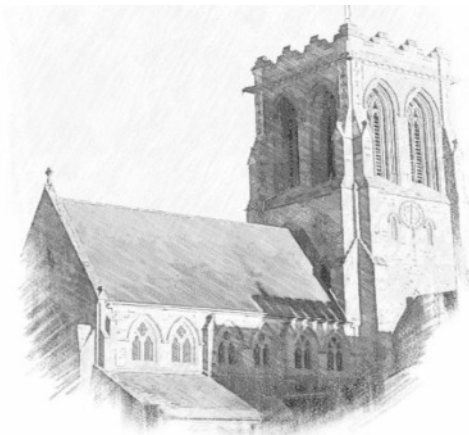


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

### ***Baptism of the Lord***

*10<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
(Cycle C)*

#### **PARISH PRIEST**

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#### **Parish Deacon**

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman  
Tel: 01432 - 263575

Safeguarding Representative  
Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

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

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** - Throughout the ages, Christians have celebrated Christmas as a season, including the days between Christmas and the Epiphany, as one long Christmas "day" and this season officially ends today with our celebration of the Lord's baptism. Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan and today we call to mind the common vocation that we all share through baptism, expressed through our faith, and our witness, love and service. Let us use the occasion of this feast to reflect on the beauty and meaning of our Christian calling. Whatever we do, wherever we are – whether we are single or married, priest or religious, young or older, as women and men, we are all called to grow more deeply into our following of Jesus Christ.

The second collection today is the 2016 White Flower Collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). In common with the Catholic Church SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The Society opposes laws and policies, which violate or threaten human life such as abortion, euthanasia and research on human embryos. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and colleges and a range of pro-life support services.

**The Angel – Deadline for submitting any articles or pictures is  
next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January.**

*Fr Nicholas*

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	<b>£292.77</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£533.00</b>
	2nd Collection	<b>£174.55</b>
<b><i>Parish Outreach - Thank you.</i></b>		

† † † † †

If you have lost gloves, hats or an umbrella please have a look in top drawer in the porch. The items will go to the next jumble sale if not collected by the 10 January. Thank you!

† † † † †

### The Angel

**The Christmas edition of the Angel will now be the New Year edition. Please help us to continue to produce this parish magazine by writing or submitting an article for publication. The new deadline for submission is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January.**

† † † † †

### Tea and Chat

The next Tea & Chat will take place on January 19<sup>th</sup>, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm everyone most welcome, including gentlemen. It is not only ladies who like to talk. A reminder to those who promised cake and help. Looking forward to seeing you all after our Christmas break. *Margaret R*

† † † † †

### Abbey Shop

The Abbey Shop reopens today 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

† † † † †

### Dates for your Diary

**19 January 2016  
Tea and Chat 2:30 pm**

**22 January  
Church Cleaning - 9 am**

† † † † †

### Thank you from LIFE

This is the season for writing thank you letters and so here is one from Hereford LIFE. We are very grateful to you all for responding so generously to our request for little knitted garments and cot blankets. They came from every side individuals, the parishes and groups like the St Anne's group and we have collected about seventy little jackets and hats and more than two dozen blankets. In the Christmas rush it has been difficult to thank you properly but we do appreciate not only the cost of making but the love that has gone into each one. This means that seventy little souls many of whom will not survive will have something made specially

for them and a keepsake for their parents. So far a parcel has been carried to the Birmingham City Hospital and we have posted 2 parcels to the LIFE Help Centre in Walsall and another to the Sanctuary opposite the Birmingham Catholic Cathedral which is a refuge for refugees and trafficked and homeless women. (We also kept some back for our Hereford babies). Thank you.



**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EWYAS  
HAROLD  
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN  
UNITY  
THE SALT OF THE EARTH  
Monday  
18th to Monday 25th January 2016**

The theme for the 2016 Week of Prayer - The Salt of the Earth – was prepared by the Christians of Latvia. We will be given the opportunity to reflect upon our Christian vocation to be salt and light, to be one in Christ, and to work together in service to our local community and to the world.

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” 1 Peter 2 v 9

**Special launch Service** followed by bring and share refreshments. **Sun-**

**day 17th January 3.00pm at St Michael's Church**

**Daytime Prayers** each prepared by one of the diverse Church communities in Latvia. **Monday 18th to Monday 25th January** (omitting Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January) **at The Acres, Pontrilas Road HR2 0EN (Pam Wright's house) from 11.30am to 12.15pm**



**A Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters**

Our sincere gratitude goes to all of you who have helped us during 2015 to provide care and support for Sister Mary, her team and for the hearing impaired children and students at the school. It was a difficult year with everyone trying to adjust to the devastation caused by Ebola but at least the country has now been declared “Ebola free”.

Just a couple of snippets of news from the school:

The “Shop in a Box” and the “Container Canteen” are going from strength to strength. The canteen is being successfully run by four of the older girls who are gaining much needed entrepreneurial skills. Teachers, office workers and visitors go for

their lunch break each day and orders are being placed for cakes for various occasions. The shop is used by the tailoring and art and craft students. Using the donated sewing machines they sell various souvenirs, cards, and clothes to the community and visitors. Sister Mary hopes to expand this provision to include those students who are gaining experience in hairdressing and other beauty treatments.

The School Farm is now in the harvesting season, and corn, rice, yams, hot pepper and sweet potatoes are being produced. The farm provides the school with some of its food needs as well as food for the poultry. The poultry farm is growing too and the new chickens are starting to lay their first eggs. The sale of the eggs provides income for the school that helps with the running costs. The older chickens will be ready for sale too but the cockerels were ready for sale in time for Christmas.

Two of our trustees will be making a self-funded visit to the school in February 2016. We will be discussing with Sister Mary the ways we can help her over the next year and beyond to give the

hearing impaired children at the school the future they deserve.

All good wishes for 2016 from Linda Freestone (Chair) and all the trustees



### **HOMILY**

*“He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

### **Illustration**

Once when Mother Teresa was selecting children for an orphanage she was establishing in Ethiopia, a journalist challenged her about the children who were not to be taken. “What are you going to do about them?” he asked. Without hesitation, Mother Teresa fixed him in the eye and said, “What are you going to do?” The journalist returned home, gave up his job and started to raise funds to build another orphanage. His meeting with Mother Teresa had been a life-changing experience.

### **Gospel Teaching**

The baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan was a life-changing experience for him. From Luke’s Gospel we gather that Jesus was at this time about thirty years old, the presumed son of Joseph. For the years that followed his experience of being lost in the Temple when he was twelve

years old, we hear nothing more of Jesus except that he increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with people. For eighteen years he had been pondering on what “being busy with his Father’s affairs” was to mean for him. Now, while he was at prayer after being baptised, the Holy Spirit came down on him in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven declared, “You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.” From this moment, Jesus, filled with the Spirit, set out to fulfil his mission as the anointed servant of the Lord, the Messiah, the Christ.

There were thousands of people who had come for baptism by John in the Jordan. They were expecting something to happen and wondered if John himself might be the Christ. John, however, pointed them away from himself. He baptised only in water, but he was to be followed by someone more powerful than himself who would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. If they had experienced something powerful in John, how much more could they expect from the Christ!

### **Application**

We move the clock forward nearly two thousand years to find a happy couple bringing their newborn infant to the church to be baptised. A crowd of family and friends have come to

witness the event and to share in the happiness of the day. As the parents hold the child over the font, the priest pours water over the child’s head, saying, “I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” He anoints the child with oil on the forehead and says some prayers. Is this the life-changing experience foreshadowed by the baptism of Jesus? Is this really baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire?

It has to be said that for most of those witnessing the baptism described here, it will be a fairly bewildering ritual, but for those of us with faith something extraordinary is taking place. The symbolic actions of the rite of baptism are in fact the sacramental signs that bring about what is described in our second reading, “he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour”. It is in this way that we are born again of water and the Holy Spirit and enabled to enter the kingdom of heaven. Whether we appreciate the fact or not, this really is the most life-changing experience that can possibly happen to us.

It took Jesus thirty years to grow in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and with people before the

events of his baptism changed his life. He recognised that he was being anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit; he was truly the Christ. The voice from heaven affirmed that he was truly the beloved Son of God. He knew that he had been sent to bring Good News to those who were poor. Maybe now we should spend some time pondering on what baptism really means for us. We have been exposed to the cleansing water of rebirth and renewed with the Holy Spirit. We have been forged in the furnace of the fire of God's love to join Jesus in his mission to bring God's saving love to our world. We have seen what happened to Jesus. We have seen what happened to Mother Teresa and the journalist who challenged her. We now know Mother Teresa as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. So now what are you going to do?



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin



<b>Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January Week 2 in Ordinary Time Year C</b>			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Welcomer(s)	Hayes Family	Desmond Keohane	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1st Reading	Liz Norman	Clare Nickerson	Sally Johns
2nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayer	Fran Grant		Pat Draper
Offertory	Children's Liturgy	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Gabrielle Stanley		Monica Tomlin
<b>Next Sunday - Parish Outreach</b>			

<p><b>The Tender Gaze of Love</b> January 29-31 (2 days Reg fee £26) <i>Dom Alex explores the mystery and meaning of Icons of the Virgin in the beautiful period between Christmas and the Presentation of the Lord.</i> <i>Dom Alex Echeandia</i></p>	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
	<b>8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 17 Jan</b>	
	<b>11.00 am Liturgy</b>	
	<b>10-Jan</b>	Jacqui Corrigan & Jan Wyman
	<b>17-Jan</b>	A Morawiecki & R Blackburn
	<b>24-Jan</b>	Jacqui Moore & Pauline Gill
<b>31-Jan</b>	Pat Wood & Mary Wood	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.**

**Deaths:** Mark Evans, Jeanne and Ken Harding and Lesley Baker

**Anniversaries:** Mildred Evans. Bro Antony Lacey OSB, Mabel Lewis, Frederick Meredith and Michael Podmore. James Snead, Cecilia Methven, Catherine Williams. Dom Dominic Blaney OSB, Minnie Mc Loughlin, William Donegan, Anthony Stokes and Mary Bower.

**The Sick:** Please pray for Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Mary Carroll, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Jo Hourahane, Edward Medicott, Bridie Gittoes, Sr Philpa, Teresa Chowles, Elaine White, Edna Ledford, Sue Rogers, Fr Michal Cronin, Elaine Campbell, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna, and Sadie Bowyer.

## ***Liturgy for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January***

*Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1 (OT Wk 1)*

<h1><b><i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i></b></h1>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> <i>After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.</i></p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> <i>Save us Saviour...</i></p> <p><b>Communion:</b> <i>Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.</i></p>
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<b>Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.</b>			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Anne Stapleton	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1st Reading	Julia Davey	Sally Johns	Peter Davies
2nd Reading	Richard Batho		Monica Tomlin
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-Smith		Jane Davies
Offertory	Ramage-Hill Family	Lucy Zammit & Paul Nickholds	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Rob Corrigan
Mass Intention	M. Divina & Community	Pro Populo	
<b>Second Collection : SPUC</b>			

<b><i>What's On for the week</i></b>	
Mon	<b>St Aelred:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>St Benet Biscop:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm
Thu	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	<b>SS Maurus &amp; Placid:</b> Mass at 8:00 am - Exposition & Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	<b>BVM:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00