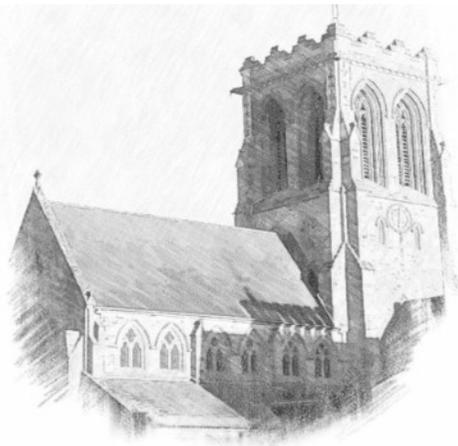


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of Easter**

1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

(Cycle C)

PARISH PRIEST

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**Parish Deacon**

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Items for the Newsletter to  
[admin@belmontparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@belmontparish.org.uk)  
or The Parish Office

The month of May is traditionally known as "*the month of Mary*" and is dedicated to honouring the most holy Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. During this month we remember that Mary is indeed "*blessed among women*." She is indeed *Theotokos* - which literally translated means "The One who bore God" or "the God bearer". St. Gregory of Nazianzus wrote "If one does not acknowledge Mary as *Theotokos*, he is estranged from God."

Catholics make so much of Mary because we make so much of the Divine Person she conceived, bore, nurtured, taught, raised and proclaimed, and for whom she suffered the grief of a mother's loss of a child. Catholics also make so much of Mary because her life is filled with lessons of discipleship. While Jesus is our Master, Mary is His model disciple.

Mary is also our model of prayer, praise and meditation. After her cousin Elizabeth confirms the great things God is doing in her life, she sings forth His praise in what is now known as the "Magnificat"... "*my soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*"

The annual Devotion in honour of Our Lady at Belmont Abbey, takes place next week on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 9 pm.

*Fr Nicholas*

Last Sunday's	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	<b>£325.15</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£412.48</b>

The 1<sup>st</sup> collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.

	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	<b>£287.39</b>
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The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for ***Ukrainian Appeal. Thank You.***



### Torchlight Procession

The annual Devotion in honour of Our Lady at Belmont Abbey takes place this year on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 9 pm.



### MISSIO Red Box Holders

Time once more to give your red box to your promoter whose name and phone number are on the label on the bottom of your box. We raised over £1000 last year, so thanks to all box holders and promoters for all their efforts. *Liz Norman*



**Congratulations** to Patrick Harrington & Kimberley Wood who were married in the abbey church yesterday. We

wish them every happiness in the years ahead.



We also pray for Thomas McLaughlin who will be baptised at the 11am Mass this morning and for Crawford Max Perkins who will be baptised this afternoon. May God bless them and their families.



### Belmont Annual Garden Fete

#### Seven weeks only until the Fete!!

Once again we are asking for your help in presenting a wonderful Garden Fete, even better than last year.

It would be great if all the gardeners out there would start growing some plants for the flower stall and if you need small pots for your seedlings - we have a lot of them to give away.

We also need clean and ironed "Nearly New" Clothes. And as always we need bric-a-brac and books, soft toys and children's toys so we can make a great success with these stalls.

If you have an idea for a different stall or have any questions or are willing to help run a stall, especially the games please contact Kath Parry on 01981 250304.

We also need produce, all sorts, just make sure it is in date, but fresh produce would be good as well.

As was mentioned last week, if every parishioner could bring in just one bottle or even two - we could hit the 400 bottles that the Bottle stall needs.

At the moment we have no jewellery or nice handbags for this stall. So if you have anything that you no longer need or use, please pass them on to us.

Please leave all items for the Fete in the Parish Porch not the Glass Porch. Closer to the date we will ask you for help with items for the Tea Tent.

Many thanks for your help!



**Pentecost Vigil Service**

Our Lady's Church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May. To include Exposition, music and readings, from 7.30 pm to 9 pm. All welcome.



**Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey**

- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> May     Anthony Catlin & Rachael Layton
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June     Hugh Loughrey & Carley Yapp



**Parking**

Drivers are asked to respect the disabled parking areas – especially on a Sunday!

Parish Centre – unless you are dropping something off at the parish centre, please park in the car parks adjacent to the Parish House rather than on the road in front.



**Tea & Chat**

The next dates for Tea & Chat are: Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who would like to meet others over a drink and slice of cake, and a good chat will be very welcome. These meetings are proving very popular so don't be shy. Come along, bring your knitting or anything else and enjoy the company of others. All meetings start at 2.30 pm and finish around 4.00 pm.



**150 Club April Draw**

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize No. 165 Sarah de Rohan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize No. 30 Patrick Walesby
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize No. 11 Richard Batho





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 11 May  
9:00 pm  
Torchlight Procession

Friday 13 May  
9:00 am  
Church Cleaning

Tuesday 17 May  
2:30 pm  
Tea & Chat

Sunday 22 May  
Confirmation Mass  
11:00 am

Queen's Jubilee Picnic  
12 June

Belmont Grand Fete  
18 June

Tuesday 21 June  
2:30 pm  
Tea & Chat

16 July  
Grandparents' and  
Grandchildren's Day



## WALSINGHAM GROUP PILGRIMAGE

There will be a Mass in the Oratory at 9.30 am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May for Pilgrims and friends.



### Homily

*"If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him."*

### Illustration

There are two things that all people need to negotiate their way through the world: an interior sense of purpose and the need to belong to a wider group. These two basic elements help form our identity and both drive and support us throughout our life. In the ancient world, belonging to a clan or tribe or city was what gave people their sense of identity. Very often some code of honour, or mode of behaving according to their status, gave them their interior motivation. In the play *Ajax* by the ancient Greek dramatist Sophocles, we see what happens when someone is deprived of these two elements.

First of all Ajax, the great Greek warrior, is deprived of the armour of the dead Achilles, which he thinks is

his due, by the rest of the army. This insults his honour. In order to be revenged he sets forth at night to slay the Greek leaders. The goddess Athena stops him by sending a madness on him. He then mistakes the army's cattle for his fellow Greeks and slaughters them and drives others off to torture them in his tent. When the rest of the army finds out, he becomes a laughing stock. He is isolated from his former comrades, his honour has now completely gone, and he sees no way out except suicide. Ajax does not have the Christian virtue of hope, nor do his comrades have much notion of forgiveness. So with his interior code bankrupt, and having lost the support of his group, his life dissolves around him.

### **Gospel Teaching**

Sophocles paints a deliberately bleak view of the imagined Greek warrior society that Ajax belongs to. Without genuine divine help (not the capricious gods of Olympus), human beings can easily end up being estranged from themselves and from each other. If all that drives us is, say, consumerism, and we are only valued by our peers for what we have, then when these things disappear, so, in a sense, do we.

In today's Gospel, Jesus assures us that we are more than any earthly

group can make us, and we are interiorly led by more than any human code or sense of honour. Through the giving of the Spirit, we become dwelling places of the Holy Spirit, and if the Holy Spirit, then the whole of the Blessed Trinity.

This teaching of Christ on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is absolutely central to the New Testament. It is taken up by the apostles: as St Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you?" And again St Paul says that God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Spirit. This living of the Holy Spirit within us gives us direction, makes us beautiful in God's eyes and makes us part of the wider body of the Church. It is also vital to remember that the indwelling of the Spirit does not make us puppets, or short-circuit our free will. Rather, it creates our freedom, helps us to act in a more human way, a graced human way, than we would otherwise.

### **Application**

Like any adventure in living together, allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell within us requires certain things. First of all, spending time with God in prayer. It is the Holy Spirit that prompts us to pray in the first place, and if we respond we can become like wells of living prayer. It is, of course,

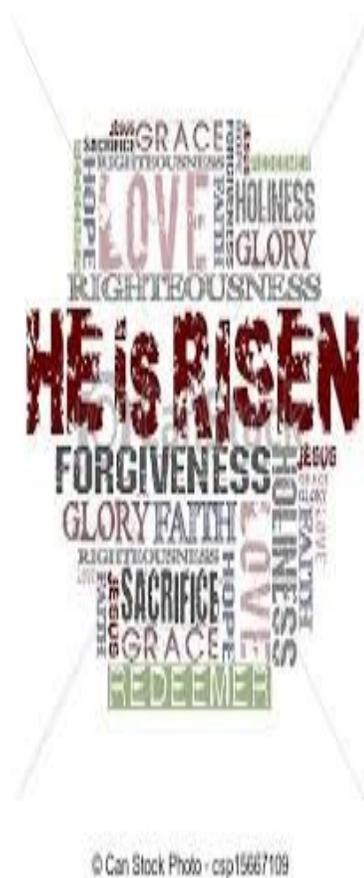
basic to understanding prayer that, on one level, we don't know how to do it. As Paul wrote to the Romans, "The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words." Not only do we raise our minds to God, but our hearts become aware of God's presence within us and in the Church.

Secondly, living together with friends requires communication. We need both to speak and to listen. The time we spend in prayer helps us reveal our joys and sorrows, our hopes for this world and our desire for eternity. We might think of St Teresa of Avila's definition of prayer, "Contemplative prayer, in my opinion, is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us."

### SUMMARY

1. Inner motivation and belonging to a group are two things that all human beings need; Sophocles shows us what happens when these two things break down.
2. The Holy Spirit, given to us by Christ, gives us interior strength and makes us part of the body of Christ.

3. Prayer and the sacraments are the main way of responding to the presence of the Holy Spirit.



<b>Ministers, etc. For next Sunday - The Ascension of the Lord - 8<sup>th</sup> May Year C</b>			
	<b>08:30</b>	<b>09:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Hayes Family	Anne Stapleton	Jennifer Hackman & Marnie Archer
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Fran Grant	Clare Wichbold	Tony Archer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Adrian Eyre		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayers	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Childrens' Liturgy	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Chris Moore
<b>Next Sunday -World Communication Day</b>			
<p><b>WHOSE FEET TO DO YOU WASH?</b>  May 13-15 (2 Days Reg Fee £26)  Pentecost Weekend  To grow spiritually St Benedict advised his monks to turn East. "Read St Basil" he said....  Dom Brendan Thomas</p>	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>		
	<b>8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 8 May</b>		
	<b>11.00 am Liturgy</b>		
	<b>01-May</b>	Jackie King & Rachel Cowdrey	
	<b>08-May</b>	Marje Hayes & Tba	
	<b>15-May</b>	A Morawiecki & Pauline Gill	
<b>22-May</b>	Pat Wood & R Blackburn		
<p>Please pray for all who have died: <b>May they rest in peace.</b></p> <p><b>Deaths:</b> Bernard Clayton, Sue Ball, Mary Carroll, John Wallin and John Keeler</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> John Davidson, Ron Fisher, Lilian Forrester, Herbert Bindon, Dom Peter Fell osb, Dom Denis Mercer OSB, Thomas Smallman, Eileen Clark, Gerard Finch, Alice Frances Derrick, Irene Handley, Bridget Lapping, Paddy Ledford, Anthony Meredith, Elizabeth Bray, Norman Dykes, Dom Damien Shipley osb, John Froggatt, Vera Offler, Archbishop Scarisbrick and James Sterckx.</p> <p><b>The Sick:</b> Please pray for Polly Maund-Powell, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Duncan Sykes, Margaret O'Connor, Kenny Hanna, Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Edward Medicott, Bridie Gittoes, Sr Philipa, Teresa Chowles, Elaine White, Edna Ledford, Sue Rogers, Fr Michael Cronin, Elaine Campbell, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.</p>			

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

**Liturgy for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May** Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2

<p><b>6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b></p>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.</p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> We proclaim your Death...</p> <p><b>Communion:</b> If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.</p>
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<b>Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.</b>			
	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Desmond Keohane	Rita Chamberlain & Brenda Sherwood
Sacristan			Stephen Fisher
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	William Jackson	Sally Johns	Pat Draper
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Mary Hayes		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayer	Anne Jackson		Marje Hayes
Offertory	Ramage-Hill Fam .	Nickerson Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Julia Davey		Chris Moore
Mass Intention		Pro Populo	Confirmation Candidates
<b>Second Collection - Parish Outreach</b>			
<b>Food Bank Delivery: Kath Parry</b>			

<b>What's On for the week</b>	
Mon	<b>St Athanasius:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>SS Philip &amp; James:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	<b>All Martyrs of England &amp; Wales:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: <b>Midday Mass in the Oratory</b> - Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	<b>Easter Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am.
Fri	<b>Easter Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: <b>Exposition &amp; Midday Mass in the Abbey Church</b>
Sat	<b>Easter Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am