Jordan.

### **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:** Classes start again this Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 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](mailto:battle@abdiocese.org.uk).
- **Parishioner Christmas Cards:** Could everyone please check in the concertina file at the back of the Church to see if there are any Christmas cards for them? They seem to have got a bit muddled up so check each section. If the cards are not claimed this weekend they will be kept in the office for a week, then put in the recycling bin. Thank you.
- **Battle Foodbank:** Our needs this week are - Bottles of Squash or Cartons of Juice; Packets of Sweet Biscuits; Cat and Dog Food both wet and dry please - any toiletries, baby and household items are always welcome thank you so much.
- **Advance Notice:** The next coffee and cake at St Teresa's will be on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February after the 9am Mass, it is Candle Mass and the Presentation of Our Lord and will be lovely to celebrate.
- **First Aid Course:** We are looking to run an Emergency First Aid Course at Battle during March. It is a 3 hour certified course, and will be held during the evening. If anyone is interested in gaining this very useful training, please let Fr Richard or Maggie know and we will add your name to our list. Everyone that completed this training three years ago is encouraged to sign up again - we need first aid trained people at both Battle and Northiam.
- 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](mailto:battle@abdiocese.org.uk).

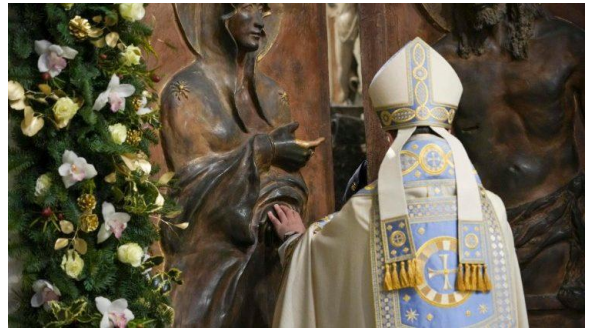
- The office is open Monday and Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

### Diocesan run news/events

- **CCRS – South – beginning Tuesday 14 January 2025 – Fee payable**  
The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) will be run at Cardinal Newman School in Hove on Tuesdays from 3.45-5.45pm. Each module (5 sessions) will be delivered over a term and the course will complete in 2 academic years. There is a £20 registration fee which enables us to register you with the national administrator of this course. Additionally, £30 is charged for each of the 8 modules. This may be paid by the student, or they may be sponsored by their school/parish. Teachers, TAs, Catechists and anyone wishing to develop their understanding of the Faith are welcome. Register your place here <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>
- **Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word – Saturday 25 January 11am-4pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Burgess Hill (no cost)** 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. Register your place here <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>
- **Rethinking Abortion – Saturday 8 February 10am-5pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley (no cost)** The Diocese is hosting an event organised by Rethinking Abortion, a national pro-life organisation. Rethinking Abortion will provide educational sessions looking at the lived experience and reality of women that lead them to choose abortion. The aim is to help build understanding and explore how to tactfully and empathetically talk about abortion with those around you in a meaningful way. Attendees will increase their understanding of the full reality of the pro-life agenda, becoming more articulate and effective in holding conversations with those considering this pathway. The day begins with Mass at 10am, followed by a programme of discussion and talks. Please bring a packed lunch. Register your place here: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events> If you have questions about the event please contact Formation Advisers, Tessa; E: [tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk) or Simon E: [simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk). You can find out more about the day here: [www.marchforlife.co.uk/rethink-abortion/](http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/rethink-abortion/)
- **SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 20 September 2025 Festival of Hope:** Celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese and the Universal Jubilee Year with your family and friends this September. We pray that this inspirational and uplifting event will ignite a spiritual renewal in our own lives and across our communities. Put the date in your diary now, because tickets will be allocated to Parishes in the new year! The event is taking place at Ardingly South of England Event Centre, tickets will be free of charge, with talks and activities suitable for all ages.
- **Are you involved in Children's Liturgy?** We are looking to build a network across the Diocese of those involved in this wonderful ministry to share learnings, ideas and support each other. To find out more details please contact our Marriage and Family Life Adviser – Deacon Simon South E: [simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk)

### **Saint Mary Major's Holy Door is open**

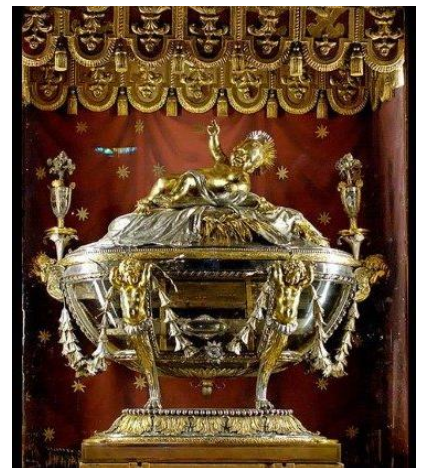
The Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major has officially been opened. The ceremony, on Wednesday, 1 January, was presided over by Cardinal Rolandas Makrickas, the Lithuanian coadjutor archpriest of the basilica, who was elevated to the rank of cardinal in Pope Francis' December 2024 consistory.



In his homily during Mass following the opening of the door, Cardinal Makrickas reflected on the spiritual significance of the Holy Door and its deep connection to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. “Our journey begins today,” he said “with the sound of an ancient bell known as ‘the Lost One,’ ringing from the summit of the Esquiline Hill. This bell has guided countless pilgrims across centuries, a beacon of hope and a call to prayer.”

**Mary: A guiding light:** The cardinal invited the faithful to reflect on the role of Mary as a guiding light for humanity. Drawing on the Apostle Paul’s words, “when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman”, he explained that Mary embodies the fullness of time. “She is the path chosen by God,” he said. “Through her, eternity and history are united. She is the Immaculate Mother, the one who brings God’s infinite time into our finite lives.” The basilica also holds the icon of Mary, *Salus Populi Romani*, and reflecting on the icon, the cardinal said, “where the Madonna is present, turmoil does not prevail, fear does not win. Her maternal hands caress our lives, her mantle shields us, just as she protected the infant Jesus in the manger.”

**A journey of renewal:** The faithful were then also reminded of the relic of the Holy Cradle, which also lies within the basilica. “Think of it,” the cardinal urged, “our time is defined from that Cradle. The first pilgrims of Christianity – the shepherds – set out from the fields of Bethlehem to encounter the Lord. Today, we do the same.” For many, the Jubilee journey is not just a physical pilgrimage but a deeply spiritual one. “This basilica, often called the ‘Bethlehem of the West,’ stands at the heart of Rome, guiding us like the Star of Bethlehem,” Cardinal Makrickas said. “It reminds us that our faith, like the star, points to Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World.”



**Hope for all pilgrims:** Bringing his homily to a close, Cardinal Makrickas invoked the words of Pope Francis from the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee Year, *Spes non confundit*: “Let us entrust our lives and our time to the Mother of God, so that she may lead us to Jesus: the fullness of time, of all time, of the time of each of us.” The Jubilee Year is a time of grace, the cardinal emphasised, urging all pilgrims to embrace its spirit. “No one is excluded from this path of hope. Mary, our Mother, is beside every one of us. She loves us all, without exception, and always leads us to her Son.”