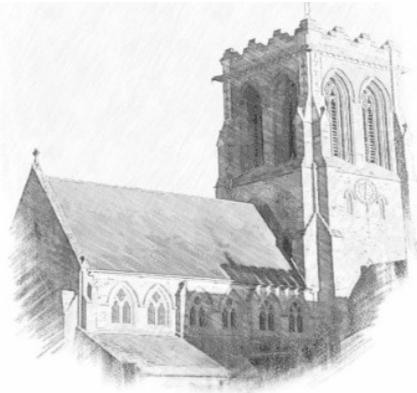


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

10 December 2017

2 Advent

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB

Tel: 01432 - 277319

email: pp@belmontparish.plus.com

www.belmontparish.org.uk

Parish Deacon

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

Tel: 01432 - 263575

Safeguarding Representative

Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

Articles for newsletter:

admin@belmontparish.org.uk

During these weeks of Advent, the Church looks forward to the coming of Christ. Our liturgies remind us of the hope of our salvation, the promise of God's love. This love is expressed in the coming of the Christ child at Christmas and our Christian hopes will indeed be realised when Christ returns in glory. During this season we will read much from the Isaiah, the prophet of hope. When things look grim or uncertain, when people need lifting Isaiah reminds God's people that He redeems, heals, and blesses; God gives hope.

I think that Advent is, above all, the season of the year that speaks to us about the virtue of hope in our lives. We are also called during this season to become signs of hope for others. Through what we say and do, by the way we relate to others, do we offer hope to those who may be discouraged, disillusioned or just overburdened by life? Do we make the effort to encourage others during their difficult times?

Next Saturday, 16th December, there will be an Advent opportunity to pause and pray before the Christmas rush completely overwhelms us! There will be a short Penitential service followed by a Holy Hour from 10 to 11 am with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during which several priests will be available for Confession.

Today's second collection will be for the Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£326.35
	Standing Orders	£501.23

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

	2 nd Collection	£176.78
--	----------------------------	----------------

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: **Christmas Flowers. Thank You!**



Parish Outreach - During December, the Second Collections, marked as Parish Outreach, will be buying for flowers for the Church at Christmas (Dec 3), for the Cardiff diocesan Clergy welfare fund (Dec 10), for the Homeless at Christmas (Dec 17) and Parish Outreach to the Poor (Dec 24).



A **new rota of ministries** is due from 31 December to and including 15 April 2018. Could I please have your non-available dates by 17 December at the latest. Please contact me on frangrant235@btinternet.com or Hfd 266307. Many thanks for your help.



**Parish Retired Person's
Christmas Lunch** -

12.30 pm Wednesday 13th December at Hedley Lodge. Tickets £10.00 -

please return completed leaflet to Parish Office **today**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13 December
Retired Persons Lunch

15 December
Church Cleaning 9:00 am

16 December
Emmaus Youth
2:30 - 5:30
OLQM Parish Hall



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil 'Midnight' Mass
at **10.30 pm**

Tridentine Latin Low Mass
7 am

Parish sung Family Mass at
9 am

Pontifical High Mass at
11 am

Please note there are only
two Parish Masses on
Christmas morning



The Angel

Sadly we only have a couple of articles for the proposed Christmas edition of the Angel. I therefore suggest we postpone publication until the New Year in the hope that a few more articles emerge.



First Holy Communion

classes start on Saturday 13th January 2018 from 10.30 am to 12pm in the Phillips Library at Belmont Abbey. Please contact Fr Nick or Rob and Jacqui Corrigan if you would like your child to receive this special sacrament next year.



Our Parish Council these days is now more of a small parish advisory group, which meets from time to time to advise the parish priest and to raise ideas or concerns. If you would like anything discussed, please email admin@belmontparish.org.uk. The group meets on Wednesday.



Take the Pledge Come Clean Fill the Vacuum In your Life

Join the happy band of Belmont Abbey church cleaners. Meet fortnightly after the 8 am Mass. Dates in the Parish newsletter. Equipment and material provided.



150 Club

Thank you to everyone in the parish and beyond who supports the 150 Club, your contributions are very much appreciated. May I take this opportunity to remind those members who pay by cash or cheque that subscriptions for 2018 are now due. Please place these in an envelope marked 150 Club and hand to Chris Moore or Fr Nick. Thank you.



Christmas Envelopes

For those who use **Gift Aid Standing Orders**, please pick up a Christmas envelope from the porch and write your number on it. Please use these for the Christmas Offering. Thank you.





Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you have a relative or fellow parishioner in hospital and they would like to be visited by Fr. Matthew, please contact him with the details on 01432 265177 or fr.matthew @ live.co.uk.



Friends of Rotherwas Chapel

The Friends of Rotherwas Chapel invite you to join them at the chapel on Saturday 6 January 2018 from 2 – 3 pm for a Twelfth Night Celebration “Kings & Things.” Come and enjoy the music and readings. Refreshments available. Bring your own chair! Donations to the Chair Fund for the chapel.



The **Christmas Draw** will take place today. There is still time to buy tickets and win a wonderful Christmas goodie or a hamper type prize after all the Masses this morning. We will announce the winners over Mulled Wine & Mince Pies in Hedley Lodge after the 11 am Mass.



Carol Service

Monastery of the Poor Clares
Much Birch
Sunday 10 December
Evening Prayer 3 pm
Carol Service 3.30 pm
Refreshments follow



HOMILY

“Prepare a way for the Lord.”

Illustration

Anyone who lives in a large modern city knows the problems of transportation – the grind of the daily commute, when travelling even short distances can be a long and exasperating experience. Apart from the frustration caused by congestion, a poor infrastructure also damages the economy significantly. London is reckoned to be the fifth most congested city in the world. To help improve travelling times, a new east-west railway – the Elizabeth Line – is being constructed across and underneath the city: the hundred-kilometre route includes forty-two kilometres of tunnels and ten new stations, all connecting up with existing rail and underground

stations. The new line is Europe's largest infrastructure project, costing nearly £15 billion and expected to serve two hundred million passengers per year. As well as improving travelling times for Londoners, it is estimated that the new line will add £42 billion to the UK economy.

Gospel Teaching

In today's first reading, we hear of another plan to improve journey times – though here the prophet Isaiah is encouraging the people to construct a speedy route along which God's very self can travel. And this "building project" is intended not simply to take the frustration out of life or improve the economic situation, but to set God's people free after years of living in the misery of exile. Isaiah announces that the time of suffering and captivity is over: the Lord is coming and the people need to prepare a straight highway for God across the desert, a way for the Lord through the wilderness of their exile. So obstacles need to be removed, valleys filled in and hills flattened, to hasten the Lord's coming. Then God will lead the people home – like a shepherd leading the flock and tenderly carrying the lambs in his arms.

It is with this vivid image that Mark chooses to begin his Gospel and to describe the coming of Jesus, God's

Son and anointed one. Isaiah's ancient prophecy is being fulfilled in a new way: one more powerful than John the Baptist is coming to lead God's people home, to set them free from the tyranny of sin to live in the homeland of God's kingdom, which, Jesus proclaims, is breaking into the world. Symbolically, John goes out into the wilderness to call the people to prepare for this momentous arrival. They are to build a highway in the desert of their lives – smoothing the way for the Lord to come and enter into their hearts. Their building work is "repentance", which means more than a superficial changing of individual actions, getting rid of "sins". It involves a complete change of mind – a renewal of heart – so that they are able to live in a different way.

Application

The new line in London was started in 2009 and is due for completion in 2018. The "building work" of repentance – of flattening out the hills and filling in the valleys of our own lives so that the Lord can come into our hearts – is also a huge piece of work, requiring nothing less than a lifetime, maybe even an eternity.

But in case we feel daunted by the immensity of the task, it is comforting to remember the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero that "we are workers, not master builders,

ministers not messiahs". We are not expected to save ourselves. The very first words of Mark's Gospel spell it out so clearly for us: the good news is that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. He is the powerful one who is at work in us and for us. What we are called to do is respond to this Good News by cooperating with the Holy Spirit – the Spirit with which he has baptised us. It is the Lord who comes to save us, leading us home like a shepherd, tenderly carrying us when we are weak and vulnerable. And as Peter reminds us, God is in no hurry. God is patient because God wants nobody to be lost. The timeless message of Advent is that our patient God is the God who comes not just at Jesus' birth, and not just at the end of time. God comes to us in our time of need, our time of exile, whenever we are lost in the wilderness of sin, fear or suffering. We are called simply to respond to the Good News that in Jesus Christ we meet the God whose coming sets us free and brings us home to our true selves.



The Feast of St John of the Cross on 14 December

If you want
the Virgin will come walking down
the road pregnant with the holy,
and say,

"I need shelter for the night, please
take me inside your heart, my time is
so close."

Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime
intimacy, the divine, the Christ
taking birth forever,

as she grasps your hand for help, for
each of us
is the midwife of God, each of us.

Yet there, under the dome of your
being does creation
come into existence eternally,
through your womb, dear pilgrim—
the sacred womb in your soul,

as God grasps our arms for help; for
each of us is His beloved servant
never far.

If you want, the Virgin will come
walking down the street pregnant
with Light and sing ...

By St John of the Cross

Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 17 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent; Year B Cycle 2

	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Hayes Family	Desmond Keohane	Rita Chamberlain & Brenda Sherwood
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Fran Smallwood	Clare Wichbold	Tony Archer
2 nd Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S		Lucy Reed
Bidding Prayers	Mary Hayes		Sally Johns
Offertory	Hayes Family	Anthea Morton-S & Maria Large	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Seamus Hayes		Margaret Evans & Andre Pavia

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Homeless at Christmas

Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	10-Dec	Pat Wood & Rob Blackburn
	17-Dec	A Morawiecki & Pauline Gill
	24-Dec	Jacqui King & Mary Wood

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 10 Dec)

Deaths: Sister Mary Clare and David Wood

Anniversaries: Hugh McLachlan, Frederick Clarke, Alice Cleaton, George Bond, Mary Alice Barlow, Thomas Corr and Basil Godwin.

The Sick: Please pray for: Philomena Nicholas, Robin Hayward, Julia Davey, Gil Savory, Eddie Wyman, Sam Evans, Denise Ellis, Michael Kennedy, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Dominique Wetz, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsop, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Elaine White, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

<p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Entrance: O people of Sion behold, the Lord will come to save the nations and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread</p> <p>Communion: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights and behold the joy which comes to you from God.</p>
---	---

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Kath Parry	Anne Stapleton	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Clare Nickerson	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Lucy Reed
Bidding Prayer	Richard Batho		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Jacqui R-Smith & Fran Smallwood		Chris Moore & Tony Archer
Mass Intention	James Codrington	<i>Pro Populo</i>	<i>Doris & Joseph Corrigan RIP</i>
Second Collection - Diocesan Clergy Welfare			
Food Bank Collection: Eddie & Jan Wyman			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Advent Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Advent Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Lucy: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	St John of the Cross: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Advent Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 with Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	Advent Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 -11:00 am