

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**18th December 2016
4 Advent**

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Items for the Newsletter to
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Our short Advent Season is almost over and Christmas is almost upon us. However, there is still time to catch up with some last minute preparation. Have we stopped for a few moments during this Advent season to prepare ourselves? Have we spent a little time reflecting on the great gift of love that we celebrate each year at Christmas? As the great joy and celebration of this season reaches its climax, do find time over the next couple of days, even for just a few minutes, to escape the manic preparations and present wrapping, or indeed the last minute shopping, to spend some time with God. May the many blessings of this lovely season enrich all our lives as we await the coming of Christ.

Thank you for supporting our parish Christmas Raffle which raised about £1300 – a tremendous effort and thank you to all who participated. The draw took place last Sunday and the winners should have received one of those wonderful hamper type prizes. A full list of winners is on the notice board. A special thank you to the organisers and prize donators too.

Please note there are only two Masses on Christmas morning

Fr Nicholas



Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£315.81
	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	£227.27
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 Christmas Flowers. Thank you!		



Second Collections

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards helping the homeless in Hereford and the Hereford Food Bank. In December, apart from next Sunday's collection for Christmas flowers, we will make two collections for the Syrian Crisis Appeal.

Fighting in Syria has caused a humanitarian crisis on a staggering scale, and it's getting worse every day. Over 250,000 people have been killed and more than 6.6 million children, women and men driven from their homes. Millions of people desperately need aid right now. Let's help to provide food, shelter and safety for people driven from their homes, as well as blankets, warm clothes and other essentials.

Christmas Mass times

Vigil 'Midnight' Mass at **10.30 pm**

Parish sung Family Mass at 9 am

Pontifical High Mass at 11 am

Please note there are only two Masses on Christmas morning



The Abbey Shop will be closed from 22nd December till 9th January.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 18 December

Pay and collect

Tesco Vouchers



150 Club

December Winners

1st Monica Tomlin

2nd Dick Wareing

3rd Kathleen Hanna





don't be shy just come along and join us.

Christmas Envelopes



For those who use Gift Aid Standing Orders, please remember to use the numbered envelopes for Christmas (and Easter) sent earlier in the year. Please check that you still have yours! Please use these for the Christmas Offering.

Will those who use boxes of envelopes please check you have a numbered Christmas envelope in your box. If you cannot find your envelope please let us know a.s.a.p. so that we have time to replace it. Please remember there is NO Second collection on Christmas Day.



Tea and Chat

will be resuming on January 17th 2017, then 21st Feb, 21st March, and 18th of April. It is always on the 3rd Tuesday in the month. For any newcomers to the Parish this is a very friendly group that meets for a cup of tea and a piece of cake or a biscuit and a good chat. We meet in the Parish Center at 2.30pm until 4.00pm

There is no charge, but a donation is very welcome for us to buy coffee, tea and milk and help to pay for heating the hall. Everyone is welcome, so

The **parish First Holy Communion programme** will be beginning in the New Year. The children are prepared by parishioners who have a great love for the Eucharist and who wish to pass on their love and understanding to the next generation of Catholics. The family, the school and the priest also have an important role to play in preparing the children. The children will make their First Holy Communion in early summer 2017 and there will be a series of preparatory classes which take place usually on Saturday mornings. Parents who would like their children (Year 3 and above) to be considered for First Holy Communion next Summer should speak to Fr Nicholas or Jacqui & Rob Corrigan.



Our Lady's Roman Catholic

Primary School have places in Y1, Y2 and Y4. Contact the school at admin@our-ladys.hereford.sch.uk for more information



Sick and Housebound Parishioners

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners please let the Parish

Office know. We can then make arrangements for Fr Nicholas or an extraordinary minister to bring them Holy Communion or for a priest to come and hear confession if that is required. This also applies to parishioners who move into a care or nursing home. Please remember that hospitals no longer advise us of Catholics in hospital!



150 Club

Thank you to everyone who supports the parish 150 Club which at present makes just over £600 per year for the parish. Subscriptions for 2017 are now due and if you pay by standing order, there is no need to take any further action. Those who pay by cash or cheque are asked to deposit this in the parish office (or hand it to Fr Nick/Chris Moore) in an envelope marked with your name and '150 Club' as soon as possible. If anyone wishes to join the 150 Club or increase their chances of winning by subscribing for additional numbers, please contact Chris Moore!



HOMILY

“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.”

Illustration

Julia and Mike were surprised when she became pregnant again. It was rather unexpected. They already had their family with three children, the youngest of whom was seven. As she approached forty, Julia was worried. She knew that pregnancy at this age could be risky, both for the mother and for the new child; she was worried for her family. Mike's parents were ageing, too, and his mother was showing signs of forgetfulness. The couple wondered why God had called them in this way. Prayer was a struggle but desperately they prayed that all would be well. Some friends went quiet and didn't make contact; they quickly discovered who were true friends. The GP urged Julia to undertake various scans and tests, but the couple knew these carried risks. They believed that their child would be a gift to the family and decided to wait and see what the outcome would be.

Julia and her baby received the best medical attention. A beautiful daughter was born. They knew quite soon that she had a disability but that she was special; still, God was asked a lot of questions. They baptised their daughter Lydia, because she was a woman named in the Bible as one whose heart was open to hear the things spoken by the Lord. Lydia quickly became a focal point in their

family and the parish. She simply enjoyed life. Lydia soon had a special place in the life of the community as she reminded them that life is a gift from God and brought her joyful and loving presence to all around her; it often seems to be a special gift of people with disabilities to be able to do this.

Gospel Teaching

Joseph was a man of deep faith who listened to the voice of God. He struggled to make sense of the message that Mary had given him. Sometimes Joseph heard God speak to him through his dreams, at other times in a moment of quiet prayer, sometimes at the end of the day when he looked over the events of work, relationship and family. He knew that God is a God of mystery and that in history God had always called people to take risks and live with the unpredictable nature of life. Abraham had left his home and then found that Sarah his wife, in her old age, conceived mysteriously through the power of God. David had been an unlikely choice for a king. The prophets were often surprising choices of God.

Joseph wondered why God was testing his faith. He thought that the easiest thing would be to abandon Mary and start again. However, he loved her and knew that she was

honest, true and had great integrity. In the turmoil of his mind, he wondered what God wanted him to do. He asked himself why life was so complicated, just when all had seemed so good as he prepared to marry Mary. He struggled with God in prayer during the night and eventually went to sleep. Next morning he awoke from his dream and understood the words the angel had spoken concerning Mary – God had conceived in her through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph needed to accept this fact, care for Mary and support her at this strange but wonderful time. How mysterious are the ways of God!

Application

We often face difficult situations in our relationships with others and in the family. Maybe a daughter becomes pregnant. Perhaps a child is born with a disability. A parent develops dementia. These events in family life can disturb and disrupt our familiar patterns of life. We ask God why they have happened and sometimes our faith in God is questioned. The example of Joseph teaches us that it is in these times that we are called to pray more fervently and seek the power of the Holy Spirit to help us trust more deeply in God. Like Joseph, we are asked to accompany people in their struggles and support them with love and care;

a loving and strong parish community can be a real help to those who face difficulties in their domestic and family life. It wasn't easy for Joseph; it is never easy. However, we can be confident that if our hearts are open to God, God will help us to shoulder the burden and carry the load.



The O Antiphons

17 December: O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High and, reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly. Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

18 December: O Adonai and Ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave him your law. Come, and with outstretched arm redeem us.

19 December: O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign for the peoples; before you kings shall keep silence and to you all nations shall have recourse. Come, save us, and do not delay.

20 December: O Key of David and Scepter of the House of Israel; you open and no man closes; you close and no man opens. Come, and deliver from the chains of prison those who

sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

21 December: O Rising Dawn, Radiance of the Light eternal and Sun of Justice: come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

22 December: O King of the Gentiles and the Desired of all, you are the cornerstone that binds two into one. Come, and save man whom you fashioned out of clay.

23 December: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Savior. Come and save us, O Lord our God.



Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 25th December- Nativity of the Lord - Year A - Cycle 1

	Vigil 10:30 pm	9:00	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Abbot	Fr Nicholas	Fr Abbot
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Cooper Family	Brenda Warde
Sacristan		Rob Corrigan	
1 st Reading	Anthea Morton-S	Jacqui Corrigan	Frances Wood
2 nd Reading	A Monk	Monica Tomlin	A Monk
Bidding Prayers	Deacon	Adrian Eyre	Deacon
Offertory		Children of the Parish	
Extraordinary Ministers		Kath Parry & Jane Davies	
Next Sunday -No Second Collection			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	18-Dec	A Morawiecki & Monica Russell
	25-Dec	No Children's Liturgy
	01-Jan	No Children's Liturgy

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 18 Dec)

Deaths: Wendy Lyle Cameron, Brian Holbery, John McComish and John Pimblett

Anniversaries: Henry Day, Terence Egan, Edna Wilson, Douglas Davies, Mary Turner, Simon Williams, Kathleen Cobden Oswald Crump, Theresa Gausden, Sarah King, Fr. Martin Wolfe OSB, Bro Christopher Tilley OSB, Ilse Wooles, David Bradshaw, Very Rev John Fogarty OSB, Mary Behan, Bede Osmund OSB, Alice Powell and Alan Riddick.

The Sick: Please pray for: Norma Naudain, Marnie Archer, Sister Trish, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Fr Michael Cronin, Sheila Langford, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Stephen Fisher, Gordon Wilson, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Sr Philipa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Liturgy for Sunday 18th December 2016 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p>4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Entrance: Drop down dew from above, you heavens and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord...</p> <p>Communion: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.</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	Kath Parry	Clare Wichbold	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Julia Davey	Paul Nickhold	Marje Hayes
2 nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayer	Richard Batho		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Hayes Family	Frances Wood & Maria Large	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Seamus Hayes		Rob Corrigan & Tony Archer
Mass Intention	John McComish RIP	Ian Luscombe RIP	Brian Holbery RIP
Second Collection - Parish Outreach			
Food Bank Delivery: Kath Parry			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory.
Sat	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am