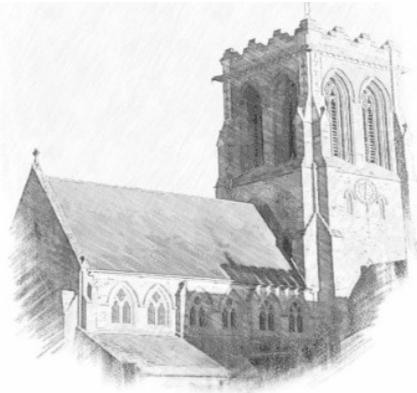


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

19th November 2017

33rd Week Ordinary Time

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This Sunday is the first 'World Day of the Poor'. Pope Francis has instituted this new day as a way of inviting us to understand that sharing with those living in poverty "enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel". In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means, to unite in love and in acts of service to one another. He explains: "It is my wish that ... Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance." Please consider how you can create moments of encounter and friendship today.

Next Sunday is the feast of Christ the King and to mark the end of the liturgical year there will be an extended period of Exposition from 1 pm and finishing with Vespers and Benediction at 6 pm. Please try and pop in for a short while and take advantage of this special prayer opportunity.

This Thursday, the parish is hosting the Christian Rise Theatre Company who are touring the country with their new play 'Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador'. The play will be held in Hedley Lodge on Thursday 23rd November at 7.30 pm. Rise Theatre have been before with other plays which have been well received and very thought provoking. **Please support this Parish Outreach endeavour** and be entertained too! **Tickets available this morning.**

Today's second collection will be for the Hereford Homeless

Fr Nicholas

Last	1 st Collection	£319.63
Sunday's	Standing Orders	£457.76

The 1st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.

	2 nd Collection	£273.93
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The 2nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for: **Food Bank. Thank You!**



Parish Outreach - During November, the Second Collections, marked as Parish Outreach, will be for local Hereford charities caring for the Homeless and the Hereford Food Bank



Be advised - a couple of cars parked on the Ruckhall Lane have been **vandalised** during the Sunday 9.30am Mass over the last couple of weeks. Probably best to park in our car parks.



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you have a relative or fellow parishioner in hospital and they would like to be visited by Fr. Matthew, please contact him with the details of the person concerned on 01432 265177 or fr.matthew@live.co.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 November
Tea & Chat
Parish Hall 2:30 - 4:00 pm

23 November
Rise Theatre
Hedley Lodge 7:30 pm

26 Nov
Pay & Collect Tesco Vouchers

1 December
Church Cleaning 9:00 am

5 December
Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes 12:45

10 December
Christmas Draw

13 December
Retired Persons Lunch



Our next Tea and Chat is on Tuesday November 21st. By common consent we decided to cancel the meeting on December 19th as it is so close to Christmas. We shall resume on January 16th 2018 then every 3rd Tuesday in the month as usual.

Margaret Rose



A special Mass is being celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Bromyard on Wednesday November 22 at 10.00 am as part of **Aid to the Church in Need's** campaign to highlight the injustice of Christian persecution. Refreshments afterwards



A HUG TO PORTUGAL

Special Christmas Fundraiser for the victims of the fires in Portugal this summer. Car boot sale to be held at Our Lady's Church on Saturday 9th December from 12-4 pm. Hot dogs and refreshments available.



Parish Retired Person's Christmas Lunch -

12.30 pm Wednesday 13th December at Hedley Lodge. Tickets £10.00 – please return completed leaflet to Parish Office.



Catenians Pray for the Dead

In November each year, the Catenians have a special Mass celebrated to pray for the repose of the souls of deceased members and their families.

We also pray for each one of them by name at our monthly meetings and we endeavour to care for our widows too, writing to them regularly and inviting them to our social events. Local Contact: Chris Moore: cjm1957@btinternet.com 07928 119128.



Collections have already started for our **Christmas draw**. Please put your name down if you would like to donate a prize, or part of a prize, towards the wonderful hampers that are put together for this Christmas draw. This fundraising event produces many wonderful hamper type prizes that the parish can win before Christmas.



Hereford Food Bank is always in need of the following: rice, fish, soup, baked beans, tinned cold meat, Smash, UHT milk, baby formula milk, baby shampoo, soap, wipes, shampoo and shower gel. Many thanks.



EMMAUS Youth are meeting on Saturday 16 December 2.30-5.30 pm when we will also include our Christmas party. You are invited to share in some Praise and Worship,

Liturgy, refreshments and time to socialize. Come and join us for some fun!! Rob and Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway and Ben Aldridge 01432 352241 and 07739 566578 jacqui.corrigan@btopenworld.com



Hereford & Belmont Abbey

Walsingham Group

next meet on Wednesday 29 November at the Abbey at 5:55 pm. Vespers, rosary and Mass (Tridentine) Refreshments to follow, all welcome.



The Angel

It is hoped to produce a **Christmas Angel**.

If you have anything that could go in the Angel, please send it to the admin e-mail or hand in to Father Nicholas. Pictures are also welcome.



Walsingham Pilgrimage 2018 18-21 May

Cost from £212 pp includes all transport and accommodation. More details please contact Menna MacBain on 01568 797077.



Homily

“Come and join in your master’s happiness”

Illustration

There’s room for confusion when one word has multiple meanings; especially so when it happens in a parable. The word “talent” figures in today’s Gospel. Today we think of “talent” as a special attribute that a person possesses – in sport, in art, in music or whatever. Talents are the gifts that enable people to excel in a particular area or field in their lives. These talents are not earned, but they can be developed. We’re annoyed when we see gifted people who don’t use their talents properly; we are particularly impressed with people who use their talents for the good of others.

The talents in today’s Gospel are different, however: more like sums of

money that can be invested, which is what two characters in the parable do with them. One man does what people in New Testament times were advised to do with their money: he buried it for safety. Two thousand years ago the sensible thing was to dig a hole and bury your savings because it was too easy for burglars literally to break a hole in the wall of a house and steal valuables. The image is still not entirely accurate. The talent was a measure of weight of an amount of metal. A single talent of silver was worth more than fifteen times the basic daily wage of the time, so gifts of one, two or five talents were very extravagant.

Gospel Teaching

This parable is one of a sequence of three found only in Matthew, although there is one in Luke that has similar features to today's tale. These three are the final parables before the passion narrative, so today's parable of the man going on a journey, who leaves his servants in charge of his property and who later returns, is particularly poignant.

As in all good stories, the plot is simple. All three of Jesus' final parables in Matthew's Gospel involve the return of an important figure: a bridegroom in the first, a king in the last. This parable is about a man who leaves and returns. Before leaving, he entrusts his servants with his affairs.

His instructions are not very specific, and this gives us leeway in interpreting the text. All we know is that he gives five, two and one talents to servants according to each's ability. The first two trade with what they are given, and double the amount. They are clearly adventurous in their trading. The third man, however, plays safe and buries the talent he had been given. As we saw earlier, this was regarded as the prudent thing to do.

Parables are notorious for turning upside down the expected order of things, and this one is no exception. The high risk takers are rewarded for their audacity; the prudent one is punished. It is clear that playing safe with God's gifts is not an option in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew's Gospel was probably written for a group of Christians who had been expelled from the synagogue for following Jesus' teachings. Some would have tried to lie low, play safe and hope the trouble passed by. Perhaps Matthew used the parable to encourage the fearful to risk everything for the kingdom of God, where the rewards would be spectacularly high.

Application

Parables speak to us today, however, and we may wonder how this one can do so. Perhaps the clue is in the reward. Those who took risks are not

given extra talents; they are praised identically for being good and faithful servants, and they are invited to come and share their master's happiness. The one who played safe, risking nothing for his master, is deprived of his talent and cast out.

The emphasis is on the positive, however. This parable reminds us that we have been given much by God. We don't have the option of not using our gifts to build God's kingdom. Whatever we invest, the promised reward is to share in the happiness of the master's kingdom. It is a lovely idea to pursue during this month when our prayers are for those who have died. We pray for them, and for ourselves, secure in the promise that if we invest in the kingdom of God, we can look forward to a life that takes us into the fullness of God's life itself. It is the perfection of anything we could ever hope for.

Summary

The talent is a good image to remind us of the free gifts we receive from God and it is the attempt to use the talents that is rewarded, not the result of their use. To those who would use the gifts of God, the promise is a share in God's own life for ever.



The Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple

What does the feast of the Presentation celebrate? It celebrates the fact that the parents of Our Lady brought her to the Temple at the age of three and handed her over to live there for a long period as a virgin consecrated to the Temple, contemplating God exclusively.

What is the special beauty of this feast? Our Lady was the one chosen before time began, the Queen of Jesse from whom the Messiah would be born. The Temple was the only place in the Old Testament where sacrifices were offered to God. It represented, therefore, the only true religion. Our Lady being received at the Temple was the first step to the fulfilment of the promise that the Messiah would come to the true religion. It was the encounter of hope with reality.



www.adoringourgenitor.com

Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 26 November - Christ the Universal King Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Clare Wichbold	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S	Brenda Warde	Niamh Coyle
2 nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayers	Fran Smallwood		Sergio Pavia
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Gillick Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Kath Parry		Jan Wyman & Monica Russell
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Hereford Shelter			

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	
	19-Nov	A Morawiecki & Pauline Gill
	26-Nov	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	03-Dec	Jacqui Moore & Rachel Cowdery
	10-Dec	Pat Wood & Rob Blackburn
	17-Dec	A Morawiecki & Pauline Gill

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

Deaths: David Wood, Rachel George and R D Anthony osb

Anniversaries: Anna Harrington, Patrick Joseph Lonergan, Elizabeth O'Shea, Arthur Shaw, Anastasia Clemens, Elizabeth Jones, Barry Lofthouse, Henry Lyons, Lilian Tyler, John Pimblett, David Middleton and Emily Phillips.

The Sick: Please pray for: Julia Davey, Gil Savory, Liz Norman, Sam Evans, Denise Ellis, Michael Kennedy, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Dominique Wetz, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsop, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Elaine White, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Liturgy for Sunday 19 November 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 33)*

<p>33rd Week In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance:The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me and I will answer you and I will lead back your captives from every place.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread</p> <p>Communion: To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.</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	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Lucy Zammit	Pat Wood
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayer	Richard Batho		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Parish children	Frances Riddle & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Jacqui R-Smith & Fran Smallwood		Margaret Evans and Chris Moore
Mass Intention	<i>In Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Holy Souls</i>	<i>David Wood RIP</i>
Second Collection - <i>Parish Outreach - Hereford Homeless</i>			
Food Bank Collection: Kath Parry			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	St Edmund: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Presentation of Our Lady & EBC <i>Dies memorabilis:</i> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Cecilia: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comp: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 with by Midday Mass
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am