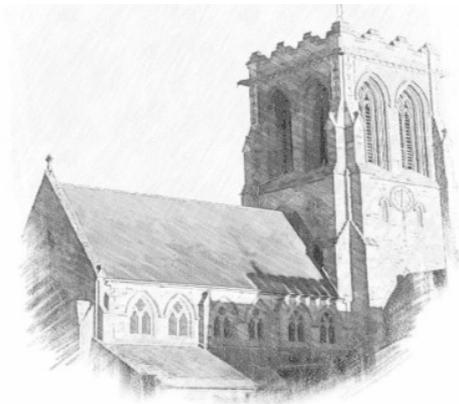


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

19th February

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH PRIEST

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

I came across an article recently entitled “**The Place of Silence**”. It reminded me that moments of silence during our daily lives, in our prayer and in our liturgy are not only desirable but essential.

St John Paul II writing in 2004 said: “One aspect that we must foster in our communities with greater commitment is the experience of silence. We need silence “if we are to accept in our hearts the full resonance of the voice of the Holy Spirit and to unite our personal prayer more closely to the Word of God and the public voice of the Church”. In a society that lives at an increasingly frenetic pace, often deafened by noise and confused by the ephemeral, it is vital to rediscover the value of silence. Let us keep before our eyes the example of Jesus, who “rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed” (Mk 1: 35). The Liturgy, with its different moments and symbols, cannot ignore silence. During liturgical silence all respond in their own way, recollecting themselves, pondering what has been heard, petitioning and praising God in their inmost spirit.”

During Mass today, I will formally bless and enrol our new extraordinary ministers and readers.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£431.42
	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	£210.45
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 Parish Outreach: Marriage Care - Thank You!		



Second Collections

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project, SPUC and the local Acorns Children's Hospice. Thank you. This month there will be collections for Vennture (5th & 26th Feb) and the annual collections for Marriage Care (12th Feb) and the Catholic Education Service (19th Feb).



Beloved Disciples

We will be offering a series of talks and discussions aimed at the over 60's and looking at faith and spirituality in "The Autumn of Life". These informal programmes will run over four weekly sessions during Lent and each will last approximately one and a half hours, with time for questions, discussion and conversation over tea and biscuits. The first session will be on

Wednesday, 8th March at 2:30pm in Belmont Abbey Parish Centre. Do come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon. For more information please contact Jan Wyman on 01432 263575.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 February
Tea & Chat
2:30 Parish Hall

24 February
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

25 February
First Holy Communion Class
10:30 am

26 February
Collect & Pay
For Tesco vouchers

30 March
Station Mass
OLQM at 7:00 pm

1 April
Jumble Sale At OLQM
12:00





As an experiment coffee and tea will be available in Hedley Lodge after both the 8.30 and 9.30 Masses. Coffee after the 11am Mass will continue to be in the Parish Centre.



The Place of Silence is a document of the Liturgy Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It can be found with related resources on the Liturgy Office web site: liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources



Emmaus Youth

Our next session is on Saturday 4th March, 2-5 pm at Our Lady's. We have some exciting news for you. We are putting on an overnight retreat on 8th and 9th April with some fantastic activities planned. If you are interested please contact us to reserve a space at: jacqui.corrigan@btopenworld.com There will be more details to follow. We hope you can join us. Annie, Ben, Jacqui & Rob.



**Our Lady's Parish -
Hot Meals for the Needy**

Our Lady's parish is planning to join other local churches in providing hot meals to those in need. We plan to do this starting after Easter, every Satur-

day lunchtime from noon till 1.00pm, beginning with soup, sandwiches and hot drinks. We will need lots of volunteers to do this, each one committed to one Saturday session per month. If interested please contact Fr. Matthew on 265177, or come to the next meeting about this on Monday 6th March at 7.00pm in the parish room at Our Lady's.



**Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Golden Jubilee Celebration**

4th March 2017 10 am – 6 pm.
Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way West Bromwich B70 7JW
www.bethelconventioncentre.co.uk
Sandwell and Dudley railway station nearby. Online booking at www.crr.org.uk or contact Helen helenwells.017@gmail.com or 07752134833. Booking charge £12; under 14's free (but must be booked on in advance) Inspired testimonies, anointed and engaging preaching and RISE THEATRE. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley and Archbishop Kevin McDonald will be the homilist.



Fatima - This year is the 100th anniversary of the apparitions in Fatima, Fr. Matthew from Our Lady's is proposing to run a pilgrimage for the Herefordshire Deanery, if there is sufficient interest. The dates would

be Monday 25th - Friday 29th September, flying from Manchester. 4 nights in a good standard hotel very close to the shrine, half board. Price £599/person, £120 extra for single rooms (only a few available) and insurance. Includes courier with us and excursions. Organised by Leisure Time Travel in Liverpool. Booking forms at back of Church, deposit £200. Any questions please contact Fr. Matthew on 01432 265177 – fr.matthew@live.co.uk



National Flame Conference 2017

On Saturday the 11th of March CYMFed is holding a huge event for young people in the SSE Arena, London. Flame is a massive celebration with music, guest speakers, and activities and over 10,000 other young people! If you are aged 14-21 and would like more information, please see Fr Nicholas or Ben Ashridge asap.



150 Club

Thank you to everyone who supports the parish by holding one or more numbers in the 150 Club. Next Sunday, Chris will be available at coffee after all three Masses to encourage parishioners who do not currently participate, to join this fundraising scheme. The annual cost is £12 per number usually payable by standing order in December each year. Those who wish to be included from March will be able to join for £10 cash or cheque and complete a standing order form for next year. The draw is made once each month with prizes of £50, £25 and £12.



CAFOD and Fast Day

If you would like to know more how your donations transform lives, join us: Monday 20 February at OLQM at 7:00pm. Come and learn about Cafod's work in Zambia which is the country of focus for this year's Lenten appeal. All welcome.



Herefordshire & Belmont Abbey Walsingham Group

Pilgrimage to Walsingham - 5th to 8th May 2017. From £195 per person to include all travel and half-board accommodation. There are still a few places available.

The next meeting of the Group will be at Belmont abbey on Wednesday 22nd February at 5.55 pm for Vespers, Angelus, Rosary and Mass followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome -

you do not have to be a member of the group. For further information contact Menna MacBain on 01568 797077.



Jumble Sale

Some of you have already given us jumble. Thank you! The next jumble sale is on 1 April at OLQM but starting at 12 noon so that the leftovers can be taken to Charity shops. Do please give us only clean clothes and those that are usable. If anyone knows someone who buys clothes deemed to be “rags” we would be grateful to know. Our last buyer no longer does it. Many thanks for your help!



Homily

“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

Illustration

We are living through four years of remembering the hundredth anniversary of the events of the First World War. We rely mainly on black-and-white photos and films, which capture the dark and relentless nature of the conflict. The overwhelming image is that of the young men who went out boldly to fight in what turned out to be a style of warfare that had reached stalemate. Many of them did not return, and many of those who did

return were marked physically and mentally for life.

Yet in the midst of this massacre of minds and bodies there were acts of heroism. Medals were given for acts of valour against the enemy, but the acts of heroism that stay longer in the mind are the acts of self-sacrifice that people made for the injured and those in need. Soldiers carried colleagues and even their enemies out of the living hell of no-man’s-land, sometimes wounded themselves but determined to bring the wounded back to help and healing. Among the acts of violence and desperation there was yet room for these higher ideals. Men flung themselves on explosives to save the lives of their comrades, held on to impossible positions to give others the chance to escape, literally gave up their lives that others might live. And behind the front, and back home, battalions of women nursed the wounded and attempted to bring them back to health and sanity from this world that had lost all reason.

Gospel Teaching

We sometimes think that the law of love belongs to the New Testament whereas the *lex talionis* or the law of retribution, “an eye for an eye”, dominates the Old Testament. Yet today we see in the book of Leviticus the injunction not to exact vengeance

but to love our neighbour as ourselves. The challenge addressed by Jesus takes this commandment a step further. He acknowledges that even the tax collectors and pagans are neighbourly to those who are good to them. The difficult question is, how do we react to those who are our enemies and those who treat us badly?

In the Sermon on the Mount, which has formed our Gospel readings over the last few Sundays, Jesus is explaining what the Beatitudes mean in practice. What does it mean to be meek? What does it mean to be merciful? You wonder whether lurking at the back of his mind is the awareness of what his commitment to us, who are sinners, is going to demand of him at the end of his life. Is the passion already in his consciousness? It is certainly there in the awareness of the Gospel writers, who are writing as it were backwards, trying to explain how those great salvific events of death and resurrection came about. They came about because Jesus is capable of obeying his own injunction to love his enemies and pray for his persecutors. It is in this way he shows us how to be perfect, just as his heavenly Father is perfect.

Application

When faced with words such as “holiness” or “perfection”, our first reaction may be to distance ourselves

from them. Such terms belong to saints. They don't come into the orbit of our everyday world. It is true that we are not required to live at these heights every moment. Moral theologians used to make a distinction between behaviours that were required of us to be good rather than bad and behaviours that were counsels of perfection, those acts of self-sacrifice that probably belonged only to the few. Jesus does not make such distinctions. He asks us to consider that, if we are his true followers, we all have the potential to respond at this level. We can all follow in his footsteps.

It is not behaviour we can chart accurately in advance. The times when we are asked to give of ourselves so utterly are few and far between. But we prepare ourselves for such challenges by the way we live through the day-to-day moments of our lives. If we think of others rather than ourselves, if we are not overwhelmed when others fail to notice us or even treat us with respect, when we are sensitive to others' needs as well as our own, especially those who are not close to us or with whom we have little in common, through all those moments we are becoming the disciples of Christ, disciples who are learning to be perfect just as our heavenly Father is perfect.

Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 26th February- 8th Sunday in OT Year A - Cycle 1

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Patrick Walesby	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Fran Smallwood	Anthea Morton-S	Rob Corrigan
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayers	Josie Gwizzala		Pat Draper
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Nickerson Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Jacqui Ramage-S		Monica Russell & Gabrielle Stanley

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Venture

<p>Anniversaries</p> <p>These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.</p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	19-Feb	No Children's Liturgy
	26-Feb	Jacqui Corrigan & Pauline Gill
	05-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Mary Wood
	12-Mar	Pat Wood & Rachel Cowdrey
19-Mar	Andrew M & Rob Blackburn	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 19 Feb)

Deaths: Tom Supple, Gordon Wilson, Bridgid Smith, and Cornelius Linehan.

Anniversaries: David Ellis, Robert Hann, John Harrison, Molly Hawkins, Sr Aloysius Walsh, Terance Faliner, Rose Magness, Phyllis Mailes, William O'Toole, Helena Rhodes, Mary McGowan, Maurice Blackmon, Ethel telford, Marion Arnold, Elizabeth Vose-Davies, Kotska Oddie, Gertrude Leathwood and Charles Mason.

The Sick: Please pray for: Betty Murray, Maureen Toner, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Fr Michael Cronin, Sheila Langford, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Stephen Fisher, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Sr Philipa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Liturgy for Sunday 19th February 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 7)*

<p>7th Sunday In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread.....</p> <p>Communion: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.</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	Nickerson Family	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			tba
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Brenda Warde	Pat Wood
2 nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayer	Richard Batho		Tony Archer
Offertory	Parish Children	Frances Wood & Anthea Morton-S	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Fran Smallwood & Julia Davey		Rob Corrigan & Margaret Evans
Mass Intention	Gordon & Edna Wilson RIP	Benefactors & Parishioners	David Ellis RIP
Second Collection - Marriage Care			
Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	St Peter Damian: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	The Chair of St Peter : Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	St Polycarp: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition 11:00 Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am