

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

2 December 2018

Advent 1

PARISH PRIEST

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Usually, there's a Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop on Advent Sunday, but this year there isn't, so to avoid disappointment, there will be a special message from Peter Symonds on behalf of the Parish before the end of Mass this morning. Listen closely. He will not be asking for money!

This evening, there's the Advent Service at the Anglican Church in Ewyas Harold, beginning at 6pm. Br Alistair will be taking part. I hope that many of us can attend.

It was a great joy to see so many parishioners at the meeting on Tuesday night. Personally, I find these meetings helpful and encouraging. It's quite clear that we do have a common vision as to what needs to be done, essentially the work of Evangelisation, the sharing of our Gospel faith in every way possible. It's important that we support and pray for one another in all the activities we undertake in the name of Jesus, bearing in mind that the future of the Church in Herefordshire is the responsibility of each one of us. No one can say, "It's nothing to do with me."

God bless and keep us all in his love,

Fr Paul

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

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£591.19
	Standing Orders	£581.00
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£226.58
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 Hereford Homeless. Thank You!		



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit from Fr Matthew, please let him know on 01432 265177 / fr.matthew@live.co.uk.



If you know of anybody who is sick or homebound in the parish and they would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Parish office by phone or e-mail.



GDPR

Would all those who do a Ministry - Welcomer, Reader, Offertory and Extraordinary Minister - please sign the form in the porch so that I can send out new Telephone Lists. Many thanks.



Dates for your diary

4 December

Diamond Diners
12:45 pm

9 December

Christmas Draw
After 11 am Mass
Parish Hall

12 December

Retired Persons'
Christmas Lunch
12:45 pm Hedley Lodge

14 December

Light up a life 7 pm

21 December

Penitential Service



Last Call

Retired Persons' Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 12th December at 12:45 pm. Booking forms are available in the porch. Please remember that places are limited and completed forms, with payment, must be received by **Sunday 9th December**. Please hand them to Ray Rose, Peter Symonds or Fran Grant.





EMMAUS YOUTH

The date for our next meeting is **Saturday** 15 December from 2.30 to 5.30 pm. We meet at Our Lady's Church Hall on Belmont Road. If you are of secondary school age or above come and join us for faith, food and fun! If you have any queries please contact emmausyouth@hotmail.com or call Jacqui & Rob on 01432 352241.



Tea & Chat

As the December Meeting is so close to Christmas it has been cancelled and due to the winter weather we will not resume until March 19th.



Venite Adoremus Retreat

At St David's Catholic College in Cardiff on 8 December 2018 from 10:30 to 15:00. Please see poster in porch for more details.



United Advent Service at St Michael's Church, Ewyas Harold, this Sunday 6 pm.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion classes will begin in early January 2019. The sessions are fortnightly and will be on Saturday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 pm. If your child is in Year 3 or above and would like to join us please

contact Rob or Jacqui Corrigan on 01432 352241 or email: Jacqui.corrigan@btpopenworld.com



Walk with Me available in the porch to help you keep a good Advent.



Poor Clares' Carol Service on Sunday, 16th December, at 3 pm with Refreshments to follow.



Diamond Diners

After our gathering this month we will recommence on the 19th February 2019.



For Christ is the Light that came into the world

Put Christ back into Christmas. Why not come along to a DVD presentation of "Amazed and Afraid" by renowned speaker Bishop Robert Barron? Come and light a candle for a loved one. Listen to or join in an informal chat over tea and mince pies. All Welcome. Friday 14th December at 7.15 in OLQM Parish Hall.



St Michael's Hospice - One Starry Night

Led by the St Michael's Hospice Community Choir, One Starry Night will include performances from the Roaring Megs Community Choir, the

Monday Handbell Ringers, accordionist Kate Stock and SassCappella.

Featuring a welcome drink on arrival, this memorable night of music will be performed in the beautiful surrounds of the 17th Century barn at Lyde Court, HR1 3AE on Wednesday, 5th December 7.30pm. Proceeds to go to St Michael's Hospice. To book your discount advance tickets call Denise Bishop on 01432 852 656.



**Parish Prayer Chain/
Practical Help Chain**

I have suggested setting up a parish prayer chain, so that if anyone in our parish has a sudden severe health issue or problem they would like prayer for they could contact the prayer chain. I am imagining having a list of people who would each phone two others and so the message would be passed on with no one person having to make loads of calls. If you would like to be part of a prayer chain please phone Jane Davies 01432 267089 or email jf58davies@gmail.com

I am also thinking of having another chain of people who would be willing/able to help a fellow parishioner with practical needs if they were suffering a sudden illness or they were in particular short term need. I imagine helping to provide the odd meal for a family where the

main cook has broken his/her arm for example. If anyone would like to be part of such a chain, or would have ideas on how it could work, please contact Jane Davies 01432 267089 or email: jf58davies@gmail.com Also if anyone can advise me on data protection issues please do!!

As a start I wonder if there are any parishioners who will be alone on Christmas Day? And if anyone would be able to invite such a lonely person to Christmas Lunch at their home?? If so please contact me as above and I will see if I can sort something out.

Jane Davies



HEREFORD FOOD BANK

Philip King, Trustee & Treasurer of the HFB, has written to thank the Belmont Abbey Parish for the cheque for £525 towards the work of the Bank. You can find and read his interesting letter on the notice board in the porch.



Our Postulant Christopher Strudley will begin his Novitiate on 7th December. We pray for his perseverance.





Homily

“Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen.”

Illustration

For most people in our society today, Advent is simply Christmas come early. It features fairy lights in the high street, Santa’s grotto in the stores, office parties, pre-Christmas dinners, extravagant spending and general excess. It is most certainly not inhibited by the words of Jesus, “Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness.” On the contrary, it would appear to be the season par excellence of debauchery and drunkenness. This can mean, for many people, that by the time they actually get to Christmas itself they are fed up with the whole thing and just want it to be over and done with, and to get back to normal everyday living – and perhaps consider a bit of a detox.

Gospel Teaching

It may come as a shock, therefore, to hear the readings from the scriptures that the Church sees fit to proclaim during this season, especially at its beginning. They seem to have no connection with the mirth and jollity prevalent at this time in the world

around us. There are horrific warnings of signs in the sun and moon and stars, of people dying of fear as they await what menaces the world. Whatever possesses the Church to begin Advent with such a chilling message?

This is how the Christian faith works. We believe in a saviour who is risen, ascended, glorified; but first he had to be crucified. There can be no resurrection without the crucifixion, no Easter without Lent; and likewise there can be no Christmas without Advent. Jesus does not enlist disciples under false pretences; he teaches us that we cannot journey with him to the joys of heaven unless we first take up our cross and follow him to Calvary. And he warns us, on this first day of the Church’s year, that days of agony and menace lie ahead. We cannot skip them and proceed directly to the sweetness of the nativity story, with its jolly shepherds, glittering angels and exotic kings.

Application

Some people may object that we have got along very well so far without nations in agony or people dying with fear as they await what menaces the world. Why bring up these subjects now? Was Christ perhaps mistaken in what he thought would befall the world? But if we look back through the course of human history, it

consists of little else but nations in agony. The people for whom Luke wrote his Gospel – the Gospel that the Church will be reading throughout this new liturgical year – would have been very familiar with such things themselves. In their own time they knew how the Jewish people had rebelled against the Roman Empire, and how the Roman armies, with great ferocity, had defeated the rebels, occupied Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple. To some who lived through these events, it seemed as if the world was ending.

Without going through the myriad wars and disasters of antiquity and the Middle Ages, we ourselves know of two very bloody world wars in times not distant from our own, and of other distressing conflicts, of ethnic cleansing and genocide, of the migration of refugees on an enormous scale, fleeing from unspeakable violence and oppression. Christ never said that if we followed him we would be spared these disasters.

And even those of us who have not lived through the cruelty of war in person have suffered disasters on the more ordinary level of our everyday lives. We suffer sickness and pain, bereavement and grief, guilt and shame. Even if we have not seen the powers of heaven shaken, our own

composure and way of life have often been shaken. Many of us have felt that our own world, if not the entire cosmos, was coming to an end.

This, however, is not the end of the story. Christ predicts these disasters, but his message is still one of hope. “Stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand,” he tells his listening disciples, and the message is for us too. The crucifixion must come, but it is followed by resurrection and glory, for us as for Christ. Fortified by this hope, we may well stay awake, and stand with confidence before the Son of Man.



The Immaculate Conception

*If you follow her, you do not stray;
if you think of her, your mind does
not err;*

*if you ask of her, you will not be
disappointed;*

if you cling to her, you will not fail.

*If she be with you, all is well
and you will realize the truth of the
words*

“the name of the virgin was Mary”

St Bernard



Ministries for next <u>Sunday 9 December 2018</u> 1 Advent Year C Cycle 1			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Paul	Fr Jonathan	Fr Paul
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Anne Stapleton	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Anthea Morton-Saner	Jane Davies
2 nd Reading	Ann Jackson		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayers	Bill Jackson		Margaret Rose
Offertory	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Deacon Eddie & Monica Russell
Next Sunday: Mary's Meals			

Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is usually celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	02-Dec	Jackie King & Jan Wyman
	09-Dec	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	16-Dec	Andrew M & Mary Wood
	23-Dec	Jan Wyman & Monica Russell
	Christmas Break	

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

Deaths: *Petal O'Hay, Vincent Hanna and Fr Cadfan osb*

Anniversaries: *Dom Benedict Adams, Alfred Curme, Adrian Poole, Peter Weare, Frances Bold, William Thomas, Monica Mary Thomson, Mary Crump, Winifred Dodd, Mary Watkins, Jean Cocksedge, Mark Evans, Jeanne Harding, Margaret Florence Cox, Eileen Diamond, Jackie Jones, Abbot Aidan Williams osb, Albert Bray and Kathleen Desmond.*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Roy Lampard, Jennifer Hackman, David Grant, Kenny Hanna, Fr Aidan, Robin Hayward, Gil Savory, Chris & Sue Rogers, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott and Dame Catherine.*

Liturgy for Sunday 2 December 2018 *Cycle C; Weekdays: Year 1*

<h1>1st Sunday of Advent</h1>	<p>Entrance: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you have I trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: The Lord will bestow his bounty and our ear shall yield its increase.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	8:30	9:30	11:00:00
Celebrant	Fr Patrick	Fr Brendan	Fr Patrick
Welcomer	Hayes Family	Clare Wichbold	Brenda Sherwood
Sacristan			John Hackman
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Brenda Warde	Rob Corrigan
2 nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Fran Smallwood		Tony Archer
Offertory	Parish Children	Gillick Family	
Extraordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Jacqui Ramage-S		Deacon Eddie & Chris Moore
Mass Intention			
<i>Second Collection: Christmas Flowers</i>			
Food Bank Collection: Jan & Eddie Wyman			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	St Francis Xavier: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am; Midday Mass in Oratory; Extraordinary Rite at 7pm; Mass for Desmond & Margaret Malone.
Thu	St Nicholas: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	St Ambrose: Mass at 8:00 am; Exposition at 11 & Mass at 12
Sat	Immaculate Conception of BVM: Mass at 8:00 am; Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10 am