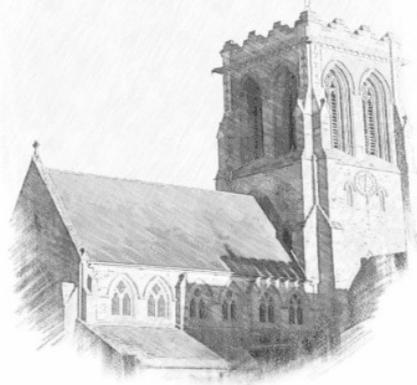


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

2 July 2017

**13th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB

Tel: 01432 - 277319

email: pp@belmontparish.plus.com

www.belmontparish.org.uk

Parish Deacon

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

Tel: 01432 - 263575

Safeguarding Representative
Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

Articles for newsletter:

admin@belmontparish.org.uk

The modern traveller has become accustomed to the easy availability of roadside cafes, motorway services, motels and travel lodges. In the days of Elisha the prophet there were no guest houses or fast-food stops. Those who travelled beyond the territory of their own family or tribe had to depend on the hospitality of strangers to survive. As we see from today's first reading, Elisha is lucky in his travels: he meets a woman of means who invites him to break his journey and eat at her house. The hospitality must have been good because Elisha makes a habit of stopping there on his travels.

Obviously, today, especially in the west, times and circumstances are different and we would want to be very wary about inviting strangers into our homes; however, that doesn't mean we shouldn't be warm and welcoming in the streets of our towns and villages and especially in our parish church. As the summer holidays approach and more visitors and strangers cross our paths, let us receive them, especially our young visitors, as Christ himself welcomed them, with warmth and genuine concern for their wellbeing. We welcome visitors as we ourselves would seek to be welcomed when we travel or visit somewhere.

As Jesus says in today's gospel: "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me." In the end, it is God who is our guest.

Fr Nicholas



Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£288.03
	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	£157.93
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: Peter's Pence. Thank You!		



Be an Angel

And write or photograph something for *The Angel*, which we hope to publish shortly. Please send items to the Parish Office or give to Fr Nick. If you have photos of the Fete or any other parish events, please e-mail them to Father Nick. Many thanks!



With sadness we report the death of Theresa Chowles, formerly a parishioner of Belmont, who died last Monday. May she rest in peace. Her funeral service will be on Wednesday 12th July at 1.30 pm at Belmont Abbey.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 July
Diamond Diners
The Three Horseshoses
12:45 pm

14 July
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

18 July
Tea & Chat
2:30 pm

28 July
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

30 July
Pay & Collect
Tesco Vouchers



FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

There are 14 pilgrims from the local Deanery going on the pilgrimage in late September, we will be joined by another 28 pilgrims from other places and parishes. Still places available. Contact Fr. Matthew at Our Lady's (265177). Final preparation meeting on Tuesday 12th September at 6.30pm.





NOAH'S CAMP

A new Catholic family camp set in rural Gloucestershire from 7th – 11th August 2017.

Inspiring talks, fun times for families, live worship band, Quiet prayer times, Taize evening, age related kids 7 youth groups. All denominations welcome. You can camp or commute daily, only about 40 minutes from Hereford. For more information visit our website: www.noahscamp.co.uk, Tel 07961 346343 or contact Jacqui/Rob Corrigan on 01432 352241 for more information



Hereford Food Bank

The Food Bank is in urgent need of more supplies and is particularly short of **tinned soup and tinned fish**. At this time there is no need for pasta or tins of beans but all other items would be very much welcomed. Thank you for your continued support. Chris



Confirmation 2018

Will you be in School Year 9 or above this September? Do you have a desire to learn more about your faith and to receive the Sacrament of

Confirmation in the summer of 2018? This usually involves a commitment to a weekend non-residential retreat at the start in the autumn and 22 sessions lasting approximately 90 minutes over the following months (avoiding school holidays).

Please contact Fr Nick or Chris Moore (cjm1957@btinternet.com) (if you are interested) as soon as possible so we can consider the options for preparation of candidates.



Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

Sat 29th July

Jennifer Woodman &
Charles Kirby

Sat 19th August

Kitty Massarella &
Jonathon Nicholls

Sat 26th August

Natalie Dewhurst &
Robert Dewen





HOMILY

“Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Illustration

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and theologian, is one of the Christian heroes of the last century. In his native land, he argued strenuously against Adolf Hitler’s euthanasia programme and his genocidal attack on the Jews. Because of this opposition, Bonhoeffer was imprisoned and later sent to a concentration camp. He was executed by the Nazis towards the end of the war. The doctor who was present at his execution recorded how he was moved by the calm and prayerful spirit in which the heroic pastor faced death.

In 1937 Bonhoeffer had written a book called, in its English translation, *The Cost of Discipleship*, which has become a modern spiritual classic. In it he warns against the notion of “cheap grace”, which he describes as “grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ”. The “cheap grace” approach emphasises the more attractive and consoling aspects of Christianity, with little or no reference to the demands

made upon those who follow Christ. Bonhoeffer insists that to leave out the difficult aspects of Christianity – such as repentance, discipline, confession, discipleship, the cross – is to offer an incomplete version, a “cheap” version, of God’s grace and of discipleship.

Gospel Teaching

Bonhoeffer’s views reflect what we’ve heard from Jesus today. He makes no bones about it: following him will make demands of us, for he must be the centre of our life, no matter what the cost. By way of extreme example, he insists that even the most precious relationships, such as those between children and parents, must not be allowed to come between us and him. Of course, this does not mean that the bonds of love within a family are of no importance. On the contrary, they are of supreme importance, and yet we cannot allow even these to become a barrier between us and our duty to God.

We need only think of the English martyr St Thomas More. He was an outstanding family man. When he was imprisoned for refusing to take the oath that would have acknowledged King Henry VIII as head of the Church in England, his wife and his beloved daughter, Meg, pleaded with him to find some way of saving his life and being able to return home.

He wrestled with his conscience but knew that he must remain faithful to the Lord. Only in that way, he assured his family, would they all “one day meet merrily in heaven”. More’s words serve as a reminder that if the first part of today’s Gospel insists that we are called to put God first, the second part assures us that our efforts will never go unrewarded. Those who welcome a prophet, or offer help to any of the “little ones”, even if it’s only by offering “a cup of cold water”, will receive their reward. Those who serve their sisters and brothers in need are in fact welcoming Jesus and, in welcoming him, welcoming the one who sent him, the Father in heaven.

Application

There is no such thing as cheap grace. It should not surprise us that in following one who took up his cross there will inevitably be something of the cross in our lives too. It is always a costly business to live in a truly Christian way; at times it makes painful demands on us that go against our instinctive desires; it sometimes makes us feel that we are out of step with the rest of humanity, that we are losing out on life. But Jesus makes an extraordinary promise: “anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it”. Whatever the apparent losses, the profits will be immeasurably greater.

No one makes the point more powerfully than St Paul. Writing to a group of Christians within twenty years or so of Jesus’ death and resurrection, he draws a powerful contrast between what Christian living might look like to an outsider and what it is in reality. Though the unbelieving world, he says, may regard us as only half alive, we are in fact fully alive – alive with a sharing in the very life of the risen Christ; we are not sad, joyless individuals, but rather we are always rejoicing, with the deep-down joy of the Gospel that nothing can take away; we may seem to be poor, in fact we are incredibly rich; it may look as though following Christ we’re left with nothing: in fact it is we who possess everything.



St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. His birth and death dates are unknown, but his feast day is celebrated July 3. He lived before the formal establishment of the Catholic Church but is recognized as the patron saint of architects.

He was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible

death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities.

At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

St. Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."

Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side. After verifying the wounds were true, St. Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus.

St. Thomas is also mentioned as being present at another Resurrection appearance of Jesus - at Lake Tiberias, when a miraculous catch of fish occurred.

This is all that we know about St. Thomas from the New Testament. Tradition says that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost this saint was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas."

According to tradition, Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck Thomas instead. Following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa while the rest were kept in what is now known as India. They can still be found within the San Thome Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India.

The relics taken to Edessa were moved in 1258 to Italy, where they can be found in the Cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy. However, it is believed that Saint Thomas' skull rests in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian on the Greek Island Patmos.

In art, Saint Thomas is commonly depicted as a young man holding a scroll, or as a young adult touching the resurrected Christ's wounds.



Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 9 July, 14 Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Liz Norman	Brenda Warde	Monica Russell & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Polly Maund-Powell	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Bill Jackson		Tony Archer
Bidding Prayers	Ann Jackson		Lucy Reed
Offertory	Hayes Family	Menna McBain & Frances Wood	
Extraordinary Ministers	Fran Smallwood & Seamus Hayes		Monica Tomlin & Margaret Evans
Next Sunday - Apostleship of the Sea			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.	02-Jul
09-Jul		Pat Wood & Jan Wyman
16-Jul		Jackie King & Pauline Gill
23-Jul		Pat Wood & Monica Russell
		None until beginning September

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

Deaths: Sr Phillipa, Bernadette Higgins, Teazel Chowles, Mary Walsh and Anna Schmidt .

Anniversaries: Stephen Chester, Robert Franklin, Jeanne Morin, Betty Hartford, Norman Huckle, Elizabeth Lyon, Fr Samuel Ward, Edna Pamela Hill, Claude Hunt, Dom Anthony Wackrill, , Michael John Baker, Baby John Paul Freeland, Dom Andrew Baker OSB, Mary Barber, Pauline Cassin and Raleigh Chichester.

The Sick: Please pray for: Margaret Campbell, Seamus Hayes, Denise Ellis, Carol Baines, Michael Kennedy, Chris Rogers, Peter Draper, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Liturgy for Sunday 2nd July 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 13)*

<p>13th Sunday In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance: All peoples clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.</p>
---	---

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Annette Mansie	Clare Wichbold	Rita Chamberlain & Marnie Archer
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Mary Hayes	Menna McBain	Rob Corrigan
2 nd Reading	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Bidding Prayer	Liz Norman		Sally Johns
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Jacqui Ramage-S		Jan Wyman & Tony Archer
Mass Intention	<i>Seamus & Sylvia Hayes</i>	<i>The Parish</i>	
Second Collection - Parish Outreach			
Food Bank Collection: Kath Parry			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	St Thomas, Apostle: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 am and Midday Mass at 12 noon
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am