

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE & ST MICHAEL,
BATTLE**

with

**ST TERESA OF LISIEUX, HORNS CROSS
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**Cycle A for Sundays and Solemnities
Year 1 for Weekdays**

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878



Weekend 18th / 19th February 2023

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 18/02 6pm	Battle	The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Hugh Parkes, RIP
Sunday 19/02 9am	Northiam		People of the Parish
Sunday 19/02 10.45am	Battle		Mark Clemence, RIP
Monday 20/02	NO MASS		
Tuesday 21/02 6pm	Battle	Feria in Ordinary Time, Week 6	No Intention
Wednesday 22/02 10am and 7pm	Battle	Ash Wednesday	No Intention
Thursday 23/02 6am	Battle	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	No Intention
Friday 24/02 10am	Battle	Friday after Ash Wednesday	No Intention

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
available after all Masses and upon Request**

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for The First Sunday of Lent:

- **First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

Adam and Eve yield to temptation in the garden of Eden.

- **Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

Jesus' gift of divine life more than outweighs the loss suffered by Adam when he fell.

- **Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus sees off Satan in the wilderness and shows us how to walk in the path of life.

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, Richard & Brenda Widenka, Helen Powell, Tom Dodd, Dilys Fraser, Suzanne McAdie, Hazel & Helena Lobo, Keith Bourne.

From St Teresa's: Keith Bourne, Christine Mooney, June Nottage, Maureen Webster, Brian O'Connell, Eileen O'Shaughnessy, Margot Leahy, Jacquelyn Solly, Lawrence Youlten.

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

Una Wade, Frances Cresswell, Guy Hooper, Judith Bridge, Maureen Ashing, Henry Cheung, Gerard Leahy.

- If you used to receive a visit from one of our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (Special Ministers), please contact the office on 01424 773125 if you would like these visits to recommence, with a Minister or with Fr Richard direct on 07578 725914 or email battle@abdiocese.org.uk.
- Fr Richard is happy to receive Mass Intentions, please pop them in the new letter box outside the office, or let Maggie know on 773125, e-mail battle@abdiocese.org.uk, 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/>
- **King Charles' Coronation 6th May:** As part of the Coronation Celebrations there will be a Civic Service at 10 am on Sunday 7th, in order that Fr Richard can represent our Catholic community, Mass times for that Sunday have been confirmed as Northiam at 8:30 and Battle at 11:15, and will stay like this for any future Coronations. Thank you all for your feedback.
- **Parishioner Survey:** Our Parish Room has had a spring clean and is now nice and clear and ready for Parish meetings/activities. A quick survey form is attached to find out what sort of activities you would like to be held there. Your feedback would be very welcome and helpful – either by e-mail or just pop the form in the post-box outside the office. Thank you!
- **World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's Word Day of Prayer):** This year's service will take place in our Church on Friday, 3rd March at 2pm. Please join us if you can. The service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan.
- **CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal:** CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your

support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

- **CAFOD - The BIG Lent Walk 2023:** As last year, TEAM FORGE (Vicky Chainey, Ingrid Finch & John Reid), are taking part in this annual fundraising event - walking 5k every day for the 40 days of Lent - to help CAFOD in its work to help fight global poverty. If you would like to support CAFOD in this way (and make three of us very happy too!), you can donate via this link [The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development \(CAFOD\): The Big Lent Walk \(enthuse.com\)](https://www.enthuse.com) or by giving your donation to one of us on any Sunday.
- **Newman Association - Reflections of a Hospital Chaplain:** John Kimberley will be sharing his experiences as a hospital chaplain at Christ the King, Princes Road, Eastbourne. BN23 6HT on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm. All welcome. For further information please contact Alex Mthobi 07957632208; Barbara Echlin 219788.
- **Battle Foodbank – Needs and Updates:** It's been a busy start to the year with the Bexhill branch seeing a 32% increase in the number of people we are feeding and Battle has remained constant. We're buying food every week to top up our donations and thankfully we have the funds to do that right now, but we are planning ahead and want to ensure that we can keep meeting this need. Please see our 'Ad Lent Calendar' attached where there are 40 days of suggestions of items you could donate to the food bank but please don't feel you have to donate the full 40; 10, 20, or any other number of items would be amazing. Thanks again for your continued support of the food bank. It makes a real difference when we all work together and local people support local people.
- 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

- **Mental Health Training:** The Diocese is pleased to be able to offer a range of courses to empower anyone involved in ministry to walk alongside those who struggle with mental health issues. We will be delivering MHFA England Accredited Awareness, Champion and First Aid Courses in a variety of locations as well as online to make them accessible for everyone. Suitable for Catechists, Welcomers, Ministers of Consolation, in fact anyone who speaks to anyone else in the community! The first course takes place on Saturday 25 February in Guildford. Email E: formationevents@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.
- **Evenings of Reflection 7-9pm with a choice of venues across the Diocese**
 - Friday 17 March at The Sacred Heart, Cobham
 - Friday 24 March at St Dunstan, Woking
 - Saturday 11 March at 6.30pm at Arundel cathedral Centre followed by a Cathedral tour.
- **Liturgy of the Word with Children - Saturday 13 May 2023 9.30-1pm The St Philip Howard Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley:** Training for liturgy leaders. Book your place through the diocesan website. If you wish to discuss your engagement with this training please email E: Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

- **Annual Pilgrimage Day to West Grinstead for Grandparents and all those who fulfil this role in so many different ways. Wednesday 14 June 2023 11- 3pm.** This is always a joyous day of celebration with Bishop Richard and friends from across the Diocese. Booking is now available through the diocesan website.
- **Mass for Engaged Couples – Friday 16 June 2023 7pm at Arundel Cathedral**
Join Bishop Richard for a special Mass celebrating the momentous journey of discernment that is engagement towards the lifelong commitment made by couples preparing for marriage. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Centre.
- **Inclusion:** Do you lead a Parish Group? As the Inclusion Adviser for the Diocese, you can contact me for advice if anyone in your group has additional needs (with their permission) or if you require any advice about how to enable people in the parish with additional needs to become more fully engaged and included in the life of the Parish. Contact details E: margaret.fraher@abdiocese.org.uk
- **World Youth Day:** Are you aged 18-35? If you are, we invite you to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lisbon to meet with the Holy Father. 31 July -7 August 2023. Join millions of other young people from all over the world to celebrate our faith and make life long friendships. The week will include a trip to Fatima as well as all the amazing festival activities, not to mention Mass with Pope Francis. To find out more about this amazing opportunity please contact E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

To find out about and book events hosted by the Diocese please visit our website events calendar W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

Externally run

- **Worth Abbey: Time Out individual self-guided retreats**
6–9 March and 15–18 May Cost : £90 per person, per night (min 2 nights).
Spend a few days at Worth Abbey enjoying the rhythm of the monastic prayer and liturgy, time in reflection and the peace of the Sussex countryside. There is no set programme other than an optional daily Lectio Divina session, the usual monastic timetable of divine office and liturgy and the opportunity for a 1:1 meeting with a member of the monastic community.
- **Men's Way of the Cross – 31 March 2023** starting from Christ The King church in Eastbourne and walking through the night over the cliffs to Birling Gap. Join for a prayer over the South Downs Beachy Head trail to rediscover yourself and reflect on your God given purpose on this earth. Poster attached.

Vatican News

Pope prays for Bishop Alvarez sentenced to jail in Nicaragua

Pope Francis on Sunday issued an appeal to political leaders in Nicaragua to open their hearts to the sincere search for peace and engage in dialogue. His appeal follows news of the sentencing to imprisonment of the Bishop of Matagalpa, Rolando Alvarez, and the expulsion of 222 people who were detained for political reasons. These include several priests and seminarians accused of conspiring against the government.



Expressing great sadness for the news from Nicaragua, the Pope said he thinks with concern of Bishop Alvarez, “whom I love so much,” and who has been sentenced to 26 years in prison. The Holy Father said he is praying for him, for those who have been deported to the United States, and for all those who suffer in the beloved nation of Nicaragua.

He invited the faithful to join him in prayers to the Lord asking for the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

“May she open the hearts of political leaders and all citizens to the sincere search for peace, which is born of truth, justice, freedom and love, and is achieved through the patient exercise of dialogue.”

Pope Francis then led the faithful in the recitation of the Hail Mary.

Bishops around the world condemn unjust persecution of the Church in Nicaragua

Faced with the worsening social and political situation in Nicaragua, and following the expulsion from the country of more than 220 opponents of President Daniel Ortega's regime and the sentencing of Bishop Rolando Álvarez to more than 26 years in prison, several episcopates from around the world have reacted with concern for, and solidarity with, the citizens and the Catholic Church in that country.



CELAM reacts: In a Message released on

Saturday, the president of the Latin American Bishops' Council (CELAM), Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos, warned against the weakening of the rights of the Catholic faithful and expressed “solidarity, closeness and prayer with and for the people of God and their pastors.”

“In faith we are comforted by the words of the Gospel: ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted because they live according to God's plan, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven’,” writes Archbishop Cabrejos, who is also Archbishop of Trujillo and president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference. The Archbishop announced that, as part of the Central America-Mexico Regional Assembly of the continental phase of the Synod, Holy Mass will be offered in the Cathedral of San Salvador – which houses the relics of Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero –for the intentions of the Church in Nicaragua.

Unjust, arbitrary, and disproportionate prosecution: The Bishops of Chile have also raised their voices, reacting in particular to the Nicaraguan court ruling against Bishop Rolando Álvarez. The Bishop of Matagalpa and Apostolic Administrator of Estelí was accused of “conspiracy to undermine national integrity and propagation of false news through information and communication technologies, to the detriment of the Nicaraguan state and society.”

Calling the process “unjust, arbitrary, and disproportionate,” the bishops of Chile said, “We deplore and reject the situation experienced by Bishop Álvarez and the Church in Nicaragua, which violates human rights, the essential dignity of the person and religious freedom.” The statement issued by the Chilean Bishops’ Conference also denounced the expulsion of 222 Nicaraguan citizens critical of the government of President Daniel Ortega, who were expelled from their country and taken to the United States, after being deprived of their nationality and all their civil rights. Bishop Álvarez refused to board the flight that would have taken him into exile, choosing to remain in his homeland and, consequently, face an accelerated trial that, on Friday 10 February, led to his conviction and subsequent transfer to Modelo prison.

Spanish bishops demand freedom for political prisoners: Through their website, the Spanish bishops also issued a statement expressing their sorrow and concern for “the bishops of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference who are suffering persecution by the government for

defending the freedom of Nicaraguans.”

The Spanish Catholic hierarchy asked “all Catholics and all people of good will to pray for the peaceful resolution of this conflict and for an active commitment to peace, which has its indisputable foundation in justice.” They also called on the civil authorities to listen to the voice of the people and to release those still imprisoned for political reasons.

Pope asks for prayers and solidarity for quake victims in Turkey and Syria

“We continue to be close, with prayer and concrete support, to the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.”

Speaking during the Angelus address in St. Peter’s Square on Sunday, Pope Francis renewed his appeal for concrete acts of solidarity and for prayers for the quake-struck people in Turkey and Syria.

His call for action came as the death toll from the earthquakes in Turkey and northwestern Syria surpassed 29,000 amidst continuing rescue efforts.

Specialized search and rescue teams from across the world have joined forces in the affected areas and stories of extraordinary rescues, almost a week after the quake, continue to emerge. But humanitarian agencies are warning of a “second disaster” as scores of people left homeless in the freezing cold struggle to survive.



Prayers for quake victims and war-ravaged Ukraine

Pope Francis said he has been seeing images of the catastrophe and the pain of the people and he asked all men and women of goodwill to pray for them.

“Let us not forget, let us pray and think what we can do for them.”

He also renewed his call to not forget war-ravaged Ukraine.

“May the Lord open paths of peace and give those responsible the courage to walk them.”

