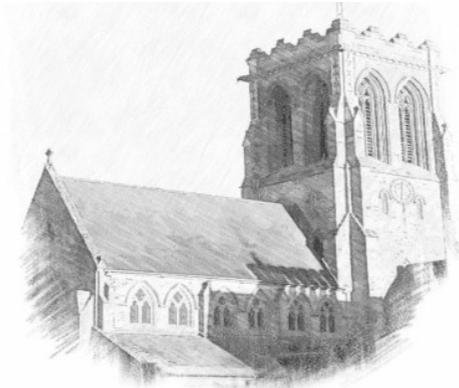


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

***16th April 2017
EASTER SUNDAY***

PARISH PRIEST

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A very happy and blessed Easter to you all! Fr Abbot and the Community, together with the Parish, welcome you all to our Easter Masses here at Belmont Abbey, especially to any visitors to Hereford this weekend.

Today we celebrate like no other day because of the victory over death won for us by our saviour, Jesus Christ. During Holy Week we journeyed with Christ through our liturgies that celebrated his passion and death and now we rejoice in His resurrection. Easter is a day of celebration because it represents the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. St Paul wrote that, unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain (1 Cor 15:17). Through his death, Christ saved mankind from bondage to sin, and He destroyed the hold that death has on all of us; but it is His Resurrection that gives us the promise of new life, both in this world and the next. I pray that the joy of Easter will be with you all, today and every day. *Surrexit Dominus Alleluia!*

Thank you also to all those who exercised ministries of one sort or another during Holy Week and indeed those who helped clean and prepare the Abbey Church.

There is only one collection today which is the traditional offering to the Belmont Community.

No Coffee after Masses today

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£249.38
	Standing Orders	£412.50
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£169.47
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: -Easter Flowers. Thank You!		

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Christ Is Risen!

Easter isn't a spiritual event that happened just once, long ago; we don't say "Christ has risen" but "Christ *is* risen," because He rose, body and soul, and is still alive and with us today. That is the true meaning of Easter.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

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Wales Celebrate Weekend 2017

Saturday 29 April 9 am - 9 pm and Sunday 30 April 9 am - 4.00 pm at St David's Catholic College, Cardiff.

Celebrate Wales is a non-residential weekend for the whole family, full of teaching, workshops, lively praise and worship, Mass, opportunities for

Confession and prayer ministry. The conferences welcome thousands of people. Young and old alike join together in a vibrant and faith-filled atmosphere to celebrate the love of God. We have a fantastic weekend planned for you, including inspiring talks and worship, workshops, drama from Rise Theatre, and an opportunity to find inspiration and encounter God.

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OUR LADY'S LUNCH CLUB

Our Lady's Parish begins offering hot lunches to those in need locally on Saturday 20th May from noon till 1:00 pm and then every Saturday following. A number of Belmont parishioners have volunteered to help and have formed one team who will undertake the ministry once a month, the first Saturday being Saturday 3rd June, led by Julia Davey and Monica Russell.

There is a meeting for all volunteers on Monday 8th May at 7:00 pm in Our Lady's parish room to finalise all the practical arrangements. A training session is also being arranged for Monday 15th May from 7-9 pm also at Our Lady's, on the challenges and difficulties of ministering to those in need, how to stay safe, and the issues that many of those in need are facing. This training is being given by a local Consultancy from run by two retired

police officers. All volunteers are asked to attend if possible.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 April
Tea & Chat
Parish Hall 2:30

22 April
First Holy Communion Class
10:30

2 May
Diamond Diners
The Three Horseshoes
12:45 for 1:00



The Paschal Candle

One of the symbols of our Easter joy is the presence of the Paschal (Easter) Candle, which is lit from the Easter fire during the Vigil. The Candle takes a central position in the Church for the next fifty days.

The decorated Paschal candle is marked with a cross, and with Alpha and Omega symbols, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet which remind us that Christ is the first and the last, He existed before any of us and will be here at the end of the

world. The year is also marked, reminding us that this year, as with all others, is the year of the Lord, we live in God's time.

After Pentecost the paschal candle stands near the baptismal font. Here it provides a reminder that baptism is a symbolic death and rebirth with Christ; just like Christ's death and Resurrection.



Walsingham Way

Is a weekend retreat for those considering their vocation. Young Catholics aged 18-30 are invited to come to the ancient pilgrim site at Walsingham in Norfolk to pray and to discern God's calling in their life. The event takes place on 30 June - 2 July. Further details can be found on the website: www.ukvocations.org.



The Friends of Longworth Chapel will be holding the annual AGM in the Chapel on Thursday, 27th April at 7 pm. Anyone wishing to attend will be most welcome

The Archbishop of Cardiff will be celebrating Holy Mass at the Chapel on Thursday, 15 June at 12 noon.





Taize Prayer

Churches together in Ewyas Harold are offering their next Taize Prayer at 8 pm on Friday 21 April at Dore Abbey. An Easter theme. All Welcome For your diary the following Taize Prayer will be on Friday 14 July.



HOMILY

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

“He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.”

An ancient word for Easter is “Pascha” – a word that was originally related to the Jewish feast of Passover. It is appropriate as we celebrate the passing over of Jesus from his earthly life to his resurrected life. In tonight’s Gospel Jesus commands his disciples to go before him to Galilee. Jesus himself is said to be “going before you to Galilee”. The Gospel reading has a great sense of movement. There is the appearance of the angel, the earthquake, the moving stone. The angel tells the women to “go quickly”. Then there is the command to go to Galilee, to keep “passing on”.

All of this points to the new mode of Christ’s existence. He has passed over from this life and is preparing to pass on to heaven. As St Bernard puts it, “because he has in fact passed over into newness of life, he invites us also to pass over”. In the incident where Mary Magdalene tries to embrace Jesus’ feet, he tells her not to hold on to him. Perhaps in her joy she wanted to hold on to Christ in this life. He has moved on, though, not to abandon us, but to be present in a new and more available way. If he had remained physically on earth, he would be more limited. As St Augustine said: “He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven.”

This does not mean Jesus’ resurrection is some intangible, purely spiritual event. Jesus truly rose fully human, body and soul. He ate with the disciples, he let Thomas touch his wounds, which he retained on his body. It is by the sending of the Holy Spirit to dwell in our minds and hearts that Christ communicates himself to us, as well as his power and presence in the sacraments. St Paul prays in his letter to the Ephesians that they may be given the Spirit “that Christ may live in your hearts through faith”. That can be our prayer too, this Easter.





Easter Sunday

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb... and we don’t know where they have put him.”

Illustration

In 1922, archaeologist Howard Carter and his crew discovered the virtually intact tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamen, who reigned in Egypt sometime in the fourteenth century BC. Over time, the tomb had been lost to human memory, and so when it was finally discovered, not only did the tomb still contain the majority of the fabulous grave goods with which the pharaoh had been buried, but his own mortal remains were also still undisturbed. Those treasures have toured the world, fuelling our fascination with Egyptology and the search for the archaeological riches with which these mummies were buried.

In 2015–16, archaeologists returned to Tutankhamen’s tomb. Using new techniques, they employed radar to look for evidence of undiscovered rooms hidden deep within the tomb – with the tantalising possibility of locating the burial chamber of the legendary Queen Nefertiti. However, King Tut’s tomb continues to throw up mysteries. Some archaeologists now claim that the civil authorities are deliberately conspiring to suppress all new evidence of an undiscovered chamber. Perhaps King Tut’s tomb has not yet yielded all its secrets.

Gospel Teaching

The mystery of Jesus’ empty tomb has continued to fascinate throughout the centuries. Mary Magdalene is the first to discover that it is empty. She naturally assumes that someone must have removed his body – that is what she tells Peter and the “other disciple”, whom tradition names as John.

When they get to the tomb, John hesitates. He stands on the threshold of the tomb. He sees the evidence, but, almost like a good archaeologist, is reluctant to enter and disturb the scene. Peter typically goes straight in and also sees the evidence, though we are not told what he makes of it. However, when John symbolically crosses the threshold of the tomb, something happens within him. Even

without seeing the risen Jesus, it suddenly makes sense for him: he sees and he believes. It's not the risen Lord that he sees, just the clues of his resurrection. Mary had seen those same clues and naturally assumed the body had been taken away – it's only when she actually meets the risen Lord that she comes to believe. But John is able to intuit this awesome truth simply from the fact of the empty tomb, from the fragments of Jesus' burial cloths – and also surely from the fragments of his memory of Jesus' teaching on the resurrection from the dead.

Application

They have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have taken him." Mary is every woman, every man. There are inevitably times in our life when we feel the desolation of loss – loss of loved ones, loss of hope, even loss of faith, when the Lord himself does indeed seem to have been taken away from us. But these early stories of the resurrection speak to us of the dynamics of how we come to faith. Peter sees the empty tomb, but says nothing. He needs more time, more experience before he can come to full faith. But he remains open to the possibility. John is able to cross the threshold of faith by holding his sense of loss and his experience of the emptiness of the tomb on the one

hand, and bringing it into connection with his memory of the Lord on the other. That surely is what happens to us in prayer, especially during times of pain and grief: our experience of loss coupled with our "memory" of the Lord as we come to him in prayer somehow leads us to deeper faith. John sees nothing except hints and signs, but this is enough to lead him to believe. Mary sees the emptiness and goes on searching. It is her persevering love of the Lord that leads her to be the first to encounter him in person, when she hears Jesus speak her name and he then sends her as the apostle to the apostles, to bring them the news of his resurrection.

An empty tomb is not proof of resurrection. Religious scholars may argue over it, like archaeologists quarrelling over King Tut's tomb, but our faith does not rest on physical proof. "The life you have is hidden with Christ in God," Paul tells the Colossians. It's not in the tomb that we will find the proof we seek. The resurrection – our encounter with the risen Lord – can actually only happen within the hidden chamber of our own hearts. That is where we meet him today – in our searching, in our prayer, in our pain and in our persevering love.



Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 23 April 2 Easter Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Brenda Warde	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Sally Johns	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Gabrielle Stanley
Bidding Prayers	Ann Jackson		Monica Tomlin
Offertory	Hayes Family	Anthea Morton-S & Frances Riddell	
Extraordinary Ministers	Jacqui Ramage-S & Fran Smallwood		Rob Corrigan & Gabrielle Stanley
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	16-Apr	No Children's Liturgy
	23-Apr	A Morawiecki & Rachel Cowdrey
	30-Apr	Jacqui Moore & Mary Wood
	07-May	Pat Wood & Pauline Gill
14-May	Jackie King & Monica Russell	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 16 April)

Deaths: *Mary Jo Donnelly, Eduards Sardiko, Tom Supple and Gordon Wilson.*

Anniversaries: *Francis Whittington, Waclaw Wybraniec, Dom Peter Brady, Thomas Sienicki, Tom Bray, Ann Francis, Eugenia Zinaida Butler, Jeanette Evans, Alice Curley and Philip Morrissey*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Patrick Walesby, Peter Draper, Fr Simon, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, David Kinsey, Maureen Toner, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Mediccott, Sr Philipa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

Liturgy for Sunday 16th April 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p><i>EASTER SUNDAY</i></p>	<p>Entrance: I have risen and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. To wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord ...</p> <p>Communion: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.</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	Hayes Family	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey	Brenda Warde
Sacristan		Tony Archer	
1 st Reading	Julia Davey	Jacqui Corrigan	Patrick Walesby
2 nd Reading	Jacqui R-S	Margaret Rose	
Bidding Prayer	Adrian Eyre	Pat Wood	
Offertory	Parish Children		
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Seamus Hayes	Monica Tomlin & Margaret Evans	
Mass Intention	<i>Parry & Hayes Family</i>		<i>The Parish</i>
Second Collection - none			
Food Bank Delivery: John Goodall-Copestake			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Easter Octave: Mass at 9:00 am
Tue	Easter Octave: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Easter Octave: Mass at 8:00 am: NO Midday Mass: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Easter Octave: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Easter Octave: Mass at 8:00 am: NO Midday Mass or Exposition
Sat	Easter Octave: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am