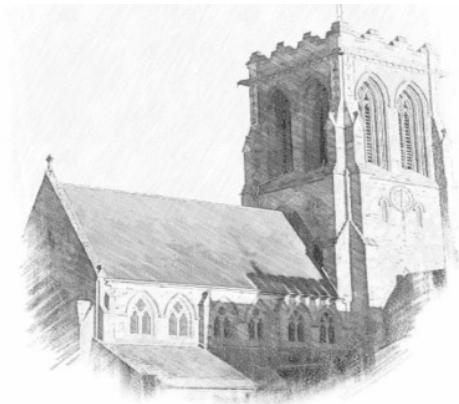


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

2nd April 2017

5th Sunday of Lent

PARISH PRIEST

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Items for the Newsletter to
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Passiontide begins today - the last two weeks of Lent, when the readings and prayers of the liturgy begin to focus on the last days of Christ's earthly ministry leading to his Passion. Crucifixes and statues are often veiled because Christ during this time no longer walked openly among the people, but hid himself. However, the veiling serves to heighten the sombre and penitential mood and sense of expectation as the Church moves towards Holy Week and the celebration of Christ's death on Good Friday.

Next Sunday, 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

Thank you to all who supported our Jumble Sale yesterday – especially all the volunteers and helpers.

The second collection today is for the East Africa Famine Appeal.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£464.08
	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	£613.28
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: - East Africa Famine Appeal. Thank You!		



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)



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@bopenworld.com There will be more details to follow. We hope you can join us. Annie, Ben, Jacqui & Rob.



Many thanks to Jan Wyman for organising the Beloved Disciples meetings during Lent.

It is hoped to organise similar sessions during the year ahead.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 April
Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes
1:45

7 April
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

18 April
Tea & Chat
Parish Hall 2:30

22 April
First Holy Communion Class
10:30



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 3.30pm. Suggested Offering £10, including soup lunch.

5 April

Edith Stein:
The Science of the Cross
Dom Andrew





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.



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: THE DIGNITY OF WORK.**

The dignity of work has been a key principle of Catholic social teaching from the very beginning. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII issued *Rerum Novarum* (On Capital and Labour). He shone a light on the injustice and exploitation of workers by the rich during the In-

dustrial Revolution. He advocated for workers to join forces and fight against inhuman conditions. Since then, Church teaching has upheld the dignity of work and participation. The human person should always come before the pursuit of profit.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth, where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God. It follows that, in the reality of today's global society, it is essential that "we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone," no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning. We were created with a vocation to work. The goal should not be that technological progress increasingly replace human work, for this would be detrimental to humanity. Work is a necessity, part of

the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfillment. Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work. (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home*)

I would like to remind everyone, especially governments engaged in boosting the world's economic and social assets, that the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity: "Man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth*)

The economic sphere is neither ethically neutral, or inherently inhuman or opposed to society. It is part and parcel of human activity and precisely because it is human, it must be structured and governed in an ethical manner. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth*)

In many cases, poverty results from a violation of the dignity of human work, either because work opportunities are limited (through unemployment or underemployment), or "because a low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it, especially the

right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth*)

The obligation to earn one's bread by the sweat of one's brow also presumes the right to do so. A society in which this right is systematically denied, in which economic policies do not allow workers to reach satisfactory levels of employment, cannot be justified from an ethical point of view, nor can that society attain social peace. (St. John Paul II, *The Hundredth Year*)



HOMILY

"I am the resurrection and the life."

Gospel Teaching

Today Jesus talks about death not in cosmic apocalyptic events but in close loving relationships. His dear friends, Martha and Mary, inform him about their sick brother Lazarus, whom Jesus loves. At first Jesus seems indifferent and delays going to help but then reassures them that the illness will not end in death. And yet when the disciples are told Lazarus is only sleeping Jesus corrects them and states quite starkly, "Lazarus is dead." What St John now shows us in this passage is how a believer can come to a deeper faith in the face of death.

Martha is told her brother will rise again and she presumes that this will be on the final day. But then Jesus speaks powerful words, which we often hear at funerals, “I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live.” And then he asks Martha, and all us, “Do you believe this?”

Martha affirms her faith in Jesus as the Christ and Son of God, but when they finally come to the grave she seems to falter in her belief that Jesus can raise the dead now: “Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.” Even Jesus is moved to tears by the grief of those he loves and angry at the reality of death in his friend. But then he performs the greatest sign of his ministry as he calls Lazarus from the grave. As Lazarus comes out bound by the bonds of death, Jesus commands them to unbind him. Lazarus is freed from death.

Application

The raising of Lazarus is the greatest sign Jesus performs but, like the other signs we have seen in Lent, the giving of “living water” to a thirsty woman and sight to a blind man, it points to the greater reality of the resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter. Lazarus was raised from the dead but he had to die again. He would need again the funeral cloths that are cast aside when Jesus rises on the third day. At the resurrection Jesus conquers

death. In baptism we receive the grace of an eternal life that cannot be touched by death. In that sense we experience eternity now. But death as an enemy still remains and we must all finally face it, although confident that we shall share in the resurrection of our bodies on the last day.

When we celebrate the funerals of our loved ones we need to express in the liturgy both the triumph of Christ’s victory but also the sadness of the present reality of the loss that death brings. On the last day we believe that Christ will come again in glory to bring his creation to share fully in his resurrection. But what we can witness to in our celebration of the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, is that the risen Christ is now present among us. And the good news that we can offer to a secular world is a faith that our loved ones who have died will share in that final eternal victory.



Wales Celebrate Weekend 2017

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th April at St David’s Catholic College, Cardiff. We have such a fantastic weekend planned for you, including inspiring talks and worship, workshops, drama from Rise Theatre, and an opportunity to find inspiration and encounter God.

Holy Week & Easter 2017

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week

Mass	8.00 am
Wednesday Mass in Oratory	12.00 pm

Holy Thursday 13th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.00 pm
Compline	9.00 pm

Good Friday 14th April

Stations of the Cross	11.00 am
Liturgy of the Passion	3.00 pm
Compline	8.00 pm

Holy Saturday 15th April

Morning Prayer	9.00 am
Vespers	6.00 pm
The Easter Vigil	9.00 pm

Easter Sunday 16th April

Parish Mass	8.30 am
Parish Sung Mass	9.30 am
Monastic Conventual Mass	11.00 am
Vespers & Benediction	6.00 pm

Easter Monday 17th April

Sung Mass	9.00 am
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Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 9 April Palm Sunday Year A - Cycle 1</u>		
	08:30	10:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas	Father Abbot
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Clare Wichbold
Sacristan		
1 st Reading	Adrian Eyre	Polly Maund-Powell
2 nd Reading		
Bidding Prayers	Richard Batho	
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Nickerson Family
Extraordinary Ministers	Jacqui Ramage-Smith & Monica Russell	
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach (Easter Flowers)		

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	02-Apr	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	09-Apr	No Children's Liturgy
	HOLY WEEK	NO Children's Liturgy
	16-Apr	No Children's Liturgy

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 2 April)

Deaths: *Mary Jo Donnelly, Eduards Sardiko, Tom Supple and Gordon Wilson.*

Anniversaries: *Zofia Heathcock, Bro Peter Jones OSB, William Payne, Francis Heathcote, Lyra Learmouth, Mary Ann Bagley, Gertrude Prosser, Michael Quinlan, Lancelot Watkins, Theresa Holley, Alan W Weaver, Mervyn James, Nathaniel Opoku-Boateng, Florence Wegg-Prosser, Dom Cuthbert Formby OSB and Teresa Hartry.*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Sylvia Hayes, David Kinsey, Maureen Toner, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Sr Philipa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

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

Liturgy for Sunday 2nd April 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p>5th Sunday of Lent</p>	<p>Entrance: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.</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	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Frances Wood	Lucy Reed
2 nd Reading	Julia Davey		Monica Tomlin
Bidding Prayer	Bill Jackson		Pat Draper
Offertory	Hayes Family	Maria Large & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Jan Wyman & Joa Pavia
Mass Intention	<i>Sylvia Hayes</i>	<i>The Parish</i>	<i>Mary Jo Donnelly RIP</i>
Second Collection - Parish Outreach: <i>East Africa Famine Appeal</i>			
Food Bank Delivery: John Goodall-Copestake			

<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 8:00 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	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am