

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE & ST MICHAEL,
BATTLE**
with
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Cycle B for Sundays and Solemnities
Year 1 for Weekdays

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878



The First Sunday of Lent
Weekend 17th / 18th February 2024

Saturday 17/02 6pm	Battle	The First Sunday of Lent	Intention of Miss Ann Logue
Sunday 18/02 9am	Northiam		Intention of Sarah McCarthy
Sunday 18/02 11am	Battle		People of the Parish
Monday 19/02	NO MASS		
Tuesday 20/02 6.30pm	Battle	Tuesday of the First Week of Lent	No Intention
Wednesday 21/02 10am	Battle	Wednesday of the First Week of Lent	Thanksgiving to Battle Parish
Thursday 22/02 6.30am	Battle	Saint Peter's Chair	No Intention
Friday 23/02 10am	Battle	Friday of the First Week of Lent	Constance Cane, RIP (FM)
Saturday 24/02 6pm	Battle	Second Sunday of Lent	Idina Mary, Viscountess Brassey, RIP (FM)
Sunday 25/02 9am	Northiam		People of the Parish
Sunday 25/02 11am	Battle		Mark Clemence, RIP

There will be a Retiring Collection next weekend for CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Introduction to the Scripture Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Lent

- **First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**

Abraham is willing to offer his only son to God, but God spares hm.

- **Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34**

Since God gave up his only Son for the love of us, what else will he not do?

- **Gospel: Mark 9:2-10**

Transfigured with heavenly light, Jesus reveals his divinity to the disciples.

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.

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:

Una Wade, Frances Cresswell, Guy Hooper, Maureen Ashing, Gerard Leahy, Jo Watkins, Patrick Armstrong, Andrew Brodrick-Ward, Anthony Gibbons RIP, Katie Spall RIP.

- **Battle Foodbank** – Our needs this week are Tins of Cold Meat; Sweet Treats (Not chocolate); Jars of Jam, Honey, Peanut Butter and Marmite; Bottles of Squash or Cartons of Juice; Tins of Dog and Cat Food please. Toiletries, Baby and Household items are always welcome - thank you so much.
- **Lenten Lunch:** The Mothers' Union will be hosting a Lenten Lunch at St Mary's, in the Benedicta Whistler Centre, on Wednesday 21st February from 12-2pm. We do hope as many people as possible will be able to come along to support it and enjoy the fellowship.
- **CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal:** This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the Fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.
- **CAFOD – Parish Representative required:** If anyone within our Parish is committed to the work CAFOD carries out and would like to be our Parish Representative, please contact Jenny Finlayson by e-mail on: jfinlayson@cafod.org.uk. Our lovely Angela Reid has stepped down after many years of wonderful work, volunteering on behalf of our Parish.
- **Church decoration:** Redecoration of the Church is almost complete and looking fabulous! Weekday Masses will continue to be in the Parish Room this week.
- Now the church is nearly redecorated Anne is wondering if there is anyone who would like to join her to help provide floral decorations in the Church. Throughout Lent we will of course not be having flowers so the first opportunity to help will be Easter. If you would like to help her set up a new team please ring her on 07753587996.
- 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, 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/>
- 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

- **Pastoral Coordinator – Woking with Knaphill Parish:** Salary £32,000-35,000, Full-time
The Catholic parish of Woking with Knaphill are seeking an energetic, committed worker with a good understanding of Catholic faith to join their pastoral team, to assume responsibility for coordinating and developing catechesis, developing lay leadership and promoting a culture of missionary discipleship. The post is full-time but applicants who can offer least 0.6 FTE will also be considered. Application deadline: Friday, March 1, 2024. Interviews: Friday, March 15, 2024. For the job-description and application form see: W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/pastoral-coordinator-woking-knaphill-parishes
- **The Deaf Service supports Deaf and hard of hearing adults and children** providing catechism so that they can access the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, First Holy Communion, confirmation, and marriage. The service aims to: Create awareness in the Church of the needs of Deaf and hard of hearing people Celebrate Mass in Sign Language once a month Provide support in the Catholic faith Members of the Deaf Service visit the sick at home or in hospital and provide support with the preparation of funerals to help meet communication needs. You can contact the A&B Deaf Service by email; E: peterandmaria.booker@abdiocese.org.uk Or text message only (no telephone calls) M: 07970 428601 and there is a brand new web page <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/deaf-community>.
- **Holy Father's Prayer intention for February:** Throughout February, Pope Francis has asked us to remember the terminally ill and their family and friends. Please pray for them to find the consoling peace of our Lord. If you are finding the journey through bereavement or challenging or overwhelming and would like to speak with someone, the Ministry of Consolation team across the Diocese are here to journey with you. Please ask your Parish Priest for more details or email simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

Vatican News

Pope: Humans find meaning in relationships, not technology

Pope Francis held an audience on Monday with participants in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, which is focused on the theme: "Human. Meanings and Challenges".



In his address, the Pope highlighted the importance of the Academy's efforts to explore "what is distinctive about the human being."

Reflecting on the prevalence of technology in all aspects of human life, he pointed out that it is impossible to reject technology out-of-hand as opposed to human flourishing.

"What is needed," said the Pope, "is to situate scientific and technological knowledge within a broader horizon of meaning, and thus to avert the hegemony of a technocratic paradigm."

Uniformity of thought vs. diversity of opinions: He offered the example of efforts to reproduce aspects of the human person through technology, such as efforts to employ binary code as a digital language able to express every type of information.

Noting the obvious parallel with the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9), Pope Francis said God's response to the human desire to create a single language is not mere punishment.

Rather, he noted, God confused human language as "a kind of blessing" with the purpose of countering the tendency to force all people to think exactly the same as others.

"In this way," he said, "human beings would come face to face with their limitations and vulnerability, and be challenged to respect differences and to show concern for one another."

Depth of relationships beyond language: Pope Francis invited scientists and researchers to always exercise their craft responsibly and know that their creative act is always subordinate to the creativity of God.

Artificial intelligence, or "talking machines," as he called them, can never be endowed with "spirit," and so technological advances must take place in such a way as to prevent "the disfigurement of what is human".

The Pope went on to say the main task of anthropologists is to develop "a culture that, by integrating the resources of science and technology, is capable of acknowledging and promoting the human being in his or her irreducible specificity."

There is a higher plane to human relationships than language, which lies in the sphere of "*pathos* and emotions, desire and intentionality," he said.

Only human beings, he added, can perceive and convert these empathic exchanges into positive and beneficial relationships with others, aided by God's grace.

Planting trees whose fruit others will harvest: Pope Francis praised the Pontifical Academy for Life for seeking to create a cross-disciplinary dialogue where researchers can exchange their views on technological development.

He highlighted the initiative's similarity to the ongoing synodal process in the Church.

"This process is demanding," he said, "since it involves careful attention and freedom of spirit, and readiness to set out on unexplored and unknown paths, free of useless attempts to 'look back'."

In conclusion, Pope Francis said Christianity can offer a far-sighted aspect to the technological-cultural dialogue.

"Christianity has always offered significant contributions," said the Pope, "absorbing meaningful elements from every culture where it has taken root and reinterpreting them in the light of Christ and the Gospel, appropriating the linguistic and conceptual resources present in various cultural settings."