

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

1st October 2017

26th Week Ordinary Time

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It is a stark fact that one in eight of us will go to bed hungry tonight. On Friday 6th October – Harvest Fast Day – CAFOD is asking you to make a place at your table to help our sisters and brothers in the world's poorest countries get enough nutritious food to eat. Your Fast Day envelopes are available in church this week. Please give as much as you can so that hunger isn't a fact of life for the world's poorest people.

Fr Nicholas will be away for the next two weeks on his summer holiday. Unfortunately there will be no Midday Masses in the Oratory during this period. It is hoped to decorate the Oratory during this break.

No public Vespers or Benediction in the Abbey this evening.

Don't forget tea and coffee are available in Hedley Lodge after the 9:30 and 9:30 Masses and in Parish Hall after 11 Mass.

In two weeks time the old £1 coin will cease to be legal tender. I suggest you search those bottom drawers and down the back of sofas for all these old coins. Please do not put them in collection bags after 8th October as the banks will no longer accept them.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£331.11
	Standing Orders	£412.50

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

	2 nd Collection	£177.12
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The 2nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for: **SVP. Thank You!**



Parish Outreach - During October, our second collections will be for Parish Outreach and others to be announced.



The monks will be singing Vespers at Hereford Cathedral this Sunday 1 October at 3:30 pm. Everyone welcome. No vespers or Benediction at the Abbey today.



Congratulations to Arabella Anderson & Chris Haughian who were married in the abbey church yesterday. We offer them our prayers and best wishes for their future life together.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3 October

Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes
Allensmore
12:45

5 October

Church Cleaning
9:00 am

17 October

Tea & Chat
Parish Hall
2:30 - 4:00 pm

29 October

Collect & Pay
For Tesco Vouchers

17 November

Quiz Night
Hedley Lodge 7:00 pm

23 November

Rise Theatre
Hedley Lodge 7:30 pm



Hereford Food Bank is in desperate need of the following: Rice, Fish, Soup, Baked beans, Tinned cold meat, Smash, UHT Milk, Baby formula milk, Baby washing products - shampoo, soap, wipes, Shampoo and Shower gel. Many thanks.



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you have a relative or fellow parishioner in hospital and you know they would like to be visited by Fr. Matthew then please contact him with the details of the person concerned – H. 265177 or fr.matthew@live.co.uk. For the time being Fr. Matthew is absolutely dependant on receiving this information from relations and friends, it is not available via the hospital.



Emmaus Youth next meet on Saturday 14 October & 18 November from 2:30-5:30 at Our Lady’s parish hall. You are invited to share in some praise and worship, liturgy, refreshments and time to socialize. Come and join us for some fun!! Rob & Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway & Ben Aldridge 01432 352241;07739 566578 jacqui.corrigan@btopenworld.com or emmausyouth@hotmail.com



Parish finances

If you would like Standing Order or Gift Aid forms, or would like more information about our other revenue projects (Tesco Vouchers, 150 Club etc.) please speak to Fr Nicholas or put your name on the information request sheet in the porch.



Holy Days of Obligation

The Holy See has confirmed the decision of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales to reinstate two of the Holy Days of Obligation which had been transferred to the nearest Sundays in 2006. The two feasts are the Epiphany of the Lord on 6 January and the Ascension of the Lord, 40 days after the celebration of Easter. These feasts are intimately linked in biblical, liturgical and theological ways to the Mystery of Faith celebrated at Easter and Christmas.



World Day of Prayer of the Poor

Pope Francis has been recognised both within and outside the Church as a champion of the poor. He has identified himself totally with those who are ‘on the margins’ and have need of respect for their human dignity. He has invited Catholics throughout the world to join him on 19 November in a World Day of Prayer of the Poor. The title is important. It is not “for” the poor but “of” the poor, reminding us of the words of mother Teresa that here in the West we have different kinds of poverty, including poverty

of spirit. On that day, we are hoping to hold an Archdiocesan awareness event in The Cornerstone, Cardiff, supported by the Catholic Social Action Network.

World Day of Prayer of the Poor -
Deanery Preparation meeting
Wednesday 4th October at Our Lady's
7 pm. This is in preparation for the
Archdiocesan event on Sunday
19th November in Cardiff, where each
Deanery is asked to give some input.

***Would anyone like to represent
the parish at this meeting?***



Songs of Praise

Hereford Cathedral is hosting a recording of hymns for *Songs of Praise* on Friday 6 October. The recording will start at 7 pm, ending around 10 pm. All are welcome to attend, as individuals, family, choral or community groups.

Tickets are free but **MUST** be booked through the BBC Ticket Unit - www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise to apply for tickets on line.



There will be a concert of Russian religious and folk music by the famous Russian choir VOSKRESH. It's on Sunday 15th October at 3 pm in the Abbey Church.

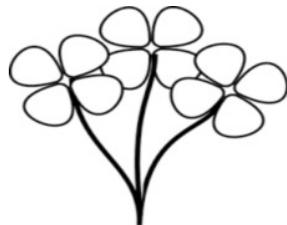


Christmas Shoebox Appeal

This year's Shoebox Appeal is now under way, leaflets are available in the porch. Please help spread the message of Christmas and change a child's life this year. A few small items and a lot of love are all that is required, surely we can each do that? If you need any help, advice, an empty shoebox or if you feel unable to fill a whole box but would like to contribute something, please speak to Kitty Nicholls. The deadline for completed boxes will be in the middle of November.



CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is Friday 6 October 2017. This Harvest Fast Day, we are standing with Edelmira, a farmer in El Salvador, as she works to sustain her family with good crops and harvests. With your help, CAFOD is giving her fruit trees, training and strong seeds. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope, fast this Friday and give what you can. Your support will help lift some of the world's poorest people out of poverty.



Homily

“Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.”

Illustration

A rabbi was standing in the synagogue and began to pray in the traditional way of the Jewish faith, tilting backwards and forwards with words spoken in rhythm with the body's movement. As he moved, with his feet firmly on the ground, he began to chant his prayer, which was simply, “I am nothing, I am nothing at all.” At some point during the prayer a cantor in the synagogue came along and joined the rabbi in his heartfelt prayer, and before long two voices were making the same prayer in chant, “I am nothing, I am nothing at all.”

At some point further in the chanting prayer, the synagogue's janitor came into the main hall and witnessed the two men offering up their prayer to God. So the janitor got in line with the other two men, joined his voice to theirs and began chanting, “I am nothing, I am nothing at all.” At this point the rabbi turned to the cantor and said, “Look at him, who does he think he is?”

It does not matter who the story is being told about – it could just as

easily be about a Catholic priest or bishop – the point of the story is that we are all able to allow ourselves to fall into the trap of not recognising our flawed nature and our sinfulness. We can all pray, “I am nothing, nothing at all,” but the moment we make it our virtuous anthem, then we have failed to see the meaning of the prayer. At these moments we are putting ourselves very far from God's mercy.

Gospel Teaching

In today's Gospel Jesus is speaking to the chief priests and the elders of the people. His words are somewhat alarming and challenging, especially to anyone who claims religious faith. Jesus gives them a scenario and leaves them to find the appropriate answers. He begins by asking, “What is your opinion? A man had two sons...” and so begins the interrogation. Both the sons in the parable answer their father: one chooses not to tell the truth, saying he will go to work, and in fact does not; while the other son tells the truth, that he does not want to go, but afterwards changes his mind, and goes and does the work that his father has asked of him.

The point Jesus is making becomes obvious very quickly; he does not allow us to carry on the journey without first understanding his meaning. He goes on to tell them that

when John the Baptist came among them, as an example and model of “true righteousness”, they, the people of religion and holy talk, did not believe him. At the same time, however, the tax collectors and the prostitutes were making their way into the kingdom of God before them.

It is not difficult to imagine the reaction to Jesus’ words among these people. It surely would not be difficult, too, for us to try to imagine our reaction to the words of Jesus if they were addressed to us. How we receive them depends on how we perceive ourselves, and others. Do we consider ourselves to be respectable religious people, or do we know ourselves to be sinners, just as much as the “tax collectors and prostitutes” of whom Jesus speaks? Everything depends on how we see ourselves, and on how we see and judge others.

Application

In our parishes Sunday after Sunday we can allow ourselves to be fooled into thinking that we are the good and holy people, while the many poor souls who never darken the door of a church are the castaways of God, outside God’s love. This is exactly what Jesus was dealing with in his own day. We can learn from this Gospel passage and put away any superciliousness that may accompany us on our way to church.

There is no reason for us to become self-righteous or self-obsessed with regard to our religion and our God. Paul tells us that, even though Jesus was in the form of God, he emptied himself. We are to do the same, empty ourselves and allow God to fill us. In so doing, we will not be shocked that tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God before us; rather we will rejoice.



Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 7 October - 27 Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant			
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Anne Stapleton	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S	Menna McBain	Tony Archer
2 nd Reading	Julia Davey		Lucy Reed
Bidding Prayers	Adrian Eyre		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Hayes Family	Frances Riddell & Teresa Harriss	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Joao & Andre Pavia
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach (CAFOD)			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY		
	These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.	1-Oct	Jacqui Corrigan & Mary Wood
		8- Oct	Jackie King & Monica Russell
		15 -Oct	Andrew M & Pauline Gill
		22 Oct	No Children's Liturgy
		29-Oct	No Children's Liturgy

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

Deaths: Rachel George, R D Anthony osb, Jo Berry, Kevin Hanna and Sr Phillipa.

Anniversaries: William Lans, Gladys Cummings, Abbot Alan Rees osb, Patrick Connell, Maureen Plant, Henry Stewart, Thomas Forder, James Morgan, Anne Hardy, Ellen Stewart, Tony Tulacz, Monica Blake, Myles Davey, Abbot Ildephonsus Cummins osb, Vincent Dolman, Mary Green, Denise Huckle, Bruno Locans, Frank Taday and Jessica Zochowski.

The Sick: Please pray for: Basil Nickerson, Sally Johns, Sam Evans, Jennifer Hackman, Denise Ellis, Carol Baines, Michael Kennedy, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Elaine White, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

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

Liturgy for Sunday 1 October 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 26)*

<p>26th Week In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord... Communion: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Hayes Family	Brenda Warde	Marnie Archer & Brenda Sherwood
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Sally Johns	Margaret Rose
2 nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Rob Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Fran Smallwood		Pat Draper
Offertory	Parish Children	Gillick Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Julia Davey		Chris Moore & Margaret Evans
Mass Intention		Pro Populo	
Second Collection - Parish Outreach			
Food Bank Collection: John Goodall-Copstake			

What's On for the week	
Mon	St Thomas of Hereford: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Holy Guardian Angels: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Francis of Assisi : Mass at 8:00 am: NO Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	St Bruno: Mass at 8 am: NO Exposition or Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	Our Lady of the Rosary: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am