

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weekend 30th April / 1st May 2022

Introduction to the Scripture Readings:

- **First Reading:** Acts 5:27-32. 40-41
The apostles are proud to give witness to their risen Lord and suffer humiliation for the sake of his name.
- **Second Reading:** Apocalypse 5:11-14
All living beings give praise to the Lamb of God.
- **Gospel:** John 21:1-19
The love of God is shown in the love we show to those in need.

Weekend Mass Times

6pm Saturday 30th April - Battle
(Margaret (Peggy) Barnes, RIP)

9am Sunday 1st May -
Northiam (Intention of Maureen
& Cyril Webster)

10.45am Sunday 1st May - Battle
(Intention of Mark Clemence)

10am Wednesday 4th May -
Battle (Celebrant's Intention)
followed by Coffee & Cake
in the Parish Room

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
after 6pm Mass Saturdays**

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, Anthony Gibbons, Suzanne McAdie.

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

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

Una Wade, Frances Cresswell, Jack Morgan, Guy Hooper, Judith Bridge, Maureen Ashing, Henry Cheung.

- 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, with a Minister or with Fr Paul, who is happy to make home visits, on 01424 773125 or battle@abdiocese.org.uk.
- 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.
- 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/>
- **Parish Friends Coffee Morning This Wednesday 4th May 10.30am:** We are starting up a new social coffee and cake morning after the 10am Mass, on a monthly basis to start off with. Angela Reid is organising the first one, but it would be lovely to have a few volunteers to organise future meetings and also to suggest any new social meetings or events. Please come and join in for a catch up with friends and fellow parishioners that you may not have seen for a while. Feel free to bring friends along and invite anyone that you know may be by themselves and need a bit of company.
- **Intention of Cyril and Maureen Webster:** Please remember both Cyril and Maureen in your prayers, they are both very poorly - Cyril especially so and is failing fast. Their daughter, Helen, is constantly at their bedsides and is so grateful for all your prayers.
- **Lent 2022 Fundraising Challenge:** Updated figures - Team Forge averaged 20km and almost 30,000 steps a day in Lent! Funds raised for CAFOD's fight against hunger and for work in Ukraine now stands at £540 plus Gift Aid - and donations will still be welcome!
- **Welcome to Fr Chris Benyon:** Next Saturday (7th May), we welcome Fr Chris Benyon who will be celebrating the 6pm Mass in Battle, Fr Paul will be celebrating the Sunday Masses as usual.
- **Bexhill SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** The Bexhill SVP Conference are organising a pilgrimage to Aylesford on June 14th and we would like to offer the opportunity for Battle parishioners to join us. Please see the attached for details or contact Chris Jones for more information email : popsy57@outlook.com, Mobile: 07783 598238 Home: 01424 602914

News from our Diocese

- **Invited: Season II - Growing in Faith:** Season II of Invited, the Diocesan Mission, started on Monday 18th April. Join us for Season II of Invited and explore what it means to be a disciple, a follower of Christ. This new season starts with the release of the first film on the Invited page of our website, and will last until Pentecost (Sunday 5th June), when we celebrate the birthday of the Church, by welcoming the Holy Spirit into our lives and our communities. *'The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth' (Psalm 37)* To find out more, please visit W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>
- **National Marriage Week 9-15 May:** The theme this year is "Celebrating Commitment". All married couples are invited to take a moment during the week to focus on the gift of their

marriage and to discern some of the elements that might make their marriage stronger. Within each of our parishes we have many couples with wonderful experiences to share - why not meet for a chat to support each other. An alternative might be to consider forming a "Teams of Our Lady" group which will enrich your marital spirituality all year round! If you would like to find out more about ways to enrich Marriage and Family life within your parish please do contact E: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

- **Mary's Meals 'Pray in May' campaign.** We ask parishes and faith communities to pray this month for our work. Maybe include the charity in your bidding prayers or encourage parishioners to pray the rosary. There are plenty of resources to help with all of this on the website W: [Pray In May | Mary's Meals UK \(marysmeals.org.uk\)](https://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

Diocesan run events:

- **theASCENT Information Sessions 11 or 24 May at 7.30pm**
An opportunity for Parents, Catechists and Priests to learn more about theASCENT project and the huge impact it is having on young lives. Meet the team, as well as young people who are already taking part, to have all your questions answered. Join one of our Zoom sessions to discover more about this fantastic project for teenagers in year 10, 11 and 12. Contact E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for joining instructions.
- **Ministry of Consolation Wednesday 18 May at St Bernadette's, Crawley 10am to 3.30pm**
We are looking forward to bringing the members of the Ministry of Consolation together on this day to share ideas and build our network through getting to know each other. We will also have ongoing formation and Bishop Richard will be saying Mass and commissioning the new members of our team. If you would like to find out more please contact E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk
- **Grandparents Day Wednesday 8 June at West Grinstead 11am to 3pm:**
Our Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine at West Grinstead for Grandparents and all those who fulfil this role in so many different ways. The day begins at 11am with coffee available from 10.30am. This is always a joyous day of celebration with Bishop Richard and friends from across the Diocese. Further information and sign-up details can be found on the Diocesan website under events W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>
If you would like to find out more please contact E: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk
- To find out about events hosted by the Diocese please visit our website events calendar W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>
- 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](#).
We have received several applications from Pilgrims who will require assistance to join this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage, but **at this point we are short of Helpers**.
After two 'grace years' dictated by the pandemic we are conscious of people's wellbeing, and we are having to look for more helpers than usual who are fit and well to support others. Subsidies are available for helpers to go towards them meeting the costs of the pilgrimage.

As we currently stand, we will have to turn down some pilgrims who require assistance, if we do not get a significant number of fit helpers applying in the next few weeks, so please do apply if you can spare the time to help those in need.

The Pilgrimage Office is happy to answer any questions anyone has prior to applying 01403 740110, office@ablourdes.org Helpers Apply now lourdes.abdiocese.org.uk

Saints of the Week

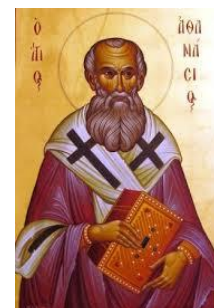
Memorial of St Joseph the Worker – 1st May

This feast was instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII on a day when labour was celebrated in many countries. Jesus was himself 'the son of the the carpenter' and St Joseph presents a wonderful example of how even the most seemingly menial work can be sanctified.



Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor – 2nd May

St Athanasius (c.296-373) was Bishop of Alexandria (Egypt) for some forty-six years. He became the champion of the faith against Arianism and, as a result, was exiled for seventeen years. He wrote many theological works, and Blessed John Henry Newman later wrote that he was 'a principal instrument after the Apostles by which the sacred truths of Christianity have been conveyed and secured to the world.'



Saints Philip and James, Apostles – 3rd May

Philip was born at Bethsaida; he was a disciple of John the Baptist, who followed the call of Christ. James, the son of Alphaeus, should not be confused with James the brother of John. The Lord appeared to him after the resurrection; he is the writer of one of the Epistles. He belonged to the Church at Jerusalem, and was martyred there in 62 AD.



Feast of the English Martyrs – 4th May

The Feast celebrates the many men and women who suffered for the Faith in England between 1535 and 1680 and have subsequently been recognised by the Church. These included priests, both secular and religious, as well as laity who were prepared to shelter them, to arrange secret Masses, and to witness to the faith. They came from all ages and backgrounds, and their heroic witness helps us have a greater love for the Church, the Mass and the priesthood.



- 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.

Vatican News

Pope Francis: 'Mary teaches us not to be ashamed of tears'

"We must not be ashamed of crying, on the contrary, the saints teach us that tears are a gift, sometimes a grace, a sign of repentance, a liberation of the heart". Pope Francis stressed this point on Saturday as he received in audience some 2,800 Italian parishioners of the Pastoral Community of the shrine of Our Lady of the Tears in Treviglio Northern Italy, in the Paul VI



Audience Hall. The community is celebrating 500th anniversary of the miracle of the Virgin who saved the city from the French troops with her tears on February 28, 1522.

In his address to the Italian pilgrims, Pope Francis highlighted the special significance for our Christian faith of Mary's tears which, he said "reflect the tears of Jesus" at our miseries.

Tears are a sign of God's compassion: When Mary, "the first disciple" of Jesus, cries "her tears are a sign of God's compassion", of "Christ's pain for our sins, and for the evil that afflicts humanity, especially the little ones, the innocent who are the ones who suffer", Pope Francis explained, remarking that God "has always compassion for us and wants to forgive us".

God cries for the victims of war in Ukraine: He went on to point out that her tears are also "a sign of God's cry for the victims of the war that is destroying not only Ukraine", warning once again that war is a defeat for everyone: losers and winners.

"Let's have the courage to tell the truth: this war is destroying all the people involved. All of them. Because the war doesn't destroy only the defeated people, no, it also destroys the winner; it destroys also everyone watching superficial news to see who's the winner and who's the loser. The war destroys everyone"

Mary Mother of Peace and Mercy: Recalling his recent consecration of humanity, and especially of Ukraine and Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that through her intercession the ongoing war in Ukraine may end, he further reminded that Mary is the Mother of Peace, but also of God's Mercy. *"We have entrusted our supplication to her Immaculate Heart, and we are certain that our Mother, who is the Queen of Peace, has accepted this supplication and is interceding for peace."*

Crying with those who cry: "Mary teaches us not to be ashamed of tears". Indeed, the Pope said, crying means "opening up to the good Father and also to our brothers". It means "allowing ourselves to be moved by the wounds of those we meet along our way; knowing how to share, to welcome, and to rejoice with those who rejoice and to cry with those who cry". However, he noted, society in our time has lost this capacity of crying "well", that is "with the heart" as Mary did, or as St. Peter did when he repented.

The grace of crying: This is why - Pope Francis said - we should ask God to grant us "the grace of crying" at what we see: not only wars, but also at people, like the poor, the elderly and even unborn children, been discarded. "The miseries of our time should make us cry and we need to cry", he emphasised. Bringing his discourse to a close, the Holy Father praised the spirit of the Community of "Our Lady of Tears" summarised in its name which speaks of "a pastoral care of tenderness, compassion, and closeness" inspired by Mary's example. "We must always learn from Mary to follow Jesus", he concluded.