

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



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Weekend 26<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**Weekend Mass Times**

1pm Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, Battle - Family Liturgy & Sacramental  
Group - Giving Tree Decorating

6pm Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, First Sunday of Advent - Battle  
(Mr Epiphany Fernandes, RIP)

9am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, First Sunday of Advent - Northiam  
(Holy Souls)

10.45am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, First Sunday of Advent - Battle  
(People of the Parish)

**Weekday Masses at Battle**

NO MASS Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November

8am Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November - Battle, Ecumenical Prayer Group, followed  
by breakfast in the Baptist Church

6pm Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, First Tuesday of Advent - Battle  
(George and Millie Humphreys, RIP)

10am Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, St Andrew - Battle  
(Intention of Deceased members of the Cooper Family)

6am Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, First Thursday of Advent - Battle  
(No Intention)

8am Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Battle, Ecumenical Prayer Group, followed by  
breakfast in the Baptist Church

10am Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, First Friday of Advent - Battle  
(Intention of Deceased members of the White Family)

12noon Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, First Friday of Advent - Northiam  
(No Intention)

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

## Introduction to the Scripture Readings for The Second Sunday of Advent:

- **First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

The descendant of Jesse will usher in an age of peace such as the world has never known.

- **Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9**

Inspired by the scriptures, Christ's followers are called to be examples of tolerance for the world to follow.

- **Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

John the Baptist calls for repentance because the judge is coming.

### **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, 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.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>



### **Family Liturgy and Sacramental Preparation Group**

Starting this Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November at 1pm, decorating our Christmas Giving Tree. All family members are invited to come along to decorate the tree with our Giving Tags.

- **Advent Taizé Evening next Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at Battle.** Please come and join us for an evening of song, light and prayer.
- **Don't forget coffee and cake in the Parish Room after the 10.45am Mass next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December,** please come and join us!
- **Ecumenical Advent Prayer:** Early morning prayer for Advent on Tuesdays and Fridays starting this Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November until Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 8am in our Church for about half an hour. This will be followed by breakfast at the Baptist Church. We shall be leading the prayers on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please join us if you can.

- **Battle Music Group** - we meet at 7pm on Tuesday evenings for one hour in the church in Battle and everyone is invited. All are welcome (no auditions!) and we are particularly hoping that we can increase the number of singers and instrumentalists as we plan further services for those affected by the war in Ukraine, and knowing that Advent and Christmas services are not too far away. Please join us if you can.
- **Date for your diaries: Exciting news!** On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January **2023** (not 2024 as stated last week, sorry!) Bishop Richard will be visiting our Parish to celebrate the Induction of Fr Richard at the 10.45am Mass at Battle. This will be followed by a Parish Lunch, at Battle Memorial Hall, more details will follow in due course, but please keep this date free!
- **Flower ladies:** We have had a clear out of the cupboard in the Parish Room, if anyone has lent or donated any pots to the Parish and would like them back, please come and claim them before they go to the charity shop. Thank you!
- **A big 'Thank you' from Paul and Flora:** Paul and Flora would like to thank Fr Richard and all our many friends at Church for all their help and kindness throughout Paul's illness. It is being invaluable support and encouragement for both of us. This year we will not be sending cards and small gifts at Christmas, we plan to donate to charity. With our best wishes Paul & Flora.
- **Mill Hill Missionaries - Red Boxes:** It is time for the annual count, could you please drop your Red Box off at the Church or office for counting. If you have problems getting to Mass please let me know and I can arrange collection. Thank you, Suzanne.
- **Battle Foodbank - Needs and Updates:** This week the Foodbank needs Tins of Soup, Tomatoes, Cold Meat and Fish; Small bags of Sugar; Biscuits; SweetTreats; Jars of Marmite and Peanut Butter and Boxes of 40's teabags. Please put items in the basket at the back of the Church. Thank you for your continuing generosity.
- 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.

### The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice - that time in the year when the sun reaches its southern most point in the heavens and the days are the darkest and most gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens in their celebration halls. There they awaited the return of their sun-god thinking of the warmth and life he brought. Celebrations culminated in the 'nativity' of the sun - the turning point of the year. As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life; the nativity of the Saviour. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness



after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for this saving birth.

The season of Advent prepares us to look at the world through Christ's eyes: it prepares us for his coming into our lives in a deeper way. Sometimes people think that we prepare by ignoring the world we live in, or imagine that the difficulties of this life are an obstacle between ourselves and God. But Christ makes it plain that we prepare for his coming precisely by taking a searching look at this world and perceiving, through the disorder, the guiding hand of God. With Christ's insight we can recognise that God is truly with us.

Advent is a time set aside to stop and reflect on how Christ comes into our lives. First, Advent directs us to the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Our faith is founded on a real event in human history: that in the birth of Jesus Christ, God came into the world as a human being.

Second, Advent directs our attention to Christ's coming in our everyday life. He comes when we least expect him: in the awkward person we have to deal with; when we are feeling unwell or tired with the difficulties of life. Our daily prayer can help us to prepare for those moments.

Finally, Advent directs us to Christ's coming for the last time - the "day (that) will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap". If we have contemplated his coming at Christmas in our daily life, this final coming will be no fearful scanning of the horizon, hoping we will not be caught unawares. It will be a welcoming of a Lord who has been as close to us as he is in our celebration of the Eucharist: a God with whom we have been in such close communion that we have learned to see the world through God's eyes.

### News from our Diocese

#### **Synod: 2021-2024**

The Synod process has now been expanded with a new opportunity to reflect on a document summarising all of the world's submissions prior to the next phase. To access the document, FAQs and an online feedback form, please go to W: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod) (from Monday 14 November.) For any questions please email E: [synod@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:synod@abdiocese.org.uk)

#### **Bookings are open for World Youth Day!**

Journey to Lisbon with a group of 18-35 years olds from across the Diocese to meet with the Holy Father and celebrate our joyous faith with millions of others from across the world. 31 July to 7 August 2023. Contact E: [lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk) for more information.

#### **Externally run**

Are you interested in offering a home for people displaced by the war in Ukraine? Sjog Homes scheme for Ukraine has recently been launched, providing a matching service for those displaced Ukrainians. To find out more about being a host, please see the website W: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> Facebook page F: <https://www.facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine> or contact the scheme by email E: [homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk)

**Friends of Chilworth Abbey:** A gentle reminder about the next Study Day, on **Saturday, December 10th, 2022**, at Chilworth Abbey by Fr John Seddon OSB of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism', Episode 4, 'Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast', on Our Lady. Mass, 9.00am, Presentations and Talks 10.15am-3.30pm. Bring a packed lunch and a friend if possible. See [chilworthbenedictines.com](http://chilworthbenedictines.com) for more details.



## Vatican News

### **Pope: Christ the King shows us God's embrace, calls us to action**

Presiding at the Mass at the Cathedral of Asti in the Piedmont region of Italy, Pope Francis in his homily recalled how from this area his father left Italy and migrated to Argentina. Pope Francis arrived in Asti on Saturday morning for a private visit with his own family members who still live there, including two elderly cousins. He noted how this visit has offered him a time to "rediscover and savour my roots."



As he started his homily, the Pope noted that he had just instituted a seminarian as an acolyte as part of his journey to the priesthood. Looking at today's Gospel on this Solemnity of Christ the King, the Pope said we also go back to the roots of our faith on this day, when we gaze upon Jesus, the Crucified One, who by His death, gave us eternal life. The sign above the cross, "This is the King of the Jews," turns the human idea of a king on its head, as we imagine the majesty and power that comes with kingship, whereas here we see the Lord who "appears as a slave executed by those in power."

*"Appareled only with nails and thorns, stripped of everything yet rich in love, from His throne on the Cross He no longer teaches the crowds by His words; He no longer lifts His hands as a teacher. He does more: pointing a finger at no one, He opens his arms to all. That is how He shows himself to be our king: with open arms, a brasa aduerte."*

### **God embraces every one of us**

Yet "this is our king, the king of the universe, for He journeyed to the furthest confines of our human experience, entered into the black hole of hatred and abandonment, in order to bring light to every life and to embrace all reality," the Pope pointed out, adding that the Lord gave of Himself totally, offering His life in service, showing God's loving closeness to each and every one of us. "This is the king whom we acclaim," he added, and it would be good if we asked ourselves if the Lord, king of the universe is also king of our own lives.

*"Only by entering into His embrace do we understand: we come to realize that God went to this extreme, even to the paradox of the Cross, in order to embrace every one of us, no matter how far distant we may be from Him: He embraces our death, our pain, our poverty, our weakness."*

### **Welcome God's love**

In gazing upon the crucified Jesus, we need to see that His open arms are His loving embrace for all of us, no matter what our status, history or failings, and the open invitation at all times for us to accept this love and have our lives transformed.

*"He gives you a chance to reign in this life, if only you surrender to His meek love that proposes but does not impose, a love that always forgives you, that always sets you on your feet, that always restores your royal dignity."*

By accepting God's love we can be freed of our slavery to selfishness, sin, and anxieties that engulf our lives, the Pope said, like the good thief executed next to the Lord who accepted His love, asking Him to be remembered and the Lord assuring him, "Today you will be with Me in

paradise." This is what the Lord also wishes for us, said the Pope, and doing so, "we realize that ours is not an 'unknown God', up in the heavens, powerful and distant, but rather a God who is close, tender and compassionate, whose open arms console and caress us. That is our king!"

### **Onlookers vs. those getting involved**

The Pope said we are faced with two paths, one of being bystanders, onlookers like the many who witnessed Jesus on the Cross and just observed, some with grief, others judgmentally or with indifference, as we read in the Gospel with the varying reactions of the leaders of the people, the soldiers and one of the criminals crucified next to the Lord who mocked Him, saying "Save yourself!"

The other path, the Pope explained, calls us to not remain bystanders, but to get involved, to take the path of goodness. The Pope recalled how the good thief made that choice when he turned to the Lord and called Him by name, "Jesus, remember me."

*"In this way, a criminal becomes the first saint: he draws near to Jesus for an instant and the Lord keeps him at His side forever. The Gospel speaks of the good thief for our benefit: to invite us to overcome evil by refusing to remain as onlookers."*

### **Path of goodness**

We can start simply by "calling upon God by name," the Pope said, just like the good thief, who admitted his faults and turned to the Lord in confidence and trust. "Do we have that same trust?" the Pope asked. Do we come to the Lord from the depths of our hearts with full honesty and transparency? By giving our openness and trust fully to the Lord, we are able to break out of ourselves and remember our brothers and sisters, to help them in being open to "the embrace of our king," as "we are not in this world just to save ourselves."

### **Roll up our sleeves**

In conclusion, the Pope recalled how the Lord from the Cross gazes upon us with open arms, inviting us to welcome His boundless love, and in doing so, share it with others and not just remain bystanders in the face of those who suffer.

*"Today, as Jesus, naked on the Cross, unveils God and destroys every false image of His kingship, let us look to Him and thus find the courage to look at ourselves, to follow the path of confident trust and intercession, and to make servants of ourselves, in order to reign with Him."*