

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



## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
3 Advent**

### **PARISH PRIEST**

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB

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### **Parish Deacon**

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

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Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

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

Today is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are often worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. "Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy, which should be in our hearts showing everyone what the birth of our Saviour means to us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom.

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 the Parish Centre after the 11 am Mass.

Next Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Fr Nicholas*

Last Sunday's	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	<b>£240.08</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£412.50</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>£136.89</b>
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 <b>Parish Outreach. Thank you!</b>		

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### Second Collections

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards helping the homeless in Hereford and the Hereford Food Bank. In December, apart from next Sunday's collection for Christmas flowers, we will make two collections for the Syrian Crisis Appeal.

Fighting in Syria has caused a humanitarian crisis on a staggering scale, and it's getting worse every day. Over 250,000 people have been killed and more than 6.6 million children, women and men driven from their homes. Millions of people desperately need aid right now. Let's help to provide food, shelter and safety for people driven from their homes, as well as blankets, warm clothes and other essentials.

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### Christmas Mass times

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

Parish sung Family Mass at 9 am

Pontifical High Mass at 11 am

Please note there are only two Masses on Christmas morning

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As she is unable to drive anymore, **Margaret Meikeljohn** is looking for a lift, even if only occasionally, from the Broomy Hill area to the Sunday 11 am Mass. Please speak to Fr Nicholas if you can possibly help.

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 11 December  
Christmas Draw Parish Hall  
After 11 am Mass

Wednesday 14 December  
Retired Persons  
Christmas Lunch 12:30 pm

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### Parish Retired Person's Christmas Lunch

12.30 pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Hedley Lodge. Tickets £10.00 – please return completed leaflet to Parish Office **TODAY.**



### Christmas Envelopes

For those who use Gift Aid Standing Orders, please remember to use the numbered envelopes for

Christmas (and Easter) sent earlier in the year. Please check that you still have yours! Please use these for the Christmas Offering.

Will those who use boxes of envelopes please check you have a numbered Christmas envelope in your box. If you cannot find your envelope please let us know a.s.a.p. so that we have time to replace it. Please remember there is NO Second collection on Christmas Day.



### 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 Tuesdsy in the month. For any newcomers to the Parish this is a 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.



### Carol Service

At the Poor Clares Monastery on Sunday 11 December with Evening prayer at 3pm and Carol Service at 3:30. Refreshments will be served after the service.



With sadness we report the death of Brian Holbery who died on Tuesday. His funeral will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. May he rest in peace.



**Emmaus Youth** are holding their Christmas Celebrations at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 1-4 pm on Saturday 17th December! You are warmly invited to share in some Praise and Worship, Advent Liturgy and then a Christmas Party! Come and join us for some Christmas fun!!

*Rob & Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway and Ben Aldridge*



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](mailto: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!



### **HOMILY**

*"Be patient... until the Lord's coming."*

### **Illustration**

Waiting to go to school, waiting to meet the boy or girl of our dreams, waiting for the result of an exam or an X-ray, waiting to grow old, waiting for death. Strange how much waiting there is in a lifetime; the world sometimes seems to be a giant waiting room, a place where every

one appears to be waiting for something to happen.

Today's readings show that waiting is not without its value. St James, in a typically down-to-earth way, draws an example from nature: farmers are almost by definition patient individuals. They know that everything takes time: you don't pop a seed into the ground today and expect the appearance of precious fruit tomorrow; the felling of a tree may take hours, the growth of a tree takes years. It's a law that applies to all growth, especially growth in friendship, including growth in friendship with God.

### **Gospel Teaching**

Christian waiting is an active rather than a passive affair: while placing all our trust in God, we act as though everything depends on us. And today's readings suggest that there are advantages in this active waiting. It teaches us our limitations, and so makes us alive to our need of God. Isaiah, speaking to his people in the grim days of exile, assures them that a time is coming when desert will be transformed into a carpet of flowers and when human disabilities will be healed. While waiting, they must trust in God. "Look", he cries, "your God is coming", and so, "Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling

knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! do not be afraid'." It's not easy to experience the strengthening and the steadying and the being filled with encouragement, unless we've first been through some of the weakness and the trembling and the faintheartedness that can go with periods of waiting, periods when nothing seems to happen, periods when God seems asleep.

The Gospel suggests that when our waiting includes a genuine openness to God's designs, we often find that our God is a God of surprises. John the Baptist spent his life waiting and preparing for the coming of the Messiah. He continued even when he was languishing in Herod's dark subterranean dungeon. He'd always imagined the Messiah would be mighty, and would pass fierce judgement on his enemies. But Jesus was so different. You can sense the anguish in John's voice as he tells his friends to go and ask Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?" It's as though he is wondering if his whole life has been in vain.

Yet even now he seems to preserve a spirit of openness, a readiness to trust in God. And the reward is indeed a surprise; his friends bring back startling news: those who are deaf hear, those who are blind see, sick people are

healed, “the Good News is proclaimed to the poor”. We’ve seen the fulfilment of those words of Isaiah, they say, we’ve witnessed God’s boundless love at work in Jesus; if he’s not our Messiah, then no one ever could be. John’s waiting had not been in vain.

to face upon the one we have waited for, the one we have longed for, the one we have sought, often unknowingly, our whole life long.



### Application

Clearly, waiting is not meant to be an alibi for doing nothing. The story is told of a priest in a rural area who congratulated a man who had retired and moved into the parish because in a few short months he had completely transformed the dreadful unkempt patch of land beside his house into a beautiful garden. “Amazing what can happen,” said the priest, “when God and humans work in tandem.” “I don’t know about that,” replied the old chap. “You should have seen the mess it was in when God had it to himself.”

Philippians 4:4,5: "Gaudete in Domino semper"

Always be joyful, then, in the Lord; I repeat, be joyful. Let your good sense be obvious to everybody. The Lord is near: Never worry about anything; but tell God all your desires of every kind in prayer and petition shot through with gratitude, and the peace of God which is beyond our understanding will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

As Christians, we are an Advent people, not simply in the sense that for a few weeks each year we wait for Christ’s birth at Christmas, but rather in the sense that our whole life is a time of waiting, a time of preparation, for the time when he will come again. Like John the Baptist, we are invited to go on patiently waiting and growing in friendship with the Lord until the day when all waiting will be over, the day when we shall gaze face



**Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December - 3 Advent - Year A - Cycle 1**

	<b>08:30</b>	<b>09:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Clare Wichbold	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Julia Davey	Paul Nickhold	Marje Hayes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Marje Hayes		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayers	Richard Batho		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Hayes Family	Frances Wood & Maria Large	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Seamus Hayes		Rob Corrigan & Tony Archer

***Next Sunday - Parish Outreach***

<p><b>Anniversaries</b></p> <p>These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.</p>	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
	<b>8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled</b>	
	<b>11-Dec</b>	Jacqui Corrigan & Rachel Cowdrey
	<b>18-Dec</b>	A Morawiecki & Monica Russell
	<b>25-Dec</b>	No Children's Liturgy
	<b>01-Jan</b>	No Children's Liturgy

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 11 Dec)

**Deaths:** Brian Holbery, John McComish, John Pimblett and Michael Kenneth Rose

**Anniversaries:** Hugh McLachlan, Frederick Clarke, Alice Cleaton, George Bond, Mary Alice Barlow, Thomas Corr, Basil Godwin, Sonia Chichester, Anne Davies, Bernard Hemson and Janet Skinner.

**The Sick:** Please pray for: Norma Naudain, Marnie Archer, Wendy Lyle Cameron, Sister Trish, Mother Regina, 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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016** *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Gaudete</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Sunday</h2>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.</p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> Save us, Saviour of the world...</p> <p><b>Communion:</b> Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come and he will save us.</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	Hayes Family	Anne Stapleton	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Adrian Eyre	Lucy Zammit	Jennifer Hackman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Fran Smallwood		Jane Davies
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-S		Sally Johns
Offertory	Ramage-Hill Family	Nickerson Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Gabrielle Stanley & Seamus Hayes		Tony Archer
Mass Intention		<b>Pro Populo</b>	
<b>Second Collection - Christmas Flowers</b>			
<b>Food Bank Delivery: Eddie &amp; Jan Wyman</b>			

<b>What's On for the week</b>	
Mon	<b>St Lucy:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	<b>St John of the Cross:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 am but <b>No Midday Mass</b> in the Oratory. Requiem Mass for Brian Holbery 12 noon in the Abbey
Sat	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition and Reconciliation 10:00 - 11:00 am