

OUR LADY IMMACULATE & ST MICHAEL, BATTLE

with

ST TERESA OF LISIEUX, HORNS CROSS

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website: battlewithnorthiam.parishportal.net

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony White

Cycle C for Sundays and Solemnities

Year 2 for Weekdays

Arundel and Brighton Trust is a
Registered Charity No. 252878



Weekend Mass Times

6pm Saturday 26th February -
Battle (56th Wedding Anniversary
of Douglas (RIP) & Helen Ashing)

9am Sunday 27th February -
Northiam (People of the Parish)

10.45am Sunday 27th February -
Battle
(Intention of Mark Clemence)

10am Wednesday 2nd March -
Battle (Ash Wednesday, Blessing
and distribution of ashes)

Sacrament of Reconciliation after
6pm Mass Saturdays

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekend 26th / 27th February 2022

Introduction to the Scripture Readings:

- **First Reading:** Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7
What we say reveals who we truly are.
- **Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Physical death does not have the last word,
thanks to the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Gospel:** Luke 6:39-45

Jesus warns us against thinking that we might be better people than we actually are.

We pray for the Sick and Housebound Members of our Community:

From Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael: Margaret Thunder, Jo Cooper, 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, Rosemary Parkes, Suzanne McAdie.

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

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

Una Wade, Frances Cresswell, Jack Morgan, Guy Hooper, Di Bean RIP, Judith Bridge, Maureen Ashing, Henry Cheung, Trish Archutowski RIP, Gillian Mitchell RIP.

- 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, 01424 773125 or battle@abdiocese.org.uk with a Minister or with Fr Paul, who is happy to make home visits.
- 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/>

Children's Liturgy: Children's Liturgy has now restarted during the 10.45am Mass at Battle. If you have any children that have missed this during the restrictions and would like to join into these sessions again, please bring them along.

- **A note from Father Paul:**
This Wednesday 2nd March is ASH WEDNESDAY. There will be Blessing and distribution of ashes at 10.00am at Battle. Next weekend is the first weekend of Lent.
Just a reminder that the 6pm liturgy at Battle next Saturday, 5th March will be Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion led by an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Sunday Mass times are as usual. Our parish family often relies on neighbouring parishes for help with the celebration of Mass, and as both priests at Our Lady of Ransom in Eastbourne are otherwise engaged Fr Paul will be returning the compliment by saying the Saturday evening Mass for them. The number of priests at Eastbourne has been reduced from three to two, which makes it important that all the parishes in the deanery appreciate the situation and are prepared to share the responsibility to provide Mass as best we can for as many of the Faithful as possible each weekend. I am sure you will understand.
- **World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer):** This year's ecumenical service will be on Friday 4th March at 2pm in the Baptist Church. The service this year has been prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. All are very welcome.

A Date for your Diary

LENT Taizé Service - Tuesday 8th March 7pm. This is an important event in the life of our Parish Community in the run up to Easter - please pass the word to everyone, including our friends from the other Christian churches in Battle - all are welcome!

- **CAFOD'S Lent 2022 Fundraising Challenge:** This year's challenge is to walk 5kilometres per day in Lent - 200km in all - to help eradicate hunger in the world: a daunting task, but sadly a necessary one. TEAM FORGE (Vicky Chainey, Ingrid Finch & John Reid) have once again accepted the challenge, and hope to raise at least £500 for this essential work. Donations may be made in the usual way via at [Team Forge CAFOD Walk Against Hunger | Walk against Hunger | CAFOD](#) (Gift Aid if possible), or by cash to any Team Forge member.

News from our Diocese

- **Lenten Reflection for Young Adults (18-35)**

Facilitated by the House of Prayer team, this day will provide a time of quiet reflection during this season of renewal. Based on Ignation spirituality, we will explore prayer and scripture in a new and profound way. Saturday 12th March 10am-4pm House of Prayer East Molesey Cost £25 email lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for details.

- **Confirmation Catechist Reflection & Formation Day**

Join us for a day of Lenten reflection led by The Catholic Bible School. You will have the opportunity to stop, pray, and spend time with the Lord during this season of renewal. You will also discover new and exciting ways to help young people connect to their faith.

Saturday 26th March 10am-3.30pm St John the Evangelist Horsham Cost £5 email lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for details.

- **Beginning Experience Weekend:** If you are single again following divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

- 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](#).

Paper applications for those who require assistance will be posted out in the new year. If you or someone you know would like to receive an Assisted Pilgrim Application Form, please email office@ablourdes.org with the name and postal address. The closing date for online applications is 30th April 2022.

We are receiving several applications from Pilgrims who will require assistance to join this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage, but at this point we are short of Helpers, Nurses and Doctors to assist with their Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage Office is happy to answer any questions anyone has prior to applying. The application form they should use is available on our website:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

- **Flame Youth Conference - 4th March 2023**

The theme will be 'Rise Up' and will see the return of Guvna B as well as some acclaimed national and international speakers. **We will be attending as a Diocese**, so please e-mail lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk to reserve your place.

Worth Abbey Retreats this Spring:

- **Time Out - Individual self-led retreats:** 4 - 6 March, Cost: £90 pp per night (min 2 nights), Concession rate for shared occupancy and bursary assistance available.

Spend some quality time at Worth Abbey - time to process, to reflect and to pray. This is a week set aside from the normal retreat programme to offer time for a bit of sanctuary so you can do whatever you need to do, with plenty of time in between.

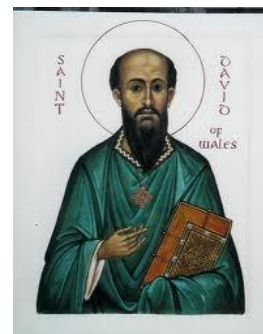
Book online: www.worth.co.uk/retreats E: retreats@worth.org.uk or T: 01342 710318

- **Finding Stillness:** 14 -17 March, Cost: £330 per person
Come away to a quiet place to find stillness and God's presence. Discover in the Benedictine tradition how stillness and stability can offer ways of opening up to God and living life at a deeper level.
Book online: www.worth.co.uk/retreats E: retreats@worth.org.uk or T: 01342 710318
- **Lent Retreats led by Fr Peter Williams OSB**, a member of the community at Worth, 29 - 31 March, Cost: £220 pp.
Take time out during Lent to review your life and ask where God is calling you to change; to simplify things. Exploring the desert father tradition and the writings of John Cassian to examine thoughts and feelings and to see how it talks to us in the 21st century. To find out more: www.worth.co.uk/retreats E: retreats@worth.org.uk or T: 01342 710318

SAINTS & EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Feast of St David, Patron of Wales - 1st March

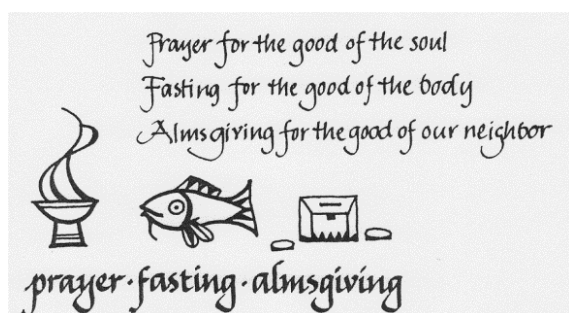
Born probably in Cardigan about 520, he received his early training from St Illtyd. He attracted many postulants to the monasteries he founded, all of which were remarkable for the austerity of their rule of life. Consecrated bishop in Jerusalem, he was recognised as primate of Wales & established his see at Mynyw (Menevia), the monastery of which he was abbot and where he died in 588.



The Season of Lent

Cycle of Prayer: During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers. Memorias are not celebrated fully, but maybe commemorated by substituting the Collect for that of the Lenten Feria. At Lauds and Vespers, the Benedictus and Magnificat antiphons respectively, followed by the Collect of the Memoria, may be added after the Ferial Collect.

Ash Wednesday, a day of Fasting and Abstinence - 2nd March



- **The Custom of the Veiling of the Cross during Lent**

Where the custom is lived, the crucifix and all other statues in the church are covered with a purple cloth without ornamentation from First Vespers on Passion Sunday to before the Easter Vigil.

What is the origin of the custom?

It may have derived from a practice in Germany in the ninth century of extending a large cloth before the altar from the beginning of Lent. This cloth, known as the "*Hungertuch*" or *hunger cloth*, hid the altar from the view of the people until the reading of the Passion on Wednesday of Holy Week at the words "the veil of the temple was rent in two." The veil in the temple of Jerusalem separated the Holy of Holies from the main body of the temple. Some scholars say the custom was a remnant of the ancient practice of ritually expelling public penitents from the church at the beginning of Lent.

After the custom of public penance fell into disuse and the entire congregation was symbolically incorporated into the order of penitents through the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, it was no longer possible to expel them from the church and so instead the altar, or "Holy of Holies", was shielded from view until they were reconciled with God at Easter. Later on, in the Middle Ages the images of crosses and saints were also covered from the start of Lent.

The custom of limiting this veiling to the last two weeks of Lent, appears in the Ceremonial of Bishops in the seventeenth century.

The great nineteenth-century Benedictine liturgist Dom Prosper Guéranger gives a mystical interpretation of the veiling, based on the Gospel of St John, which was formerly read on Passion Sunday. 'Just as Jesus hid himself from the Jews who wanted to stone him (cf. Jn 8:59), so by the veils he is now hidden from the world in preparation for the mysteries of his passion.' The statues of the saints are covered too since, if the Master himself is covered, so should be his servants.

Dom Guéranger also explains that while on the two feasts of the Finding and the Exaltation of the Holy Cross the cross is honoured as the throne of Christ's victory, with its veiling in Lent it speaks to us of his suffering and humiliation.

Another spiritual interpretation of the veiling is because in Christ's passion not only was his divinity obscured but so was, in a certain sense, his humanity.

He was so disfigured by the blows and scourges that he was hardly recognisable as a human being.

We read in the prophet Isaiah's depiction of the Suffering Servant, which has always been taken to refer to Christ: "As many were astonished at him - his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men - so shall he startle many nations" (Is 52:14).

Likewise, we read in the psalm Jesus quoted while he hung on the cross: "But I am a worm, and no man; scorned by men, and despised by the people" (Ps 22:6).

So, in a sense, the veil hides Our Lord's divinity and humanity, as did the wounds suffered in his passion.

- 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 prays for victims of natural disasters, hails healthcare workers in remarks after Angelus

Pope Francis prayed on Sunday for those who have died recently in natural disasters, for consolation for their families, and for support for those who assist them. In remarks following the Angelus prayer in St Peter's Square, the Holy Father looked especially to Madagascar, which has been struck by a series of cyclones; and to the Petropolis area of Brazil, which has been "devastated" by floods and landslides.



Flooding in Madagascar in the wake of cyclone Batsirai (ANSA)

Cyclones in Madagascar: At least 14 people were killed in Madagascar this week by tropical storm Dumako, the state disaster relief agency said, as the island braces for another cyclone due to hit on Tuesday. Some 4,323 were displaced when Dumako made landfall in the east of the country on Tuesday, the disaster relief agency said late on Friday. They were being housed in 12 sites. The Indian Ocean island nation is going through its storm season. A total of 124 people were killed earlier this month when tropical cyclone Batsirai slammed the southeastern coast of the island. Another cyclone, Emnati, is forecast to hit close to the same area affected by Batsirai, said Nomenjanahary Mamy Andriamirado, a weather forecaster with the national meteorological service.

Brazil flooding: The death toll from mudslides and floods in Brazil's colonial-era city of Petropolis has risen to more than 120 people and is expected to increase further as the region reels from the heaviest rains in almost a century.

Heavy downpours in the afternoon Thursday, when the city recorded some 6 cm (2.36 inches) of rain, caused even more soil instability and disrupted efforts to find survivors and clean up the debris. Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro has pledged federal assistance to help the area recover, after surveying the damage on Friday.

The heroism of health care workers: Pope Francis also noted the observance on Sunday of National Health Personnel Day in Italy, saying we must remember the many doctors, nurses, volunteers, and others who stand beside the sick, treating them, making them feel better, and assisting them in so many ways. Recalling that "nobody is saved alone," the Pope said, "in sickness we need someone to save us, to help us." The Holy Father recognized the "heroism" shown by health care workers during the Covid emergency while emphasizing that their heroism "remains every day." He then led the crowds in a round of applause, "and a big 'Thank you!'" for health care workers.

Turkey continues to shelter 3.7 million Syrians

According to the Turkish government, there are around 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey. The Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly said in some regions, the Syrian population accounts for over 25 percent of the total. Turkey has accepted millions of Syrians fleeing a civil war since 2011. In many camps in southeastern Turkey, near the



Syrian border, immigrants were initially welcomed under an open door policy. In the past three years, nearly half a million Syrians have been voluntarily sent back to northern Syria controlled by the Turkish army.

Migrant situation desperate: Elsewhere, the migration situation in the region remains desperate. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said this week that 245 illegal migrants were returned to Libya after being rescued off the coast last week. In the second week of February alone, 245 migrants were rescued at sea and returned to Libya. IOM also said that since the beginning of the year, 34 illegal migrants died and 87 others went missing off the Libyan coast on the Central Mediterranean route. So far this year, a total of 1,721 illegal migrants have been rescued and returned to Libya, including 150 women and 53 children. Libya is a preferred staging point for migrants who want to cross the Mediterranean Sea to European shores.