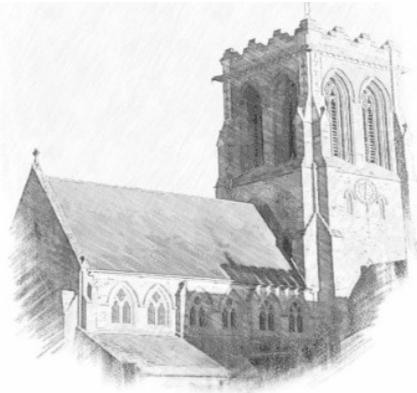


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**11 February 2018  
6 Sunday in OT**

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB

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### Parish Deacon

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

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Articles for newsletter:  
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Ash Wednesday is upon us this week and begins our Holy Season of preparation for the great feast of Easter. Lent is never particularly welcome because its themes of fasting and penance are often given a bad press – plus it coincides with what is usually the most miserable and gloomy weather of the year! But actually Spring is not far off – and Lent gives way to the most joyful of all events, our annual celebration of the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. Whilst there is little we can do to improve the weather, we can embark upon our Lenten journey with a cheerful disposition and use the time to deepen and strengthen the great and joyful gift of faith that we have been blessed with.

Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation but is a day of **fasting and abstinence**. Blessing and distribution of Ashes will be at both Masses on Wednesday at 8 am and 12 noon (sung) in the abbey. There is also an evening Mass at Our Lady's at 7 pm.

The second collection today is for Marriage Care and their work to support married life.

*Fr Nicholas*

***Welcome to Belmont Abbey. If you are as visitor here and you would like to Gift Aid your offertory collection, please collect an envelope from the Porch. Thank You!***

Last Sunday's	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	<b>£273.53</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£501.23</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>£179.01</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>Marriage Care. Thank You!</b>		



### Parish Outreach

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project, SPUC, St Barnabas Society and the local Acorns Children's Hospice. Thank you. This month there will be the annual collections for Marriage Care (4 & 11 Feb), Mary's Meals (18 Feb) and Cafod (25 Feb).



### 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](mailto:fr.matthew@live.co.uk).



### EMMAUS YOUTH

The dates for the next few meetings of Emmaus Youth are 17 February and 17 March at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 2.30-5.30 pm. You are invited to share in some Praise and Worship, Liturgy, refreshments and time to socialize. Come and join us for some fun!! Rob and Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway and Ben Aldridge.  
01432 352241 & 07739 566578.  
[emmausyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:emmausyouth@hotmail.com)



**Lenten Station Mass** celebrated by Archbishop Stack at Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 13 March 7 pm.



Deanery Meeting at Our Lady's Hall to discuss our parishes' response to World Day of the Poor. Tuesday 20 February 6 pm.



The **Wednesday Midday Masses during Lent** will be in the Church to accommodate the larger number of people joining us for the Lenten Days of Recollection





### Dates for your Diary

**17 February**

Emmaus Youth  
OLQM Parish Hall  
2:30 pm

**23 February**

Church Cleaning  
9:00 am

**20 February**

Tea & Chat  
Parish Hall  
2:30 pm

**13 March**

Station Mass  
OLQM 6:00 pm



### Walsingham Pilgrimage 2018

**Friday 18 May - Monday 21 May**

Three nights full board, en-suite room and all travel. Optional excursion to Castle Acre Priory. Leave Belmont at 10 am on Friday and return 6:30 pm on Monday. Cost:£245 per person. For further details and booking contact: Menna MacBain, Kitten Gate, Marden, HR1 3EX. Tel: 01568 797077.



**OUR LADY'S PARISH LENT COURSE -** *"Let It Be Done to Me According to Your Word."* A Lent course of 5 sessions, pondering how Mary helps us to be filled with God. Each session involving a video presentation, discussion, prayer and refreshments. Wednesdays of Lent beginning 21st February in the parish room at 7 pm, and the next 4 Wednesday evenings.

"Filmed around the world with well-known experts and down-to-earth testimonies about how the example and prayer of Mary can help us grow in our everyday faith. As part of the course you will get your own Let It Be Book which includes the main content of the film plus lots of useful follow-on info and optional daily prayer reflections." For more info see:[www.faithcafe.org](http://www.faithcafe.org)



**Walk with Me** - This pocket-size booklet of prayers and reflections for Lent 2018 is now available. Archbishop George Stack, Bishop Tom Burns and Bishop Peter Brignall have written a forward to the booklet and recommend it as an aid to prayer. **"Walk With Me!** We are invited to walk, not run. Lent is a time to slow down, to reflect on our

lives and attitudes. What are we about? What is God asking us to do? What a privilege that God has invited me to walk with him. **Walk With Me** is not so much a command as an act of loving-kindness, by which God puts his arm around us and speaks to us personally and intimately about things that are of the greatest importance and change our lives."



### WHAT CAN I DO FOR LENT?

Why not take advantage of a great opportunity this Lent to learn more about some of the

#### KEY FIGURES in Church History?

Come along on the six Monday evenings of LENT to a DVD presentation of:

#### Bishop Robert Barron's

### "CATHOLICISM – THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS"

Where: SFX Hall beside church

When: Mondays during Lent from February 19

What time: 7 pm until 8.30 pm

What else: Tea/coffee and informal discussion

Who: ALL Welcome.



### **Homily**

*"Of course I want to! Be cured!"*

### **Illustration**

Authors occasionally use "role reversal" in their work: situations where people change places and circumstances. Mark Twain wrote *The Prince and the Pauper*, in which identical children, Prince Edward, son of King Henry VIII, and Tom Canty, a pauper, swap places and live each other's lives. Scottish playwright J.M. Barrie wrote *The Admirable Crichton*, in which an aristocratic family and their butler, Crichton, are marooned on a desert island. Crichton takes charge and conventions are turned on their heads. When they are later rescued and return home, things return to normal. In both tales, we are left wondering whether things really do go back to what they were. Is Prince Edward really King Henry's son? Or is Tom Canty playing the part? Will Crichton happily return to being a servant, having previously taken charge on the desert island? Will it end well, with the people in the story being the better for their experiences? We're left guessing.

### **Gospel Teaching**

Today's Gospel is a story of role reversal. Mark's version shows signs

of being out of place in its context. In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus was surrounded by disciples and healed many sick people. When he tried to find space on his own, Jesus' disciples tracked him down. As today's passage opens, Jesus is alone, in an unidentified town. Did Mark insert this passage into the narrative here deliberately? Did he hide any clues that would have located the story elsewhere in Jesus' ministry? We don't know, but the way the story is told heightens the tension. It gets off to a bad start. Under the law, a leper was forbidden to approach anyone, but this one approaches Jesus. Perhaps he thinks he has nothing to lose: he's already as good as dead, a non-person cut off from all human contact. He comes up to Jesus, drops to his knees and says, "If you want to, you can cure me." Jesus does the unthinkable and touches him, saying, "Of course I want to! Be cured!" Mark says Jesus felt sorry for him: the original Greek word means that he felt great compassion.

Many things happen in this story. First, the man is made clean, and Jesus, conscious of what the law required for the man to be declared free from leprosy, tells him to go and show himself to the priest, making the offering prescribed by Moses as evidence of his recovery. It's not stated what this offering would have

been, but presumably once the priest had declared a leper clean, the sight of the victim offering sacrifice in the Temple proved that he or she had been pronounced cured. Jesus tells this man to say nothing about this to anyone, but just as the visible testimony of his cure was evident, so now is his verbal acknowledgement of Jesus' power testimony of God's work. The man recently cut off from all human contact is now publicly holding court at the heart of the community from which he was once excluded. Jesus, however, now has to stay outside the town, where there are no others. The one who cleansed the leper takes the place of the one he cleansed. Role reversal indeed.

### **Application**

This miracle is about one person, but it has universal application. When Jesus cleansed the leper and took on his condition, we have the sign of what happened to humanity when the Son of God came into the human world. In the beautifully poetic creation story, God creates humans in God's image and likeness. In the incarnation, God in Christ comes among humans in our image and likeness. In today's Gospel we have a further expansion on this idea. Jesus takes on the isolated condition of the former leper who is restored to fuller humanity.

On the cross, full role reversal takes place. Jesus pays the penalty for all sin: he exchanges places with us by dying for us. We become more fully human by Jesus' death because he has destroyed what makes us less human. Here's the question this story poses for us: if the totally innocent Jesus took on the entire burden of our sin in his outreach to us, can we ever excuse failing to reach out to a brother or sister who is dehumanised by exclusion, persecution, marginalisation? The answer, of course, is that we can't. Who are the equivalent of lepers in our community? How might we reach out to them?



### Ash Wednesday

Because I do not hope to turn again  
Because I do not hope  
Because I do not hope to turn  
Desiring this man's gift and that man's  
scope  
I no longer strive to strive towards  
such things  
(Why should the aged eagle stretch its  
wings?) Why should I mourn  
The vanished power of the usual  
reign?  
Because I do not hope to know again  
The infirm glory of the positive hour  
Because I do not think  
Because I know I shall not know  
The one veritable transitory power  
Because I cannot drink

There, where trees flower, and  
springs flow, for there is nothing again  
Because I know that time is always  
time  
And place is always and only place  
And what is actual is actual only for  
one time  
And only for one place  
I rejoice that things are as they are  
and I renounce the blessed face  
And renounce the voice  
Because I cannot hope to turn again  
Consequently I rejoice, having to con-  
struct something  
Upon which to rejoice  
And pray to God to have mercy upon  
us And pray that I may forget  
These matters that with myself I too  
much discuss Too much explain  
Because I do not hope to turn again  
Let these words answer  
For what is done, not to be done  
again  
May the judgement not be too heavy  
upon us  
Because these wings are no longer  
wings to fly  
But merely vans to beat the air  
The air which is now thoroughly small  
and dry  
Smaller and dryer than the will  
Teach us to care and not to care  
Teach us to sit still.  
Pray for us sinners now and at the  
hour of our death  
Pray for us now and at the hour of our  
death.

*T S Eliot*

<b>Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 18 February 2018 - First Sunday of Lent Year B Cycle 2</u></b>			
	<b>08:30</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Brenda Warde	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Mary Hayes	Menna McBain	Liz Morawiecki
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Fran Smallwood		Sergio Pavia
Bidding Prayers	Adrian Eyre		Lucy Reed
Offertory	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Frances Dees & Jacqui Ramage-S		Joao & Andre Pavia
<b>Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Mary's Meals</b>			

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	
	11-Feb	Jacqui Moore & Jan Wyman
	18-Feb	Andrew M & Pauline Gill
	25-Feb	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	04-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	11-Mar	Jackie King & Jan Wyman

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

**Deaths:** Phillip Cook, Rebecca Dykes, Philomena Nicholas and Sister Mary Clare

**Anniversaries:** Siobhan Hayes, Denise Homfray, Catherine Connely, Sarah Slattery, Lena Whitlock, Mary Anderson, Rhoda Linehan, William Tyler, Leslie Blackmon, Rev. Hilary Brightling, Claude Meredith, Isabel Wheatly, Gordon Taylor, Maurice Cummings, Charles Hill and Olive Morgan.

**The Sick:** Please pray for: Neal Harries, Fr Aidan, Rachel Thompson, Phillip Archer, Sonja Hayes, Sheila Langford, Robin Hayward, Gil Savory, Denise Ellis, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Dominique Wetz, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsop, 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)*

<p><b>Sixth Sunday</b> <b>in</b> <b>Ordinary</b> <b>Time</b></p>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me for the sake of your name.</p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> We proclaim your Death ...</p> <p><b>Communion:</b> They ate and had their fill and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.</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	Kath Parry	Anne Stapleton	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Julia Davey	Polly Maund-Powell	Pat Draper
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayer	Liz Norman		Jane Davies
Offertory	Parish Children	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Rob Corrigan & Jan Wyman
Mass Intention	<i>Siobhan Hayes RIP</i>	<i>Pro Populo</i>	

**Second Collection - Marriage Care**

**Food Bank Collection: Eddie & Jan Wyman**

***What's On for the week***

Mon	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	<b>Ash Wednesday: Day of fasting and abstinence</b> Mass at 8 am & Midday (sung) in the Abbey
Thu	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 and Midday Mass
Sat	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00