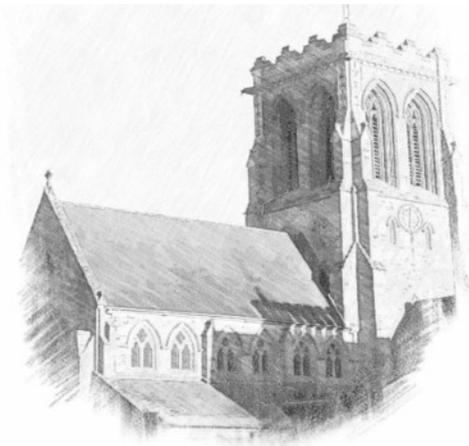


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th Sunday of Lent

13th March 2016
(Cycle C)

PARISH PRIEST

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Items for the Newsletter to
admin@belmontparish.org.uk
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Passiontide begins today - the last two weeks of Lent, when the readings and prayers of the liturgy begin to focus on the last days of Christ's earthly ministry leading to his Passion. Crucifixes and statues are often veiled because Christ during this time no longer walked openly among the people, but hid himself. However, the veiling serves to heighten the sombre and penitential mood and sense of expectation as the Church moves towards Holy Week and the celebration of Christ's death on Good Friday.

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday (20th 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

Thank you to all who supported our Jumble Sale yesterday – especially all the volunteers and helpers.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	£294.37
	Standing Orders	£412.48
The 1 st Collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2nd Collection	£160.75
The 2 nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for <i>Parish Outreach</i> . Thank you.		



TEA & CHAT

The next four dates for Tea and Chat are, Tuesday March 15th, Tuesday April 19th, Tuesday May 17th and Tuesday June 21st. Anyone who would like to meet others over a drink and slice of cake, and a good chat will be very welcome. These meetings are proving very popular so don't be shy come along, bring your knitting or anything else and enjoy the company of others. All meetings start at 2.30 pm and finish around 4.00 pm.

Margaret Rose



Ewyas Harold Churches Together

There will be a silent **Walk of Witness on Good Friday**, starting at St Michael's Church at 11.30am,

continuing to the Baptist Church and finishing at the Methodist Church.



Sacrament of Reconciliation There have been quite a few extra opportunities to celebrate this sacrament recently as part of the Year of Mercy but just in case anyone missed these, or would like an extra opportunity before Easter, there will be a priest available on:

- Wednesday 16th March 2.30-3.30 pm
- Saturday 19th March 10—10.30 am
- Tuesday 22nd March 7.30 – 8 pm
- Saturday 26th March 10—10.30 am



Lent Study Lunches at Ewyas Harold:

Migration & Movement

The last study day is on Thursday 17 March at 12 noon in the Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall (With soup lunch from 1 pm - donations)



Don't forget on Palm Sunday (20th 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 .



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 15 March
Tea & Chat
2:30 to 4:00

Wednesday 16 March
Lenten day of Recollection
10 am to 4 pm

Friday 18 March
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

Sunday 22 May
Confirmation Mass
11:00 am

Queen's Jubilee Picnic
12 June

Belmont Grand Fete
18 June

Grandparents and
Grandchildren's Day
16 July



Wednesdays in Lent at
Belmont Abbey
St Paul and his Communities

Throughout his lifetime Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, travelled widely across the then known world, founding churches and building up relationships with those that already existed. During Lent we examine Paul's relationship with five very different Christian communities.

*Wednesday 16th March: **Philippi:**
Abbot Paul*

Morning Coffee 10.00, Talk 10.30, Mass at 12 noon. 1.00 Simple Bread & Soup Lunch. Talk 2.00. Afternoon Tea 3.30 pm. Suggested Offering £10.00. Includes Lunch.



Foot Washing

The foot washing on Holy Thursday may seem somewhat anachronistic but the church has kept it in the liturgy for good reason. As Christ washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, emphasizing for them the connection between Eucharist and service to others, this ritual remains in our liturgy for the same reason. It is to emphasize that Eucharist is not separate from service, but that they are inextricably bound together. Part of the nature of receiving Holy Communion

ion is acknowledging that we are intimately connected to one another and responsible for one another's well-being. The essential nature of Holy Communion is unity, not only with God, but also with one another. This is to be demonstrated through service.

If you would like to be chosen as one of the twelve to have your feet washed at the Evening Mass (7pm) on Maundy Thursday, please contact the Parish Office asap



HOMILY

"They went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest."

Illustration

Moving house is a complicated business. There is all the excitement of choosing a new place to live, working out the finances and practical arrangements, and then settling into a new home. In preparation for this, though, is the sorting out of the home we are leaving: the discovery of drawers full of things we'd forgotten we had, sifting through papers, books and clothes, and realising, all too often, what an extraordinary amount of stuff we have accumulated over the years. Things put away in the attic, in case we need them; clothes

not worn for years, which might fit again one day; children's books and toys we couldn't bring ourselves to part with – all these things have to be sorted through, and decisions made as to what happens to them next. This can be joyful and painful, as well as exhausting.

Perhaps it is little wonder, then, that psychologists list moving house as a "significant life event" – an event of upheaval, which makes considerable emotional demands on people as we both grieve, in some way, what we are leaving, and move on to something new. We human beings don't tend to find such change simple or easy.

Gospel Teaching

This may be why the message of today's readings can be such a hard one for us to hear and to act upon. The normal human difficulty we have with change and moving on lies at the heart of the Lord's impassioned plea in the first reading. He calls us not to recall the past, but to look and see the new thing God is doing: "can you not see it?" This radical call to move forward, and learn to leave the past, is at the heart of the Gospel, for it is the essential movement of repentance, forgiveness and new life. This is brought home to us more clearly when we learn that the Greek word used in the Gospels for

“forgiveness” is the word for “letting go”. To be forgiven by the Lord, as the adulterous woman discovered, involves a radical, and somewhat disorientating, letting go of all the mess that has happened, and moving on into a differently shaped way of living. We can wonder what thoughts and feelings accompanied this woman as she moved from facing condemnation and brutal death to being released back into her daily life, with the simple – though hardly easy! – instruction, “don’t sin any more”.

Christians are called to live this strange freedom of letting go of our sins and, in some radical ways, leaving our past behind. This is how Paul lives, racing ahead, always looking to God’s own mysterious future – the glory of the resurrection. Even in the physical chains of prison, Paul knows the freedom of having let go, a certain forgetfulness of the past that would hold us back.

Application

We are moving towards the end of Lent, a season of repentance traditionally seen as a time for “giving up” something, of fasting, giving away and prayer. In the light of God’s word to us today, we can reflect on how these are all ways of “letting go” of the things that so often ensnare us, of our own needs and appetites, our own self-determination even. And as

we let go in these ways, we learn a deeper trust in God’s loving will for us.

It’s a good exercise, at this time of our year, to spend a little time reflecting on what in our past we are still holding on to, in ways that hold us back from following Jesus more fully. There may be sins, long forgiven, but which still shape our thinking and behaviour; or routines and disciplines that were once life-giving and helpful, but which are now empty and deadening. For all of us there will be things we are being called to leave behind so as to be freer still to walk with our Lord. To identify some small way in which we could take a step away from these past burdens and towards God’s “new thing” in our life is the Lenten invitation for the coming week. It is such a letting go that will enable us to respond to the freedom Jesus offers us in his compassion and forgiveness: he lets go of our past sins and difficulties, but we are called to do so too. Then we can be free to follow him into a new life, confident in his companionship.



PALM SUNDAY	08:30	10:00
<u>Welcomers</u>	Kath Parry	Clare Wichbold
<u>1st Reading</u>	Jennifer Hackman	Patrick Walesby
<u>2nd Reading</u>	Richard Batho	
<u>Bidding Prayer</u>	Julia Davey	Anthea Morton-S & Maria Large
<u>Offertory</u>	Children of Parish	
<u>Extraordinary Minister</u>	Seamus Hayes	

Maundy Thursday 7 pm	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Offertory Procession</u>	
Jacqui Ramage - S & Brother		Teresa Harris & Menna McBain	
<u>Washing of Feet</u>	A Monk	A Monk	Fran Grant
Clare Nickerson			Ray Rose
Margaret Rose		Stephen Fisher	Frances Wood

Good Friday 3:00 pm		
<u>Welcomer</u>	Marion Luscombe	
<u>Readers</u>	Gabrielle Stanley	A Monk
<u>Collection for the Holy Places</u>	Anne & Ross Williams & Seamus Hayes	

Holy Saturday		<u>Offertory Procession</u>
<u>Welcomers</u>	Kath Parry & Monica Russell	Nickerson Family & Gabrielle Stanley
<u>Readers</u>		
1 st - Genesis 1 Patrick Walesby	2 nd - Genesis 22 Sally Johns	3 rd Exodus 14 Polly Maund-Powell
4 th - Isaiah 54 Menna McBain	5 th - Ezekiel 35 Clare Nickerson	Epistle St Paul A Monk

Ministers, etc. For next 20 March Palm Sunday Year C

	8:30 am		10:00 am
Welcomer(s)	Kath Parry		Clare Wichbold
Sacristan			
1st Reading	Jennifer Hackman		Patrick Walesby
2nd Reading	Richard Batho		
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		
Offertory	Children of the Parish		Anthea Morton-Saner & Maria Large
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes		

Next Sunday -Easter Flowers

<p>WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 10 am - 4 pm Day of Recollection with Mass Lenten Lunch Confessions 2.30 pm - 3:30 pm Wednesday 16 March</p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 13 Mar	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	13-Mar	Pat Wood & Rachel Cowdrey
	20-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Jan Wyman
	27-Mar	Jackie King & Monica Russell

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

Deaths: Sue Ball, Mary Carroll, John Wallin and John Keeler

Anniversaries: Sybil Leggett, Germane Marshall, Patrick Egan, William Kemeys, Ria Lynch, Francis McLoughlin, Peter Meiklejohn, Doreen Stewart, Charles Dowdeswell, Ann McLoughlin, Daisy Meredith, Mary Burge, Amelia Rogers, Olive Hill, Saul Jones, Fr Edmund Whiriskey and Helen Brymer.

The Sick: Please pray for Margaret O'Connor, Kenny Hanna, Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Edward Medicott, Bridie Gittoes, Sr Philipa, 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 13th March Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2

<p>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</p>	<p>Entrance: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the world...</p> <p>Communion: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Hayes Family	Anne Stapleton	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1st Reading	Julia Davey	Brenda Warde	Jacqui Corrigan
2nd Reading	William Jackson		Jane Davies
Bidding Prayer	Ann Jackson		Peter Davies
Offertory	Children's Liturgy	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Fran Smallwood		Monica Tomlin
Mass Intention	John Spolnik RIP	Pro Populo	Sue Ball RIP
Second Collection : <i>Parish Outreach</i>			
Food Bank Delivery: Ray Rose			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Abbey. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm.
Thu	St Patrick: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am Exposition at 11-12 and Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	St Joseph: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00