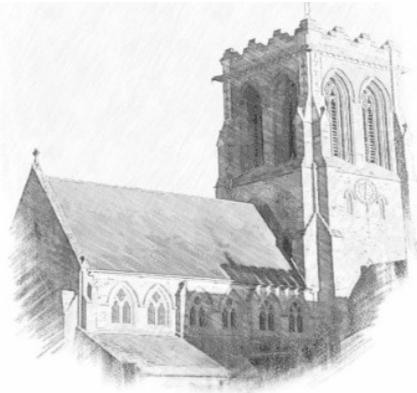


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

18 February 2018

1st Sunday of Lent

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Welcome to Lent! The word itself means 'springtime'. So, it's a time for new life, for fresh beginnings and growth. Lent is a good time for us to consider how much we are doing to reflect Christ's presence in our world. There are plenty of different things going on during Lent in the Hereford Parishes. Visit the parish or deanery website for more information.

In this morning's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the wilderness and was tempted. Our Lord often popped into the desert or wilderness, or went alone into the hills or mountains. These were very important for him. They were times for him to be alone, to pray, to be with his Father. This particular episode this morning is one of forty days. It happens right at the beginning of his ministry, before he starts to show himself to the world, before he starts his preaching and miracle work. Jesus felt it necessary to strengthen himself by prayer before this hectic life began. Perhaps we too, during this holy season can find time away from our hectic lives to spend a few moments each day alone with God.

This Friday is the Cafod Lenten Fast day and we're invited to share the abundance of God's creation with our brothers and sisters across the world. Fast Day envelopes are available in the porch. **Date for your diary – Parish Day of Reflection for those exercising Ministry in the Church, especially our readers and extraordinary ministers – Saturday 24th March**

Fr Nicholas

Welcome to Belmont Abbey. If you are as visitor here and you would like to Gift Aid your offertory collection, please collect an envelope from the Porch. Thank You!

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£258.17
	Standing Orders	£501.23
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£204.18
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: Marriage Care. Thank You!		

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Parish Outreach

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project, SPUC, St Barnabas Society and the local Acorns Children's Hospice. Thank you. This month there will be the annual collections for Marriage Care (4 & 11 Feb), Mary's Meals (18 Feb) and Cafod (25 Feb).

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It is with sadness that we report the deaths of three former parishioners and friends of Belmont; Sheila Langford who died on Sunday following her long bout with cancer, and Elaine White who died in hospital in Poole on Wednesday and William Padden. Their funerals will be at Belmont – dates yet to be arranged. May they rest in peace.

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EMMAUS YOUTH

The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is 17 March at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 2.30-5.30 pm. Come and join us for some fun!! Rob and Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway and Ben Aldridge.

01432 352241 & 07739 566578.
emmausyouth@hotmail.com

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Lenten Station Mass celebrated by Archbishop Stack at Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 13 March 7 pm.

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Caritas - There is a meeting this week of any interested parties (SVP, Ex Ministers, hospital visitors, those involved in foodbanks and the like) on Tuesday 20 February 6 pm at Our Lady's Hall to discuss the Hereford parishes' response to World Day of the Poor. It is part of the World Day of the Poor initiative, with each Deanery being encouraged to form a group which will feed into a whole Archdiocese group, considering issues affecting the poor and needy. Would anyone like to represent the parish?

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The **Wednesday Midday Masses during Lent** will be in the Church to accommodate the larger number of people joining us for the Lenten Days of Recollection



On Sunday, 4th March, at 4 pm, **Hereford Cathedral Choir** will sing Choral Evensong at Belmont Abbey. All are welcome.



Dates for your Diary

23 February

Church Cleaning
9:00 am

20 February

Tea & Chat
Parish Hall
2:30 pm

6 March

Diamond Diners
The Three Horseshoes
12:45 pm

13 March

Station Mass
OLQM 6:00 pm



OUR LADY'S PARISH LENT COURSE -
"Let It Be Done to Me According to

Your Word." A Lent course of 5 sessions, pondering how Mary helps us to be filled with God. Each session involving a video presentation, discussion, prayer and refreshments. Wednesdays of Lent beginning 21st February in the parish room at 7 pm, and the next 4 Wednesday evenings.



Walk with Me - This pocket-size booklet of prayers and reflections for Lent 2018 is now available.

Archbishop George Stack, Bishop Tom Burns and Bishop Peter Brignall have written a forward to the booklet and recommend it as an aid to prayer. **"Walk With Me!** We are invited to walk, not run. Lent is a time to slow down, to reflect on our lives and attitudes. What are we about? What is God asking us to do? What a privilege that God has invited me to walk with him. **Walk With Me** is not so much a command as an act of loving-kindness, by which God puts his arm around us and speaks to us personally and intimately about things that are of the greatest importance and change our lives."



WHAT CAN I DO FOR LENT?

Why not take advantage of a great opportunity this Lent to learn more about some

"CATHOLICISM-PIVOTAL PLAYERS"
Every Monday evening in Lent at SFX.
7 pm - 8.30 pm in Parish Hall

19 Feb: St. Francis of Assisi

26 Feb: St. Thomas Aquinas

5 Mar: St. Catherine of Siena

12 Mar: Bl. John Henry Newman

19 Mar: G. K. Chesterton

26 Mar: Michelangelo

ALL WELCOME! Tea/coffee and
informal discussion

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CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 23

February - CAFOD's Family Fast Day
this Lent is an opportunity to support
our brothers and sisters who don't
have enough to eat. On Friday 23
February can you give up a meal, or
eat a simple meal, in solidarity? With
malnutrition still killing almost three
million children a year, your fasting,
prayers and donations will ensure
more of God's children have enough
good food to eat. And this Lent, your
donation will make double the
difference. For every pound you
donate to CAFOD, the UK
Government will also donate a pound,
up to a total of £5 million, meaning
twice the number of lives can be
transformed. Twice the number of
children can have the opportunity to
grow up healthy and strong. Please
collect your Fast Day envelope from
church this week and give

generously. In light of recent news
reports you may wish to know CAFOD
has a statement about safeguarding
vulnerable communities on cafod.org.uk. A copy is on our parish notice
board.

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**Wednesday Lent Days -
An English Spring**

The 20th Century saw many powerful
contributions to Christian life and
letters in this country. Through their
writings and witness they helped
shape the Church in their lifetime and
offer to us many fruits of the spirit.
During Lent we enrich our faith
through exploring this new
inheritance.

The day starts with coffee at 10.00
am, Mass at 12 noon and includes a
soup lunch with a suggested offering
£10.

21st Feb - C. S. Lewis - Dom Andrew
Berry

28th Feb Helen Waddell – Abbot Paul
Stonham

7th March – Ronald Knox – Dom
Jonathan Rollinson

14th March Caryl Houselander – Dom
Brendan Thomas

21st March Basil Hume – Dom David
Yates

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Lent Study Lunches at Ewyas Harold: "Making all things new"

On five Thursdays beginning 22nd February at 12.30 in the Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall (With soup lunch first)

Thursday 22 Feb - Rev Bob Bates
Thursday 1 March - Rev Jon Chesworth
Thursday 8 March - Rev Joy James
Thursday 15 March - Fr Nick
Thursday 22 March - Rev Eric Locke
‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡

ADOREMUS - PREPARATION DAY -

The Catholic Church will hold a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool this September. To prepare for this, the Archdiocese of Cardiff invites everyone to a Preparation Day which will be held in Cardiff at St David's Catholic College on 17 March 2018 from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm. To attend, please contact Christian Mahoney on 07764515864 or christianmahoney2@gmail.com

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Homily

"The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand."

Illustration

At the age of twenty, Christopher Knight headed off into the lakes and forests of Maine in the north-east of the USA. He just left the keys in his car and disappeared. For the next twenty-seven years he lived a life of total solitude, conversing with no one. He found a

secluded spot that no hikers or hunters came near and made that his base. For food and equipment he stole from the cabins people owned as their country getaways. He was so meticulous in his planning that it was only after a thousand or more thefts and all those years that the police eventually caught up with him.

As with other people who had chosen such solitude in the past, he found that being completely on his own increased his perception. But the tricky thing was that when he applied this perception to himself he had lost his identity. There was no audience, no one to perform for. He became irrelevant as the dividing line between himself and the forest seemed to dissolve. His desires dropped away. He did not even have a name. Put romantically, he was completely free. As Thomas Merton put it, "The true solitary does not seek himself, but loses himself." Needless to say, numbers of journalists wanted to interview Knight once he was captured. He even got offers of marriage. Eventually one journalist did get access to him and asked whether there was some great insight revealed to him in the wild. Knight thought for a while and then replied: "Get enough sleep."

Gospel Teaching

Mark begins his Gospel with a flurry of witnesses to the truth of Jesus and his mission among us. His account of Jesus

in the wilderness is very succinct in comparison with the other Gospel accounts. There are no details of the individual temptations Jesus undergoes. There is a sense of urgency and power. The Spirit, who has descended on him in the form of a dove at his baptism, immediately drives him into the wilderness. This desert is not just a place of individual testing. It is where the wild beasts hold sway. It is where the battle takes place between the powers of good and evil. Jesus is not left alone in this warfare, for he has the protective shield of the angels.

Throughout his public life of preaching and healing, Jesus will appear as a strong and active person, very much in charge of his destiny. At the end of his life, once Judas has handed him over to his executioners, he will be once again in the wilderness, and he will be totally passive as he is cursed and maltreated by his persecutors. As he begins his public career, we gain a hint of this possibility, as he begins his proclamation at the very point his precursor John, another witness, has been arrested. Jesus now becomes his own witness. The time has come for all the prophecies to be fulfilled. God through Jesus is once again asserting authority in the world.

Application

We live out the battle between good and evil against the wider landscape of

our world and society. We also fight the same battle within ourselves. Living among others we have a multitude of distractions, and the battle gets displaced into blaming others and being hurt by their actions. In solitude we learn to identify the true sources of evil both in ourselves and in our world. Modelling ourselves on Jesus, we also hope that we get angelic support. Our capacity to deal with the complexity of sin and evil is much strengthened by the way solitude also leads to the diminution in the importance of our self. As we become more insignificant we become more free to focus directly on what needs changing, again either in ourselves or in our outer world. We are less afraid, less anxious, less sensitive to our own needs and more attuned to the real needs of others.

The journey into the wilderness with its experience of solitude begins our Lenten journey. It equips us to repent and believe the Good News and to proclaim the kingdom of God in our own lives. Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are the three practices we are advised to use as we attempt this mixture of purification and growth in ourselves. They are not ends in themselves but the means whereby we become more open to the life of the Spirit working in and through us.

Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 25 February 2018 - 2nd Sunday of Lent Year B Cycle 2

	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Desmond Keohane	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Paul Nickhold	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Richard Batho		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayers	Julia Davey		Pat Draper
Offertory	Ramage - H family	Anthea Morton-S & Teresa Harriss	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Monica Russell & Margaret Evans

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Cafod

Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	18-Feb	<i>No Children's Liturgy</i>
	25-Feb	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	04-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	11-Mar	Jackie King & Jan Wyman
	18-Mar	Andrew M & Pauline Gill

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

Deaths: *William Padden, Elaine White, Sheila Langford and Phillip Cook*

Anniversaries: *Gertrude Leathwood, Charles Mason, Gwenda Duffield, Violet Templeman, Jean, Jabale, Thomas Powell, Margaret Grundy, Emily Lousia Hayes, Cyril Lawden, John Mills, Frances Schomberg, Peter Skuse, Dom. Wilfrid Chadwick osb, Bessie Catherine Lee and Joseph McGurk.*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Neal Harries, 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, Elaine White, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

Belmont Abbey Parish is part of Belmont Abbey Mission Trust (Registered Charity - 226277)

<p>1st Sunday Of Lent</p>	<p>Entrance: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.</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	Annette Mansie	Brenda Warde	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Mary Hayes	Menna McBain	Liz Morawiecki
2 nd Reading	Fran Smallwood		Rob Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Adrian Eyre		Lucy Reed
Offertory	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Jacqui Ramage-S		Joao & Andre Pavia
Mass Intention	<i>Siobhan Hayes RIP</i>	<i>David Ellis RIP</i>	<i>Joseph Higgins RIP</i>
Second Collection - <i>Mary's Meals</i>			
Food Bank Collection: Ray & Margaret 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 am & Midday Mass in the Abbey
Thu	Chair of St Peter: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Lent Fast Day: Exposition at 11 and Midday Mass
Sat	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00