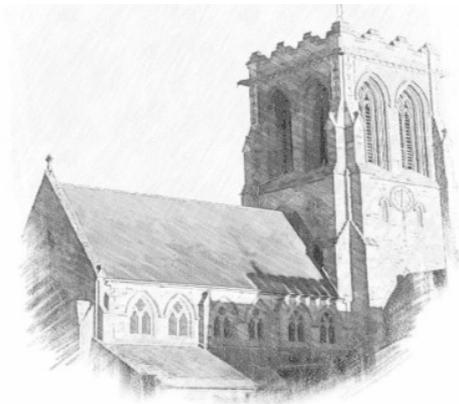


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

19th March 2017

3rd Sunday in Lent

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB

Tel: 01432 - 277319

email: pp.belmontparish@gmail.com

www.belmontparish.org.uk

Parish Deacon

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

Tel: 01432 - 263575

Safeguarding Representative

Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

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

Dee Thomas from Aid to the Church in Need will be speaking at all Masses today. There will be an opportunity to purchase prayer cards, Children's bibles, books and religious artefacts after Mass. More information may be found at www.acnuk.org. The second collection today is for Aid to the Church in Need.

The financial tax year draws to a close in a few weeks and the new Gift Aid envelopes will shortly be ready for collection. **Please could those who currently give via Standing Order for their First Collection let me know if they require a set of envelopes for the Second collection.** Don't forget, Gift Aiding costs you nothing but allows the parish to reclaim the tax paid.

How's Lent going? Are you motoring along with all Lenten intentions intact or maybe you've stalled a little bit, perhaps not got going at all yet. It's easy to do this! However, it's not too late! Lent is not an endurance test with only the 'winners' able to celebrate Easter. Lent is a time for us to re-think and re-order our Christian lives.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£529.83
	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	£861.92
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: - Cafod - Thank You!		

† † † † †

With sadness we report the death of Mary Jo Donnelly who died on Wednesday evening after a brief stay in hospital. May she rest in peace.

† † † † †

APF Red Box Collection

This is my first collection of the boxes and I would like to thank Liz Norman for all her hard work in past years.

Could you please give your red boxes to your promoter as soon as possible as they need to be in by end of March.

If your promoter was Liz Norman or Eddie Wyman please give the boxes to me. I attend the 8:30 Mass. Many thanks for your continued support for this great cause. *Mandy Cooper*

† † † † †

THE BIRTH OF JESUS TO THE LAST AMEN

What is actually in the New Testament, besides the stories of Jesus we find in the Gospels, and how does it all fit together? Why should we be concerned with these ancient letters and stories? What can they possibly have to do with us as modern people?

On Saturday 25th March Alan de Ste Croix will lead us through the entire New Testament exploring the stories of the major characters and why they are still relevant to us today. We will meet in St Dyfrig's Church Hall, Broadway, Treforest, Pontypridd, CF37 1DB at 10am until 3pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided but please bring your own packed lunch

† † † † †

Belmont Abbey – a recent short film about the monastery entitled *Belmont Journal* is available to view at [youtube.com/watch?v=1CCR9Uupkpf](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CCR9Uupkpf).

† † † † †

Lent Study Lunches at Ewyas Harold:

Living an Authentic Life

On five Thursdays beginning 9th March at 12.30 in the Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall. (With soup lunch first)

† † † † †

The **Deanery Station Mass** will be celebrated by Archbishop Stack at Our Lady's Church on Thursday 30th March

at 7 pm. All welcome, refreshments follow.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 March

Tea & Chat

2:30 pm Parish Hall

25 March

First Holy Communion Class

10:30

30 March

Deanery Station Mass

OLQM at 7:00 pm

1 April

Jumble Sale At OLQM

12:00

4 April

Diamond Diners

Three Horseshoes

1:45



The Fires of Mount Carmel

Morning Coffee 10.00, Talk 10.30, Mass 12.00, 1.00 Simple Bread and Soup lunch; Talk 2.00; Finishes with Tea 3.30 pm. Suggested Offering £10, including soup lunch.

22 March

John of the Cross:

Living Flame of Love

Abbot Paul

29 March

Teresa of Avila,

Daughter of the Church

Dom Bernard

5 April

Edith Stein:

The Science of the Cross

Dom Andrew



EMMAUS YOUTH

We are putting on an overnight retreat on 8 and 9 April with some fantastic activities planned. If you are interested please contact us to reserve a space on: 01432 352241 or at jacqui.corrigan@btopenworld.com There will be more details to follow. We hope you can join us. Annie, Ben, Jacqui & Rob.



Don't forget on Palm Sunday (9th April) there are only two Sunday Masses at Belmont Abbey - **8.30 & 10.00** am only. The Abbot will preside at the 10 am Pontifical High Mass, which, because of the long liturgy, replaces the 9.30 & 11 am Masses. Blessed Palms will of course be available at the 8.30 am Parish Mass



The Spring Parish Jumble Sale is fast approaching. If you have any jumble/items that would be useful to someone else, please let us have it as soon as possible. Thank you.



Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching is a collection of teachings that are designed to reflect the Church's social mission in response to the challenges of the day. The teachings are founded in scripture and includes statements and letters written by popes and bishops and reflections on Christian tradition. **This week's theme is: Solidarity**

For some people 'solidarity' is linked with the trade union movement, with strike action and especially with the Polish Solidarność, the free trade union federation led by Lech Walesa which ultimately led to the fall of the Communist regime in Poland. While this is not the core meaning of solidarity for Catholic Social Teaching, it is certainly part of it and gives a strong clue. On the other hand solidarity is also linked to the idea of the Big Society. From this point of view solidarity is the reason we are 'all in this together', and it is for that reason that we are all responsible for each other. Solidarity is the glue that binds together, the common good, the universal destination of goods, equality amongst people and nations, and peace in the world. In some sense solidarity includes all the other principles and values that are necessary to create and sustain a truly good society.

It is a simple fact that we cannot live and exist well independently of

others, we are interdependent beings. Solidarity looks upon this interdependence as something good, something positive, a thing to be cherished. The image Saint Paul gives us of the Body of Christ (that we are all individual parts that together make up the Body of Christ) gives us a visual way to think of this. Modern technology has made it possible to build relationships and help and support those in different parts of the world, in many ways making the world a lot smaller. In his social encyclical Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that "As society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours but does not make us brothers". Solidarity is simply the demand of fraternity, that we treat each other as brothers and sisters.

The heart of solidarity is the life of Jesus, because it is through the incarnation that God is in a very real way in solidarity with humanity and that we are in solidarity with God. The historical reality of the life of Jesus as a human being lifts solidarity beyond the fellowship of people into something altogether more mystical and powerful. In addition, because we know, as Christians, that all of us are formed in the image of God, loving our neighbour (as an act of solidarity) becomes also an act of solidarity towards and with God. Every act of solidarity, understood in this light, becomes an act of communion with

God; an action in which we transmit and reflect the love with which God loves both the person who is object of the action and with which we love God. The ability to recognise God in every individual person and to recognise every individual in God is necessary for authentic human development. Our belief in this and our faith as Christians draws us ever more strongly into a state of unity with each other and with God. Founded in solidarity Catholic Social Teaching becomes the life blood of the reciprocity between God and humanity and the Eucharist is the sacrament of solidarity.

Solidarity *"is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all"* - Saint John Paul II - *Sollicitudo rei socialis*

Solidarity arises when we remember that we belong to each other. We reflect on this in a special way at Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognise Christ in the poorest."

Signs of solidarity in practice are: love and service of neighbour, for example the visiting practiced by SVP conferences or simply checking on an elderly neighbour ; social action, for example setting up a winter shelter for homeless people or campaigning to stop the deportation of an asylum seeker ; and mutual respect, for example buying a copy of the Big Issue rather than giving money to a beggar, or any serious engagement with people across a divide whether of race, religion, age or social background. It is the practice of solidarity, even in simple ways, that guarantees the common good and the fostering of integral human development.



Homily

"Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world."

Mother Teresa felt that our greatest suffering is not our need or weakness itself, but the feeling of uselessness, of being worthless, unappreciated and unloved. She loved the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, feeling that the Samaritan woman symbolises our human poverty and yet the possibility of salvation. As a Samaritan the woman was an outcast and she was also a public sinner, losing her dignity as a person, and yet she had a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

In a letter to her Missionaries of Charity at Easter 1993, referring to the story of the Samaritan woman, Mother Teresa wrote: “Jesus wants me to tell you again how much is the love he has for each one of you – beyond all you can imagine. Not only that he loves you; even more – he longs for you. He misses you when you don’t come close. He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don’t feel worthy. Why does Jesus say, ‘I thirst’? What does it mean? It is something so hard to explain in words. ‘I thirst’ is something much deeper than just Jesus saying, ‘I love you’. Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you, you can’t begin to know who he wants to be for you. Or who he wants you to be for him.” The Samaritan woman in today’s Gospel has the longest conversation recorded between Jesus and any person. It was noon on a hot day. Jesus chose a rest stop – Jacob’s well, – while waiting for his disciples to fetch food. The woman who joined him at the well was an outcast, looked down upon by her own people. When this unnamed woman appeared with clay jar in hand, Jesus made a simple request: “Give me a drink.” But Jews weren’t supposed to speak to Samaritans. Men weren’t permitted to address women without their husbands present. And rabbis had no business speaking to shady women such as this one. Jesus was willing to ignore

the rules, but the woman reminded him: “You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?” She focused on the laws of respectable society; Jesus focused on grace. Jesus let her know he was aware of the suffering in her life. And then to this woman Jesus revealed that he was the Messiah, offering the living water. She forgot about her own need to fetch water, and ran to tell others about Jesus. She became a powerful evangelist.

Jesus’ ministering to the outcasts of Jewish society reveals that all people are valuable to God and that Jesus desires that we demonstrate love to everyone, including even our enemies. Jesus’ mission to those who are lost is a radical commission: it means leaving our comfort zone and making ourselves vulnerable in order to love people who are different from us. And great insights can come from those at the margins of society, who receive God’s message with humility, trust and joy. The story of the woman at the well teaches us that God loves every one of us, especially those of us who feel ourselves undervalued and even worthless. God values us all enough to actively seek us and engage with us. The Samaritan woman understood what this means – to be wanted, to be cared for when no one, not even herself, could see anything of value in her.



Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 26th March 4th Sunday of Lent Year A - Cycle 1

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Hayes Family	Clare Wichbold	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S	Menna MacBain	Margaret Rose
2 nd Reading	Josie Gwizdala		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayers	Fran Smallwood		Niamh Coyle
Offertory	Parish Children	Frances Wood & Anthea Morton-S	
Extraordinary Ministers	Frances Dees & Kath Parry		Monica Tomlin & Tony Archer

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach (East Africa Famine Appeal)

<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-Mar	Andrew M & Rob Blackburn
	26-Mar	Jackie King & Monica Russell
	02-Apr	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	09-Apr	No Children's Liturgy
	16-Apr	No Children's Liturgy

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

Deaths: *Mary Jo Donnelly, Tom Supple, Gordon Wilson and Bridgid Smith.*

Anniversaries: *Bill Phillips, Maria Cochrane, Mary Gwilt, Mary Haan, Albert Milsom, Tom Walsh, Maria H Williams, Mary Donovan, Sarah Edmonds, Bernard Bray, Joan Curme, Frank Underwood and Winifred Sosna.*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Jennifer Hackman, 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 Medicott, Sr Philpa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

Liturgy for Sunday 19th March 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p>3rd Sunday In Lent</p>	<p>Entrance: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world</p> <p>Communion: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.</p>
--	--

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Kath Parry	Brenda Warde	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Mary Hayes	Clare Nickerson	Pat Draper
2 nd Reading	Bill Jackson		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayer	Ann Jackson		Rob Corrigan
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Frances Riddell & Menna McBain	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Jacqui Ramage-S & Julia Davey		Chris Moore & Margaret Evans
Mass Intention	Mary Jo Donnelly RIP	Pro Populo	Bill Phillips RIP
Second Collection - Parish Outreach - Aid to the Church in Need			
Food Bank Delivery: Kath Parry			

What's On for the week	
Mon	St Joseph: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Passing of St Benedict: Mass in Oratory at 8:00 am: Sung Mass at 12:00 noon
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Church: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition 11:00 Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	Annunciation of the Lord: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am