

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

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a

Registered Charity No. 252878



**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

‘O ADONAI’

Weekend 17th / 18th December

Weekend Services at Battle

17/12	6pm	Saturday Battle	Fourth Sunday of Advent	(Grace McAdie, RIP & Veronica Molloy, RIP)
18/12	9am	Sunday Northiam	Fourth Sunday of Advent	(People of the Parish)
18/12	10.45am	Sunday Battle	Fourth Sunday of Advent	(Christopher Reid, RIP)

Weekday Services at Battle

19/12		NO MASS		
20/12	8am	Tuesday Battle	Ecumenical Prayer Group, followed by breakfast in the Baptist Church	
20/12	6pm	Tuesday Battle	Tuesday in Greater Advent ‘O Clavis David’	(Helen Ambrose, RIP)
21/12	10am	Wednesday Battle	Wednesday in Greater Advent ‘O Oriens’	(No Intention)
22/12	6am	Thursday Battle	Thursday in Greater Advent ‘O Rex Gentium’	(No Intention)
23/12	10am	Friday Battle	Friday in Greater Advent ‘O Emmanuel’	(No Intention)

Sacrament of Reconciliation available after all Masses and upon Request

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for The Nativity of the Lord:

- **First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7**

The prophet foretells the coming of a great light – the birth of the Messiah, the Prince of Peace.

- **Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

St Paul announces that salvation is now possible for the whole human race.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

During the reign of Caesar Augustus, Jesus is born in Bethlehem, and angels bring to shepherds the news of great joy.

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, Greta 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.
- 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/>



Family Liturgy and Sacramental Preparation Group

Every Saturday at 1pm, up to and including Christmas Eve, decorating our Christmas Giving Tree. All family members are invited to come along to decorate the tree with our Giving Tags and decorations.

- **Ecumenical Advent Prayer:** The last service is this Tuesday 20th December at 8am in our Church for about half an hour. This will be followed by breakfast at the Baptist Church. Please join us if you can.

Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	6pm	Christmas Vigil Mass	Battle
		9pm	Christmas Mass	Battle
Sunday 25 th December	Christmas Day	9am	Christmas Mass	Northiam
	The Nativity of the Lord	10.45am	Christmas Mass	Battle

- **Date for your diaries: Exciting news!** On Sunday 15th January 2023 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!
- **Battle Foodbank – Needs and Updates:** This week the Foodbank needs Tins of Soup, Tomatoes, Cold Meat and Fish; Small bags of Sugar; Biscuits; Sweet Treats; 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.
- **Journey of the Magi:** A spectacular Christmas treat by Springs Dance Company, Battle Memorial Hall; Tuesday 20th December 7.30pm & Wednesday 21st December 2pm. All tickets £5 each. For more information visit www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk.
- The office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am – 12.30pm

**** Christmas closure: The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 20th December until Wednesday 4th January inclusive. If you need to contact Fr Richard urgently please call 07578 725914 or e-mail: richard.blythen@abdiocese.org.uk ****



Fr Richard and the Parish Pastoral Team send all parishioners their prayers and good wishes for a very Merry and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Weekend 24th / 25th December



Weekend Services at Battle

24/12	6pm	Christmas Eve Saturday Battle	Christmas Vigil Mass	(People of the Parish)
	9pm			
25/12	9am	Christmas Day Sunday Northiam	The Nativity of The Lord	(People of the Parish)
	10.45am	Christmas Day Sunday Battle		(Lillian & Stanley Parsons, RIP)

NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for Mary, the Holy Mother of God:

- **First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27**
We are beloved and blessed by God our Father.
- **Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**
As adopted children of God our Father, we are sisters and brothers in Christ.
- **Gospel: Luke 2:16-21**
Following the angelic announcement of his birth, the shepherds come to visit the infant Jesus. Mary treasures all these events in her heart.

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2023

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Weekend 31st December / 1st January



Weekend Services at Battle

31/12	6pm	Saturday Battle	Mary, Mother of God	(No Intention)
01/01	9am	Sunday Northiam		(People of the Parish)
	10.45am	Sunday Battle		(John Salter, RIP)

Weekday Masses at Battle

02/01		NO MASS		
03/01	6pm	Tuesday Battle	Feria in Christmastide	(No Intention)
04/01	10am	Wednesday Battle	Feria in Christmastide	(No Intention)
05/01	6am	Thursday Battle	The Holy Family	(No Intention)
06/01	10am	Friday Battle	The Epiphany of the Lord	(No Intention)

Sacrament of Reconciliation
available after all Masses and upon Request

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for The Epiphany of the Lord:

- **First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**
The glory of the Lord draws all creation towards him in joy.
- **Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6**
The Lord makes God's covenantal relationship open to all the nations.
- **Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**
The magi journey to visit the newborn Christ.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for The Baptism of the Lord

- **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7**

Isaiah's description of the servant of the Lord sets the tone for the ministry of Jesus.

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

Peter gives a summary account of Jesus' ministry to new converts, beginning with the story of Jesus' being baptised by John the Baptist.

- **Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

Jesus persuades John the Baptist to baptise him along with all those who wish to live a decent human life under the word of God.

News from our Diocese

Diocesan run events

➤ **Evenings of Reflection 7-9pm with a choice of venues across the Diocese**

- Friday 13 January at St Michael's, Worthing
- Saturday 21 January at St John the Evangelist, Horsham
- Friday 3 February at St Martha's, Bexhill on Sea
- 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.

➤ **Days of Reflection for Ministers, led by Bishop Richard:**

Saturday 21 January 2023 at St Bernadette's church, Tilgate, Crawley – for Ministers of the Word 11am – 4pm

The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, preparing to read, using microphones, Lectio Divina and mass.

Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(21-Jan-2023\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) E:

Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

➤ **Annual Justice and Peace Assembly - Hungry for Change. Saturday 28 January 2023 9.30-1.30pm. The Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP**

Please join us at our Annual Justice and Peace assembly which will explore food and conflict and positive steps we can make. With Bishop Richard and speakers from CAFOD, Pax Christi and the Ecological Conversion Group. This event is free of charge but booking is requested, so that we have an idea of numbers. This can be done through the Diocesan website or the following booking link [Annual Justice & Peace Assembly "Hungry for Change" \(28-Jan-2023\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

For more information, please contact Tessa Ricketts E: Tessa.Ricketts@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

Externally run

➤ Crib Offering to support the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is helping local disadvantaged families facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis. Through their A&B Crisis Fund, CCS is providing immediate, practical support to families in need. There are many vulnerable families in need of support with parishes across Arundel & Brighton donating their Crib Offering to support this important work. Every penny donated will be given out via CCS's A&B Crisis Fund to support local families in need. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website W:

www.cathchild.org.uk/crib Please contact Emily Mundon E: emilym@cathchild.org.uk if your parish would like to support the appeal and require posters, gift aid envelopes or any further information.

➤ TIME OUT: Self-Guided Retreat Friday 20 - Sunday 22 January 2023 Cost: £90 per person, per night

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.

Concessionary rate for shared occupancy and bursary assistance available. Please contact us for further information T: 01342 710318 E: retreats@worth.org.uk W: worth.co.uk

Vatican News

Pope: Advent offers us a time to know the Lord in new ways

Pope Francis welcomed the many pilgrims for the midday Angelus on this Third Sunday of Advent, in particular families with their children, who brought little statuettes of the Child Jesus to be blessed on this day, a tradition Saint Pope Paul VI started over fifty years ago.

Before imparting his apostolic blessing, the Pope Francis offered his reflections on the Sunday Gospel when today we read about John the Baptist who while in prison sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He



really is the Messiah. John the Baptist learns that Jesus is indeed the Christ, who with words and gestures of compassion towards all and with loving mercy heals the sick, restores sight to the blind, raises the dead, and preaches good news to the poor, just as the prophets foretold.

Overcoming doubt: The Pope observed how today's Gospel notes that John is in prison, and more than a physical place, we can imagine the inner confine that the Baptist is experiencing, where there can be darkness, unknowing and difficulty seeing clearly. The Pope said in John's case, it is as if he is no longer able to see in Jesus the awaited Messiah, and out of doubt sends his disciples to verify it.

Spiritual growth: This appears rather surprising to us, the Pope pointed out, since John had baptized Jesus in the Jordan and told his disciples He is the Lamb of God.

“But this means that even the greatest believer goes through the tunnel of doubt. And this is not a bad thing; on the contrary, sometimes it is essential for spiritual growth: it helps us understand that God is always greater than we imagine Him to be.”

Open minds: We need to always be open to surprise about how God works and how His actions are different from how we would presume they would be, exceeding our needs and expectations, the Pope emphasised. So we need to seek the Lord always, keep our eyes open, and be changed

by Him. Recalling the work of theologian Henri de Lubac, he said that God needs to be rediscovered in a series of stages, sometimes with the idea that we may be losing Him. Like John the Baptist, may we too rediscover Him, also by opening our minds and not letting our ideas and mindsets limit our understanding.

Surprised by God's mercy: At times we also may not see any newness in the Lord, the Pope suggested, and be held captive by our thinking that we know so much already about Him. Perhaps we see a powerful God only but overlook His humble meekness, mercy and love, "who always intervenes respecting our freedom and our choices," he added. Our ideas or biases about God and even others need to be challenged, he said, and Advent is an ideal time for "overturning our perspectives, for letting ourselves be surprised by God's mercy."

"Preparing the Nativity display for the Infant Jesus, we learn again who our Lord is; a time to leave behind certain mindsets and prejudices about God and our brothers and sisters; a time in which, instead of thinking about gifts for ourselves, we can give words and gestures of consolation to those who are wounded, as Jesus did with the blind, the deaf and the lame."

In conclusion, the Pope encouraged everyone to allow the Blessed Mother to "take us by the hand" as we prepare for Christmas and to recognize in the smallness of the Infant Jesus the greatness of God who is coming to dwell among us.

The Pope then greeted the children present in the square and wished them and their families a blessed Christmas. He blessed the figurines of the Child Jesus they brought with them that they will then place in their own Christmas nativity scenes back home.

"I invite you to pray, before the creche, that the Nativity of the Lord will bring a ray of peace to children all over the world, especially those forced to live the terrible and dark days of war, this war in Ukraine that destroys many lives, so many lives, and many children."