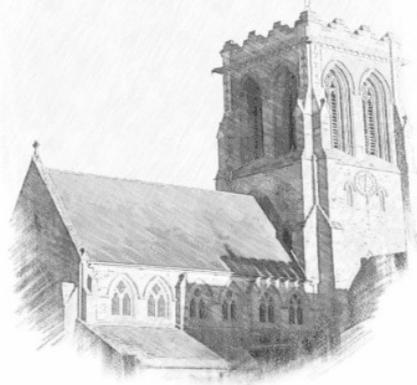


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

15 April 2018

3rd Sunday of Easter

PARISH PRIEST

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Today's gospel immediately follows that beautiful account of the disciples walking to Emmaus on the evening of Easter Day. They explain the problem to the unrecognised Jesus as they journey along the road to Emmaus. It was only when they stopped for supper and at the breaking and blessing of bread that their eyes were opened and they recognized the man for who he was - their risen Lord and Master.

We too experience a similar event each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are drawn into the mystery, explained to us through our listening to the scriptures, through our prayer and the words of the Mass. Our whole liturgy leads to that moment of communion with our Lord. Yes, it is easier to recognize Jesus in this manner than any other. But we must remember that it is from this that we must build our Christian lives. We must leave church, having recognized and met Jesus in this holy sacrament - and act upon it. May the risen Lord truly guide and influence our whole lives. Alleluia!

The second collection today is for Hereford Close House. Close House exists to help young people, mostly through leisure time activities to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacity that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

Fr Nicholas

Welcome to Belmont Abbey. Is 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	1 st Collection	£361.28
Sunday's	Standing Orders	£581.00

The 1st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.

	2 nd Collection	£190.83
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The 2nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for **Supporting Catholic Education. Thank You**



Second Collections – During April, our parish outreach second collections will be going to support Catholic Education (April 8), Hereford Close House (April 15), the Survive Miva Charity appeal (April 22) and the Syrian Refugees (April 29)



Gift Aid

There are still some Gift Aid envelopes waiting for their new home. Please pick them up as you leave Mass today! Don't forget, Gift Aiding costs you nothing but allows the parish to reclaim the tax paid.



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit from Fr Matthew, please let him know on 01432 265177 / fr.matthew@live.co.uk.



New Rota of Ministries

Is due for the period 22 April to and including 29 July. Please let me know your **non-available** dates by 18 April. Frangrant235@btinternet.com or on 01432 266307. Many thanks for your help.

Fran Grant



Dates for your Diary

17 April
Tea & Chat
Parish Hall 2:30



Nuns from Belarus will be selling their wonderful products at Belmont (Kemble Room) on the morning of Monday, 23rd April, from 8 am until 10 am.



Important request

Would the parishioner whose gift aid number is 12, please contact Fr Nick as soon as possible. Many Thanks.



Red Boxes

Please hand your red boxes in as soon possible to your promoter or to me, Mandy, at the 8:30 Mass. Thank you.



If you cannot get to Mass- remember that you can go to our website to find out what is going on in the parish. Website address is on the first page.



EMMAUS YOUTH - The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is Saturday 12th May, from 2.30-5.30 pm. A group are also attending the Celebrate Conference in Cardiff on 21st-22nd April. 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



**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. The theme is 'See I am doing a new thing' Come and hear some inspired teachings along with adoration, reconciliation, prayer ministry and workshops. wwcelebrateconference

[.org/wales](http://www.celebratewales.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.



**Wales and the Marches Catholic
History Society**

Re-arranged talk: Sunday April 15 at 3 pm at St. David's Catholic 6th Form College Tygwyn Rd., Cardiff. For Sat. Nav. please use CF23 5JB. Mary Sullivan and the Newtown Association "Little Ireland" – the Story of Newtown and the Newtown Association. All are most welcome to this free talk. For further info: Phone Tricia 029 2059 5899 or triciacoulthard@outlook.com



**Gift Aid & Committed Offertory
Contributors**

The 2017-18 Tax Year has just ended. Please use the new envelopes from this Sunday. If you are a Standing Order contributor and would like a set of second collection envelopes, please let me know. In due time the Gift Aid returns will be calculated; please let us know if you would like a receipt of monies paid to Belmont Abbey Parish in this last tax year.

They will only be provided on request. May I also ask all 'Gift Aid' contributors to check and let the Finance Office know if they ceased to be tax payers in the last year.
Fr Nicholas



"ADOREMUS"

The Bishops Conference of England and Wales decided to hold a Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage in 2018. It takes place in Liverpool from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 September.

Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. The last International Eucharistic Congress in England was held in 1908. Participants will engage in a series of sessions focusing on different dimensions of the Eucharist and the daily celebration and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Anyone interested in going to the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress should contact Fr. Matthew at fr.matthew@live.co.uk or OLQM@talktalk.net. Please also see the poster in the porch and in Parish Hall.



General Data Protection Regulation

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will take effect in the UK from 25 May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used by organisations. Parishes must comply with its requirements, just like any other charity or organisation. The GDPR is an evolution of existing UK data protection law. However, there are significant new obligations that will have an impact on parishes. We are already trying to update our parish data policies and assess what further needs to be done

The law is complex, but there are a number of underlying principles, including that personal data will be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently. That it is only used for a specific processing purpose that the data subject has been made aware of and no other, without further consent. That data collected should be "adequate, relevant and limited." i.e. only the minimum amount of data should be kept for specific processing. Data must be "accurate and where necessary kept up to date" and should not be stored for longer than is

necessary, and that storage is safe and secure.

The newsletter will keep parishioners up to date on this new law and will soon be writing to all parishioners regarding details held by the parish.



Homily

“You are witnesses to this.”

Illustration

A remarkable number of Hollywood films, down through the decades of movie-making, have more or less the same plot. An innocent bystander – typically, in movie history, portrayed by an attractive actress – has witnessed a heinous and violent crime, probably a murder. The perpetrator – a menacing-looking sort – is a particularly vicious gang boss who tries to have the witness assassinated. The hero – played by a ruggedly handsome actor – is a police officer who is charged with protecting the witness. As the trial draws near, the villain resorts to more and more desperate means to kill the witness, but the hero manages to protect her from harm, she gives her testimony at the trial, the villain is found guilty and goes down for a long stretch. Meanwhile, following movie convention, there often develops a

romantic attachment between the hero and the heroine.

Such is a common plot of many film thrillers; and, however far-fetched we may consider it to be, one thing that it can do is to remind us that a witness can be a very dangerous thing to be. There are times when it takes courage to stand up and bear witness to things that we believe to be true.

Gospel Teaching

When Jesus told his disciples, “You are witnesses to this,” they may not have been entirely delighted to be chosen for that role. In New Testament Greek, the word for “witness” is the same as that for “martyr”. The early Christians would have been aware that those who were appointed as witnesses to Christ might well be called upon to follow his example and lay down their lives for him. St Stephen, and St Peter and St Paul, and St James the Great, to name but a few from the first years of the Church’s existence, did in fact die a martyr’s death, and many more have done so over the centuries, in many different countries around the world. And it’s still a danger that people face in some parts of the world even in our own day.

To what, exactly, did the apostles bear witness? To the resurrection of Christ. It was not necessary to bear witness to his crucifixion; that was

common knowledge. Indeed, some of those to whom Peter preached had themselves been instrumental in having Jesus crucified. In today's first reading Peter relates the crucifixion as an undoubted fact, but goes on, "God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses." On another occasion recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, speaking before the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin, Peter said, "By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour... We are witnesses to all this."

Application

We are called to be witnesses to Christ. Will we also be called to be martyrs? It may not seem likely in this country, in our time; but even if we do not have to face being stoned to death, we may very well have to face opposition, ridicule, contempt, discrimination. A woman recently fought a case for unfair dismissal, having been sacked for wearing a crucifix. Are we prepared to give open and visible evidence of our faith, even if it gets us into trouble?

We are not eyewitnesses to the resurrection, as Peter and the apostles were. We can only bear witness that we accept what has come down to us from the apostles, and what we have experienced in our lives. That may seem a relatively safe way to be a

witness. But perhaps not so. Many witnesses in criminal trials may have wished that they had not been so aware of what was going on, that they had been looking the other way, that they had not been so sharp-eyed. Perhaps we may come to wish that we had not heard the Lord calling in the night, that we had not recognised Jesus in the stranger on the road, that he had not opened our minds to understand the scriptures, that our hearts had not burned within us as we read of him in the Bible. Then we would not have been called to be his witnesses. But we did hear him, we did recognise him; and we are his witnesses in the world today. That is his calling to each one of us.



CAFOD

"Thank you for your support to our Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and with it we hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount of match funding to make it happen. You can help us reach the full amount needed for this crucial programme. We still have some way to go yet! To donate please go to cafod.org.uk/lent "

Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 22 April 2018 4th Sunday of Easter Year B Cycle

	08:30:	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Desmond Keohane	Rita Chamberlain & Marnie Archer
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Mary Hayes	Sally Johns	Monica Tomlin
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayers	Jacqui Ramage-S		Pat Draper
Offertory	Ramage-H Family		
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Deacon Eddie & Chris Moore
Next Sunday - Survive Miva Charity appeal			

Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is usually celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 15 April)

Deaths: Gill Wiseman, William Padden, Elaine White and Sheila Langford

Anniversaries: Horlando Salinas-Castillo, Sylvia Phillips, Francis Whittington, Waclaw Wybraniec, Dom Peter Brady, Thomas Sienicki, Tom Bray, Ann Francis, Eugenia Zinaida Butler, Jeanette Evans and Alice Curley.

The Sick: Please pray for: Neal Harries, Kenny 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.

<p>3rd</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>of Easter</p>	<p>Entrance: Cry out with joy to God all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name, O render him glorious praise, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread, alleluia.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30:	09:30	11:00:
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Annette Mansie	Brenda Warde	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Ann Jackson	Clare Wichbold	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayer	Richard Batho		Liz Morawiecki
Offertory	Parish Children	Frances Riddle & Menna McBain	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Deacon Eddie & Julia Davey		Monica Tomlin & Deacon Eddie
Mass Intention	<i>Joseph Doverman RIP</i>	Pro Populo	<i>In Thanksgiving</i>
Second Collection: Hereford Close House			
Food Bank Collection: <i>Eddie & Jan Wyman</i>			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am NO Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am
Fri	Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am: Exposition and Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	St Anselm: Mass at 8 am: Reconciliation: 10 am