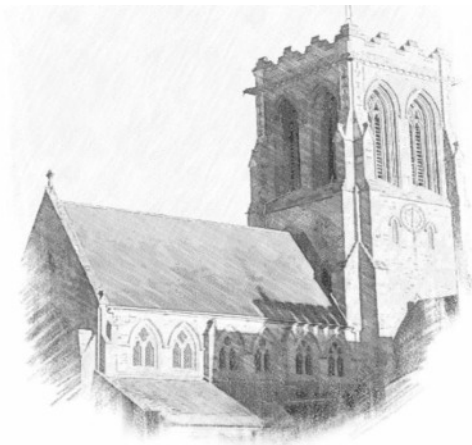


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

4th SUNDAY of Easter

17th April 2016
(Cycle C)

PARISH PRIEST

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Items for the Newsletter to
admin@belmontparish.org.uk
or The Parish Office

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Each year on this Sunday we reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, devotedly taking care of his flock. The earliest Christians had seen Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient Jewish dream of a good shepherd. They also wished to include the Gentiles as part of God's flock. The Gospel text offers us both comfort and challenge. The comforting good news is that Jesus the Good Shepherd knows us, provides for us and loves us. The challenge is that we should be good shepherds to those entrusted to our care.

The Church invites us to honour the vocation of all Christians given at baptism. May we who have dedicated our lives to God through the vocation of marriage, priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life, and the single life remain faithful to our commitments. May those who are discerning their life's vocation listen to the grace of God to guide them. This year's theme is "***We are God's people***".

The second collection today is towards supporting the training of secular priests in the diocese. There will be a collection for our own monastic training fund later in the year.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£691.03
	Standing Orders	£412.48
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£162.66
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.		



Food Bank

Thank you all for your continued support for those less fortunate than ourselves, your donations are very much appreciated.



WALES AND THE MARCHES CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY

Our next talk is on Sunday April 17th 2016 at 3 pm at THE PASTORAL RESOURCE CENTRE, Newport Rd. Rumney, Cardiff, CF3 4LL. Speaker:

Sr. Marie de Montfort SSJ

"The Sisters of St. Joseph in the Archdiocese of Cardiff during the last century"



Torchlight Procession

The annual Devotion in honour of Our Lady at Belmont Abbey takes place this year on Wednesday 11th May at 9 pm.



MISSIO Red Box Holders

Time once more to give your red box to your promoter whose name and phone number are on the label on the bottom of your box. We raised over £1000 last year, so thanks to all box holders and promoters for all their efforts.

Liz Norman



Wales Celebrate Weekend 2016

Saturday 30th April 2016, 9 am - 9 pm to Sunday 1st May 2016, 9 am - 4 pm.

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 CELEBRATE conferences welcome thousands of people. Young and old alike join together in a vibrant and faith-filled atmosphere to celebrate the love of God.





Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

- Sat 23rd April Beshar Allos & Prita Banerjee
- Sat 30th April Patrick Harrington & Kimberly Wood
- Sat 7th May Anthony Catlin & Rachael Layton
- Sat 4th June Hugh Loughrey & Carley Yapp



Parking

Drivers are asked to respect the disabled parking areas – especially on a Sunday!

Parish Centre – unless you are dropping something off at the parish centre, please park in the car parks adjacent to the Parish House rather than on the road in front.



Tea & Chat

The next dates for Tea & Chat are: Tuesday 19th April, 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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 19 April
2:30 pm
Tea & chat

Wednesday 11 May
9:00 pm
Torchlight Procession

Tuesday 17 May
2:30 pm
Tea & Chat

Sunday 22 May
Confirmation Mass
11:00 am

Queen's Jubilee Picnic
12 June

Belmont Grand Fete
18 June

Tuesday 21 June
2:30 pm
Tea & Chat

16 July
Grandparents' and
Grandchildren's Day



Urgent

An Easter envelope came in showing number 39. This does not exist in my register so it must be someone who has not changed their standing order number and so I cannot record it for gift aid. If you recognise it as your number please call me asap on 01432 509163 and let me know who you are. Many thanks!

Margaret Campbell



The Memorial Acclamation

On several occasions during Holy Mass, the laity are invited to *acclaim* what the priest celebrant has *proclaimed* because the liturgy is a dialogue. So when we hear the proclamation, “The word of the Lord”, we respond, “Thanks be to God”. Likewise when the celebrant proclaims “The Gospel of the Lord” we acclaim, “Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ” and at Communion when the host is held up before our eyes, the priest proclaims the host to be “The Body of Christ” and we acclaim (affirm our belief) by saying a resounding “Amen”.

So it is in the Eucharistic Prayer, immediately after the consecration, when we have heard the words Jesus used at the Last Supper and the bread and wine are transformed into the

Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, where the priest proclaims that what we have just seen and heard is “The Mystery of Faith”. In unison, we acclaim this using one of the three responses in the Roman Missal (as shown on the last page of the parish newsletter).

The responses at Mass matter and it is very important that we make them with vigour as we acknowledge the Paschal Mystery that unfolds before our eyes at every Mass.



HOMILY

“I know them and they follow me.”

Illustration

Have you ever joined the queues of people being shepherded carefully round a stately home? One magnificent room follows another. Long tables are set for a banquet with shining silver cutlery and glittering crystal glasses. Antique chairs and sofas are roped off so that no one can sit on them. Severe portraits of ancestral lords glower down on the inquisitive masses as if to say, “What are these people doing in my house?” We may find it hard to imagine real people living in these places. Where would the children play? At home, the garden is littered with toys, the furniture is sticky and has crumbs between the cushions, and we have

to rush round madly to tidy up before grandma comes to visit.

who belong to Jesus listen for his voice and follow him.

Real people live in the chaos of every day, trying to instil some sort of order so that life can go on. Meals have to be prepared. Clothes have to be washed. Mums and dads need time to love each other and their children. Real life can sometimes be a bit untidy, even smelly.

From the book of the Apocalypse, we learn that the good shepherd so identified with the sheep of his flock that he became the Lamb that was slain, the one who laid down his life for his sheep and who now leads his flock to springs of water around the throne of God, in heaven.

Gospel Teaching

When Jesus uses the image of sheep to describe those in his care, he is describing a situation to which his listeners can easily relate. It is a well-used image from the Old Testament to describe the people entrusted to the care of their leaders. The priests, prophets and kings failed in their responsibilities to such an extent that God the Father took back the flock into his personal care, and now they are entrusted to Jesus, the good shepherd. Sheep are not pampered and coddled, shampooed and deodorised. They are smelly, frisky, freedom-loving and get themselves into all sorts of difficult and often life-threatening situations. They need a shepherd to look after them, to guide them and keep them safe. Just as parents recognise the different cries of their own children, so the good shepherd listens for the cry of his sheep. And just as children recognise the voice of their parents, so those

Application

Perhaps we can gather from what we have already said that God's house as described by Jesus is not some many-roomed country mansion, good to look at but impossible to live in. It is, perhaps, more of a farmyard, which might be difficult to live in but is bursting with life in all its complexity. Speaking to priests during Holy Week 2013, Pope Francis urged them to be close to those who are vulnerable and marginalised, and to be "shepherds living with the smell of the sheep". Later that year in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The Joy of the Gospel", Pope Francis used the same words as he called on the Church to be an evangelising community by getting involved in people's daily lives. Evangelisers, he says, thus take on "the smell of the sheep". Pope Francis doesn't see the Church as a museum to be visited, holding the treasures of a bygone age. The Church is a community of people

who care about the world in which we live. They care about the people among whom we live, especially those who are most in need.



Prayer for Vocations

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We ask God to help us all to recognise the voice of the good shepherd and to follow him; to understand, however, that we are not just sheep who follow, but sharers with Jesus in his mission to seek out and save those who are lost. It is a mission to get involved with the smells and the mess of this world in order to create the world that God wants. Today is not a day to regret the shortage of priests and religious and to pray that God will plug the gaps. It is, rather, a day for all of us to commit ourselves in such a way that young people from our community will feel that a call to priesthood or religious life is a natural and normal way to find happiness and fulfilment for their lives; to be shepherds and not museum guides.

Jesus Christ, Guide and Shepherd of your people, touch the hearts of our young people, that they may, for the love of you, give their lives in the service of the Church. Renew the hearts of priests, that they may model their lives on the mystery of the Cross, and imitate the Sacred Mysteries they celebrate at the Altar. Strengthen our families that they may generously support those of their sons whom you call to serve you as priests. Amen.



Serving others, helping them without making a show of it, "that's amore,".

"Amore," or love, "is the concrete service we render to one another,".

"Love isn't words, but works and service, a humble service performed in silence" without seeking acclaim.

Pope Francis



A sign you can read two ways:

GODISNOWHERE!

How do you read it?



The funeral for Bernard Clayton will be on Thursday

21 April

At

2:00 pm

Ministers, etc. For next Sunday - 5th of Eastertide - 24th April Year C			
	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Marion Luscombe	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Polly Maund-Powell	Jane Davies
2 nd Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S		Peter Davies
Bidding Prayers	Fran Grant		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Children's Liturgy	Frances Wood & Menna McBain	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes		Chris Moore
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach			

<p><i>The God who goes the Distance</i> <i>April 22-24: (2 days Reg Fee £26)</i> <i>St Luke for the Jubilee Year of Mercy</i> <i>This Gospel is perfect food for thought for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.</i> <i>Dom Brendan Thomas</i></p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 10 April	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	17-Apr	Andrew M & Pauline Gill
	24-Apr	Pat Wood & Rachel Cowdrey
	01-May	Jackie King & Rachel Cowdrey
08-May	Marje Hayes & Monica Russell	

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

Deaths: *Bernard Clayton, Sue Ball, Mary Carroll, John Wallin and John Keeler*

Anniversaries: *Dom Peter Brady osb, Thomas Sienicki, Rose Tilley, Harold Wheeler, Tom Bray, Ann Francis, Bernard Sweeney, Anne Lightbound, Marion Young, Eugenia Zinaida Butler, Jeanette Evans, Rose Johnson, Alice Curley, Teresa Lightbound, Philip Morrissey, Edward Brant, Glyn Mathews and Nedas Damasas.*

The Sick: *Please pray for Lillian Allsopp, Duncan Sykes, 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 Michael Cronin, Elaine Campbell, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

Liturgy for Sunday 17th April Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2

<p>4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p>	<p>Entrance: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Liz Norman	Clare Wichbold	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Julia Davey	Menna McBain	Liz Morawiecki
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Gabrielle Stanley
Bidding Prayer	Fran Grant		Monica Tomlin
Offertory	Hayes Family	Frances Riddell & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Stephen Fisher
Mass Intention		Pro Populo	
Second Collection - Diocesan Priests Training Fund			
Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: No Midday Mass - Tridentine Mass at 7 pm
Thu	St Anselm: Mass at 8:00 am. Funeral for Bernard Clayton at 2:00 pm
Fri	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition & Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	St George: Mass at 8:00 am : Reconciliation at 10:00 am