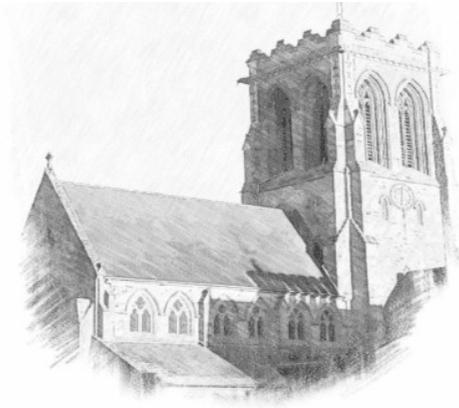


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

1st January 2017

Mary the Mother of God

PARISH PRIEST

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Items for the Newsletter to
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or The Parish Office

Happy New Year! May 2017 bring new hopes and God's blessing and guidance to us all. Let us pray that the presence of God, which we celebrated with great joy on Christmas Day, may remain with us throughout the year. Today, January 1st, we keep the Octave Day of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's *fiat*: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word." One of the earliest titles given by Christians to the Blessed Virgin was *Theotokos*—"God-bearer." We celebrate her as the Mother of God, because, in bearing Christ, she bore the fullness of the Godhead within her. As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the *Theotokos*, who never hesitated to do the will of God.

A special thank you to all those who helped prepare for Christmas and to our choir who enriched our liturgy. As 2016 ends, I wish to express my gratitude to those many people whose help, in so many different ways, makes my task as Parish Priest all the easier. Thank you to all who help with the Liturgy – our different extraordinary Ministers and Servers, Counters, Collectors, Cleaners and Choirs, as well as Welcomers and those who run the Children's Liturgy, and not forgetting those who most importantly help with visiting the sick. Many thanks too for your kind cards and gifts. God bless you all. Thank you!

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	
	Standing Orders	£412.50
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	
The 2 nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for		



Second Collections

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards helping the refugees and children made homeless in Syria and we were able to send over £750 for their relief. Thank you.

In January, our Parish Outreach collections will go towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project (1st & 8th Jan); the annual White Flower collection (15th Jan) and the local Acorns Children's Hospice (22nd Jan).



Last week's Christmas collection for the Belmont Community and its Mission work raised £1900. Thank you very much!



The Abbey Shop will be closed from 22nd December till 9th January.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 January
Christus Natus Est
Abbey Church
3:00 pm

3 January
Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes

17 January
Tea & Chat
2:30 Parish Hall

29 January
Pay & Collect
Tesco Vouchers



Tea and Chat

will be resuming on January 17th 2017, then 21st Feb, 21st March, and 18th of April. It is always on the 3rd Tuesday in the month. For any newcomers to the Parish this is a very friendly group that meets for a cup of tea and a piece of cake or a biscuit and a good chat. We meet in the Parish Center at 2.30pm until

4.00pm. There is no charge, but a donation is very welcome for us to buy coffee, tea and milk and help to pay for heating the hall. Everyone is welcome, so don't be shy just come along and join us.



The Christmas edition of **The Angel** is now available. I'm afraid it's a rather limited edition as we were very short of articles! My thanks to those who did contribute and to the editors who put the magazine together this week.



The **parish First Holy Communion programme** will be beginning in the New Year. The children are prepared by parishioners who have a great love for the Eucharist and who wish to pass on their love and understanding to the next generation of Catholics. The family, the school and the priest also have an important role to play in preparing the children. The children will make their First Holy Communion in early summer 2017 and there will be a series of preparatory classes which take place usually on Saturday mornings. Parents who would like their children (Year 3 and above) to be considered for First Holy Communion next Summer should speak to Fr Nicholas or Jacqui & Rob Corrigan.



Our Lady's Roman Catholic

Primary School have places in Y1, Y2 and Y4. Contact the school at admin@our-ladys.hereford.sch.uk for more information



Sick and Housebound Parishioners

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners please let the Parish Office know. We can then make arrangements for Fr Nicholas or an extraordinary minister to bring them Holy Communion or for a priest to come and hear confession if that is required. This also applies to parishioners who move into a care or nursing home. Please remember that hospitals no longer advise us of Catholics in hospital!



150 Club

Thank you to everyone who supports the parish 150 Club which at present makes just over £600 per year for the parish. Subscriptions for 2017 are now due and if you pay by standing order, there is no need to take any further action. Those who pay by cash or cheque are asked to deposit this in the parish office (or hand it to Fr Nick/Chris Moore) in an envelope marked with your name and '150

Club' as soon as possible. If anyone wishes to join the 150 Club or increase their chances of winning by subscribing for additional numbers, please contact Chris Moore!



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer provides a wonderful opportunity for discussion and prayer with other Christians. The theme is about Crossing Barriers and is prepared by the churches in Germany. There will be daytime prayers and discussion from Wednesday 18 January to Wednesday 25 January (except for Sunday) at the Acres, Pontrilas Road HR2 0EN (Pam Wright's house) from 11.30 am to 12.15 pm. On Sunday 22 January at 3.00pm there will be a special service (followed by refreshments) at the Baptist Chapel.



HOMILY

"The shepherds... found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger."

Illustration

Flying to Lourdes used to be a rare thing for people in the British Isles. It cost a lot, and many people were scared of planes: the good old train on

the other hand felt safe, and secure, and companionable. The bustle at Boulogne was all part of the excitement... stretchers through the windows, self-conscious brancardiers on the platform directing the traffic, and pilgrims secretly glad to be off the boat. The long trail of coaches vanished into the distance, and somewhere, where the station met the countryside, there was what seemed to some of the British pilgrims a decidedly French locomotive impatiently hissing and puffing in a most continental way. No doubt about where you were.

The train would be your home for the next day and a bit. Outside, the terrain changed – corn to maize and then to vines. Inside, the tannoy system would keep you up to the mark between meals: "The five joyful mysteries of the holy rosary; the first mystery..." And the train rumbled on. But the moment came when the youngsters hanging out of the window caught their first glimpse of the basilica, and then the tempo changed, and all the way down the corridor from the bishop's compartment to the guard's van you could hear the Lourdes hymn. It was the coming-home hymn. Not just coming home to a place, but coming home to a person, to the beloved Mother of God, all tenderness and common sense, and sympathy and company in pain, and wordless love in bereavement. "That title so wondrous

fills all our desire.” People would think: how lucky we are, to have Mary so securely embedded in our hearts.

Gospel Teaching

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.” From the very start, the discovery of Jesus involves his mother too. One of our old theologians, centuries ago, pointed out that Our Lord was not born by means of Mary, as if she was just a convenient channel, but of her flesh, since she gave him what he humanly was. Since she was a human parent, he must have looked just like her. If she was a young woman when Jesus was born, perhaps strangers even mistook them for brother and sister. Everything that was tangible, and embraceable, about Jesus had its origin in Mary.

Watch Pope Francis at the end of Mass in St Peter’s Square; watch how he goes from the altar straight to the image of Mary and pauses in prayer, and then reaches out – timidly, almost – and touches her cloak. It may seem a bit touchy-feely to some of us, but maybe that is the right way to approach her. Our Lady is to do with feeling, and hugging, and wordlessly consoling. One of the Church’s ancient Latin hymns, which is sometimes sung at Night Prayer, contains lines that can be translated, “Hail the root, hail the door, from which sprang light for the world.”

Root and door. Light streaming through the door. Origin of it all.

Application

So today isn’t just New Year’s Day, or the rounding-off of Christmas feasting. It’s the feast of Mary’s motherhood. Salvation begins right here, as she brings forth to the world the sacred body that will be stretched on the cross and raised from the tomb. Over the centuries, Catholic and Orthodox artists especially have produced sublime works of art – mosaics, icons, paintings, hymns and chants – to express a love for Mary that is deeper than just affection.

Admittedly, not all works of art are of the same quality, and sometimes the product has not been worthy of the subject. And the origin of some of the feasts of Our Lady may seem nothing less than alarming, since they have celebrated military victories on land and triumphs at sea. One of the most enigmatic pictures of the Counter-Reformation in the sixteenth century shows craggy old Pope St Pius V fingering his rosary, while far away down the Adriatic Don John of Austria takes on, and defeats, the Turkish fleet. We would be less inclined to enlist the Mother of God in battle. But enlist her we do as the one who understands us and makes allowance for our limitations, who adopts us as her own because her son has

incorporated us into his body, which is the Church. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

† † † † †



Holy Mother of God, Holy Virgin of virgins, Mother of Christ, Mother of divine grace, Mother most pure, Mother most chaste, Mother inviolate, Mother undefiled, Mother most amiable, Mother most admirable, Mother of good counsel, Mother of our Creator, Mother of our Savior, Virgin most prudent, Virgin most venerable, Virgin most renowned, Virgin most powerful, Virgin most merciful, Virgin most faithful, Mirror of justice, Seat of wisdom, Cause of our joy, Spiritual vessel, Vessel of honor, Singular vessel of devotion, Mystical rose, Tower of David, Tower of ivory, House of gold, Ark of the covenant, Gate of heaven, Morning star, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, Help of Christians,

Queen of Angels, Queen of Patriarchs, Queen of Prophets, Queen of Apostles, Queen of Martyrs, Queen of Confessors, Queen of Virgins, Queen of all Saints, Queen, conceived without original sin, Queen assumed into heaven, Queen of the most holy Rosary, Queen of Families, Queen of Peace, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Spare us, O Lord! Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Graciously hear us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.

† † † † †



Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 8th January- The Epiphany of the Lord</u> Year A - Cycle 1			
	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Liz Norman	Ann Stapleton	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Brenda Warde	Jane Davies
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayers	Julia Davey		Niamh Coyle
Offertory	Parish Children	Nickerson Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Monica Tomlin & Monica Russell
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	01-Jan	No Children's Liturgy

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 1 Jan)

Deaths: Wendy Lyle Cameron, Brian Holbery, John McComish and John Pimblett

Anniversaries: Daniel Coke, Frances Prue, Sara Anne Ward, Richard Hardy, Mary Valerie Symonds, Frances Fuorvito, Margaret Morrison, James Smith, John Rosser, Ann Marie Impey, Rev Fr. Philip Garrett, Kevin Harrington, Frances Mary Connell, Beatrice Powell and Anne Kuhn.

The Sick: Please pray for: Brian Hayes, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Marnie Archer, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Fr Michael Cronin, Sheila Langford, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Stephen Fisher, Gordon Wilson, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Sr Philipa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Belmont Abbey Parish is part of Belmont Abbey Mission Trust (Registered Charity - 226277)

Liturgy for Sunday 1st January 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p><i>Mary the Most Holy Mother of God</i></p>	<p>Entrance: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your death...</p> <p>Communion: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	Monica Russell & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Patrick Walesby	Pat Draper
2 nd Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S		Lucy Reed
Bidding Prayer	Adrian Eyre		Marje Hayes
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley & Jan Wyman
Mass Intention		Benefactors & Parishioners	Seb Wood RIP
Second Collection - Parish Outreach			
Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Christmas Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Christmas Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: <u>No Midday Mass</u>: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Christmas Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Christmas Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: <u>No Exposition or Midday Mass</u>
Sat	Christmas Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am