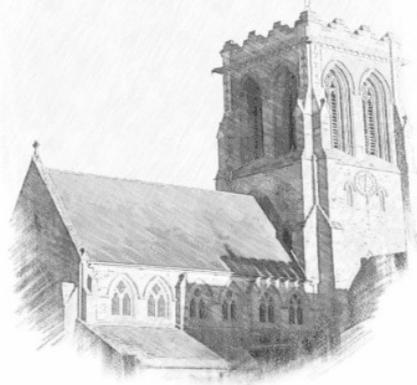


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**11 March 2018  
Laetare Sunday**

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The fourth Sunday in Lent derives its Latin name from the first word of the Mass Entrance Antiphon, "*Laetare Jerusalem*" (Rejoice, O Jerusalem). It is a day of joy within the penitential season. The altars may be decorated with flowers, organ playing is permitted, and the priests may wear rose-coloured vestments instead of purple, all symbolizing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection. It's also Mothering Sunday, so we wish all mothers a very special and relaxing day.

Archbishop George is visiting Hereford this week and will be celebrating the deanery Lenten Station Mass at Our Lady's Church on Tuesday at 7 pm. Fr Matthew has asked whether some of our parishioners could act as Welcomers and bring forward the gifts during the offertory. Any volunteers?

Diocesan Annual Mass for those Living with Dementia at Abergavenny on Wednesday 14 March at 2 pm.

Parish Day of Reflection for those exercising Ministry in the Church, especially our readers and extraordinary ministers – Saturday 24 March 11 am to 3 pm. Simple lunch included. **Please sign the notice in the porch if you are able to attend.**

*Fr Nicholas*

**Welcome to Belmont Abbey. If you are a 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>£78.66</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>£70.41</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>Catholic Education Thank You!</b>		

### Parish Outreach

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards supporting Marriage Care, Mary's Meals and Cafod. Thank you. This month there will be collections to support local Catholic Education (4th), Hereford Food Bank (11th), Easter Flowers (18th) and Aid to the Church in Need (25th).



### Lenten Penitential Service

This Lent, the three Hereford parishes have decided to try and hold a joint penitential service. It will take place at Our Lady's Church, Belmont Road on Thursday 22 March at 7 pm.



**REAL FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS** made by the Meaningful Chocolate Company with the Easter Story in the box. [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).



### EMMAUS YOUTH

The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is 17 March at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 2.30-5.30 pm. Come and join us for some fun!! Rob and Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway and Ben Aldridge. 01432 352241 & 07739566578. [emmausyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:emmausyouth@hotmail.com).



The next consultation meeting on the proposed by-pass fort Belmont is on Friday 16 March at Three Counties Hotel: display at 5 pm. Q & A from 7 pm - 9 pm



Most Sundays in the year churchgoers worship at their nearest parish or "daughter church". Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or "mother" church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their "mother" church, or the main church or Cathedral of the area. On *Laetare* or Mid-Lent Sunday, boys and girls who lived away from home (as apprentices, servants, etc.) were given permission to go home to visit their mother church, in which they were baptized or had been brought up. The original reason for this was because the first words of the Mass, "*Laetare Jerusalem*," were considered

in medieval times to be addressed to the "second Jerusalem" (the Church); and as the Jews called Jerusalem "Mother Jerusalem," so the Christians later called the church, which gave them spiritual birth in baptism, "Mother Church."

It was also the custom for the boys and girls to visit their own mother on the same day. They brought her flowers and simnel cakes and would do all the housework for her. Happy Mothering Sunday!



**Lent Study Lunches at Ewyas Harold:  
"Making all things new"**

On four Thursdays continuing 1 March at 12.30 in the Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall (With soup lunch first)

Thursday 15 March - Fr Nick

Thursday 22 March - Rev Eric Locke



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.

**Dates for your Diary**

**13 March**

Station Mass  
OLQM 7:00 pm

**20 March**

Tea & Chat  
Parish Hall 2:30 pm

**22 March**

Lent Penitential Service  
All parishes  
OLQM 7:00 pm

**23 March**

Church Cleaning  
9:00 am

**3 April**

Diamond Diners  
Three Horseshoes  
12:45

**14 April**

Jumble Sale  
OLQM 1:30 pm



**WHAT CAN I DO FOR LENT?**

"CATHOLICISM-PIVOTAL PLAYERS"  
Every Monday evening in Lent at SFX. 7 pm - 8.30 pm in Parish Hall

**19 Mar: G. K. Chesterton**

**26 Mar: Michelangelo**

ALL WELCOME! Tea/coffee and informal discussion



### Wednesday Lent Days An English Spring

The 20th Century saw many powerful contributions to Christian life and letters in this country. Through their writings and witness they helped shape the Church in their lifetime and offer to us many fruits of the spirit. During Lent we enrich our faith through exploring this new inheritance.

The day starts with coffee at 10.00 am, Mass at 12 noon and includes a soup lunch with a suggested offering £10.

14 March Caryll Houselander – Dom Brendan Thomas

21 March Basil Hume – Dom David Yates



### Jumble Sale

Our next jumble sale is on 14 April at OLQM parish hall. As always we could do with clean clothing, books, bric-a-brac and children's toys. Please leave all items in the Parish Porch not in the Church porch. Thank you.



Don't forget on **Palm Sunday** (25 March) there are only two Sunday Masses at Belmont Abbey - **8.30 & 10.00** am only. The Abbot will preside

at the 10 am Pontifical High Mass, which, because of the long liturgy, replaces the 9.30 & 11 am Masses. Blessed Palms will of course be available at the 8.30 am Parish Mass



### CELEBRATE WALES:21-22 APRIL 2018

Celebrate Wales, the Catholic Family Charismatic Conference, is in its 7 year and will be held at Mary Immaculate High School, Wenvoe, Cardiff, CF5 5QZ. There are groups for all ages with amazing young leaders and inspirational speakers. It starts on Saturday 21 April and ends on Sunday 22. The theme is 'See I am doing a new thing' (Isaiah 43:19) - come and hear some inspired teachings along with Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer ministry and workshops.

Visit:-

[www.celebrateconference.org/wales](http://www.celebrateconference.org/wales) or ring Michael Coyle on 01952 417223. Bursaries are available for those in need. Alternatively, you can ring Rob or Jacqui Corrigan on H. 352241 if you would like more information.



### Proposed "Relief" road and "bypass"

In the latest public document, Belmont Abbey is recognised in the consultation and it highlights that all routes will have a "Severe/Adverse" effect on it. Breinton Parish residents were told that the new "bypass" will

not improve congestion on routes into Hereford.

Liz Morawiecki who is working very hard to highlight the problems with the current proposal suggests as many people as possible complete either the paper questionnaire or the online survey. Please note that at Q3 if you choose a route or “no Preference” this will be recognised that you support the principle of a bypass. Ignore the question and just put in the box “no bypass” if this is your opinion. See page 2 for meeting.

The full consultation and the information the council are presenting can be found on here on [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/HTP](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/HTP).



## Homily

*“God loved the world so much.”*

## Illustration

Ancient Israelites were fascinated by the colour red. This came from the importance they gave to blood. They knew that blood was essential for life and they believed that life was somehow contained in blood. Loss of blood meant loss of life. The colour red therefore became symbolic of life and, occasionally, death. Thus Aaron, Moses’ brother and first high priest, sprinkled the people with water (another life-giving symbol), using red wool.

The background to the image used in today’s Gospel is a story from the book of Numbers, about the rebellious Israelites in the desert. When bitten by serpents, they were cured of fatal injuries by gazing upon a bronze representation of a fiery serpent. The story is unusual because it is about graven images, which were strictly forbidden in Jewish culture. That aside, their healing of those who had been bitten by real serpents most likely draws on bronze being a red metal – well, almost red. Today’s Gospel draws heavily on that image. The connection may not seem obvious to us, but people in Jesus’ own time would have easily understood the imagery. Of course, Jesus refers first and foremost to himself. He, the Son of Man, must be lifted up, just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the desert. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and an expert in the scriptures, would most certainly have understood Jesus’ point.

## Gospel Teaching

All three readings today bear witness to what the Ephesians passage calls God’s generous mercy: “when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ”. It speaks of God’s action in transforming humans. The letter is short on detail, but the first reading, from the second book of Chronicles,

provides plenty. The two books of Chronicles figure rarely in our Sunday and feast day liturgies – there’s one passage apiece from these two books. This passage describes the successive infidelities of the Israelites, from the heads of the priesthood to the most ordinary of people, until there was nothing to distinguish them from other nations. It was only a matter of time before the Temple was destroyed and the people taken into exile. It all looked hopeless – until God took the initiative and restored God’s people to a new life, with a reconstructed Temple. The real surprise, however, was that God’s chosen agent in this was a Gentile, King Cyrus of Persia. Ephesians’ arguments may be difficult to digest; Chronicles’ story may appear remote, set in a past we can scarcely glimpse; but Jesus’ words are neither remote nor dense. Jesus likens his own lifting up to Moses lifting the bronze serpent, and says that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life; and then he drops the bombshell: “God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.”

### **Application**

God’s purpose is revealed: to save, not to destroy the world. We must be careful about the phrase “God sent

his Son”. This cannot mean that God commanded his Son to die a horrible death. What kind of God could do so? The Gospel, however, does not say that the *Father* sent his Son: rather it says “*God* sent his Son”. The Son is God, the Father is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. So the phrase “God sent” is the collective commitment to humanity that God – Father, Son and Spirit – made: to enter human existence as God in human form. So Jesus, Son of God and son of Mary, is the visible expression of God who saves the world.

Lent is often thought of as a mournful season – but it can be a season of joy too. Today’s readings make clear why this is so. It is about reflecting more and more deeply on God’s infinite love, directed at our salvation, at our living the life of God to its fullest. Now that’s a cause for joy. It is, of course, a season of penance. This too can be something positive. We do not try to win God’s favour, or persuade God that we deserve God’s love, because we can never deserve God’s love. Our Lenten penances can draw us more fully into that great mystery of God’s love. We can be positively bursting with joy at the thought that God, Father, Son and Spirit, loves us so much that God is prepared to go to such great lengths to give us life.

<b>Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 18 March 2018</u></b>		<b>5 Sunday Lent Year B Cycle 2</b>	
	<b>08:30</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Hayes Family	Clare Wichbold	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Liz Norman	Paul Nickhold	Pat Draper
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayers	Ann Jackson		Lucy Reed
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Frances Riddell & Teresa Harriss	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley & Margaret Evans
<b>Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Easter Flowers</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-Mar	Jackie King & Jan Wyman
	18-Mar	Andrew M & Pauline Gill
	25-Mar	Pat Wood & Mary Wood

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

**Deaths:** William Padden, Elaine White, Sheila Langford and Phillip Cook

**Anniversaries:** Mary Jones, Harry Sargeant, Bernadette Doverman, Michael Veale, Sybil Leggett, Germane Marshall, Patrick Egan, Mary Jo Donnelley, William Kemeys, Ria Lynch, Peter Meiklejohn, Doreen Stewart, Charles Dowdeswell, Francis McLoughlin, Ann McLoughlin, Daisy Meredith and Mary Burge.

**The Sick:** Please pray for: Neal Harries, Kevin Hanna, Fr Aidan, Rachel Thompson, Phillip Archer, Sonja Hayes, Robin Hayward, Gil Savory, Denise Ellis, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Dominique Wetz, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsop, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

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

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Laetare Sunday</h1>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> Rejoice, Jerusalem and all who love her. Be joyful all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.</p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> Save us Saviour of the world ...</p> <p><b>Communion:</b> Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes off the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.</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	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Adrian Eyre	Anthea Morton-S	Sergio Pavia
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Mary Hayes		Sally Johns
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-S		Rob Corrigan
Offertory	Hayes Family	Gillick Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Fran Smallwood		Joao & Andre Pavia
Mass Intention	<b>Brooks Family</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>	<b>Elaine White RIP</b>
<b>Second Collection - Hereford Food Bank</b>			
<b>Food Bank Collection: John Goodall-Copestake</b>			

<b>What's On for the week</b>	
Mon	<b>Lenten Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>Lenten Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Lenten Station Mass - OLQM - 7:00 pm
Wed	<b>Lenten Feria:</b> Mass at 8 am & Midday Mass in the Abbey.
Thu	<b>Lenten Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	<b>Lenten Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 & Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	<b>Lenten Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00