

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER
PALM SUNDAY 20 th March 2016 (Cycle C)
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

Today, **Palm Sunday**, we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This week, this **Holy Week**, draws us in to the whole meaning and mystery of our Christian faith and the liturgies of Holy Week lead us through those final days of Christ's earthly ministry. The Triduum is the name given to the three days leading up to the celebration of the season of Easter beginning on Saturday night. There is no concluding rite at the close of the first two services - emphasising the continuity of the three days.

The Easter Triduum begins with Mass on **Holy Thursday** evening, when Jesus sacramentally anticipated the gift he would make of himself on the cross. His command to serve others is dramatically recalled this night in the ceremony of the washing of the feet. The evening concludes with a symbolic sharing in Christ's agony in the garden of Gethsemane by our spending some time in prayer at the Altar of Repose.

The **Good Friday** rites focus on the reading of the Passion. With simple dignity that story is retold, followed by prayers for the entire world, and according to ancient tradition, the cross is venerated this day, and the sacrament of Christ's love for his church is received. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

The **Easter Vigil**, which opens with a service of light, is the high point of the Easter Triduum celebrating the passion and resurrection of Jesus. With a rich display of symbols, rites and readings, the church in worship expresses her faith in the mystery that brings her into being.

Don't forget next Sunday – Easter Sunday, the two parish Masses are 8.30 and 9.30 with the Community Mass moving to 11 am.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	£356.84
	Standing Orders	£412.48
The 1 st Collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2nd Collection	£176.90
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 <i>Parish Outreach</i> . Thank you.		



Tesco Vouchers

Although the official distribution date of Tesco Vouchers is next Sunday (Easter Sunday) they are available today if anybody wants to collect them early.



Ewyas Harold Churches Together

There will be a silent **Walk of Witness on Good Friday**, starting at St Michael's Church at 11.30am, continuing to the Baptist Church and finishing at the Methodist Church.



Sacrament of Reconciliation There have been quite a few extra opportunities to celebrate this sacrament recently as part of the Year

of Mercy but just in case anyone missed these, or would like an extra opportunity before Easter, there will be a priest available on:

Tuesday 22nd March 7.30 – 8 pm

Saturday 26th March 10–10.30 am



Food Bank

Thank you all for your continued support for those less fortunate than ourselves, your donations are very much appreciated. The Food Bank have asked us to discourage the donation of Easter Eggs.



Thank you to all who supported our Jumble Sale last week – especially all the volunteers and helpers. We raised just over £1000 towards Abbey Restoration which is wonderful result. Thank you.



With sadness we report the death of Sue Ball who died last week. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 22nd March at 12 noon. May she rest in peace.





As part of the Archdiocese's Centenary Year, there will be a Mass of Celebration at Cardiff Cathedral on Monday 20th June at 12 noon. I have two tickets for this Mass followed by a reception afterwards. If anyone would like to go to represent the parish, please see me asap – first come first served!



Next Sunday, Easter Day, there is only one collection which is the traditional offering to the Parish Priest and the Belmont Community.



Wales Celebrate Weekend 2016

Saturday 30th April 2016, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. to Sunday 1st May 2016, 9 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

CELEBRATE WALES is a non-residential weekend for the whole family, full of teaching, workshops, lively praise and worship, Mass, opportunities for Confession and prayer ministry.

The CELEBRATE conferences welcome thousands of people. Young and old alike join together in a vibrant and faith-filled atmosphere to celebrate the love of God.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday 15 April
Church Cleaning**

**Sunday 22 May
Confirmation Mass
11:00 am**

**Queen's Jubilee Picnic
12 June**

**Belmont Grand Fete
18 June**

**Grandparents and
Grandchildren's Day
16 July**



Foot Washing

The foot washing on Holy Thursday may seem somewhat anachronistic. The church has kept it in the liturgy for good reason. As Christ washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, emphasizing for them the connection between Eucharist and service to others, this ritual remains in our liturgy for the same reason. It is to emphasize that Eucharist is not separate from service, but that they are inextricably bound together. Part of the nature of receiving Holy Communion is

acknowledging that we are intimately connected to one another and responsible for one another's well-being. The essential nature of Holy Communion is unity, not only with God, but also with one another. This is to be demonstrated through service.

Receiving Holy Oils

At the beginning of the Holy Thursday liturgy, the holy oils that were blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass are processed into the parish church. They are presented to the community with a prayer by the celebrant for each one. The oil of the sick for the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, the oil of catechumens for those preparing to celebrate baptism, and the sacred chrism used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy orders are each presented and reverently placed in a visible location.

Concluding Good Friday

How does the Good Friday liturgy end? Or does it? There is no final blessing or recessional, because this is not the end. This is just the second instalment of the three-part liturgy called "Triduum." So the end is silent, the ministers walk silently back to the sacristy. The people are free to leave, also in silence, or to remain longer in prayer. The conclusion comes with great flourish on the next night at the Easter Vigil, when this three-day litur-

gical celebration finally concludes with an Easter celebration

Easter Vigil Liturgy of the Word

The readings on this night give a strong sense of vigiling. Instead of one Old Testament reading, there are seven. Each has its own sung psalm and prayer. During these readings we hear important parts of salvation history, the events that have brought us as a people to where we are today. Listening to them reminds us of how God has worked in the lives of our ancestors to form them into a people that are God's own. Following the Gloria, there are the usual reading from the New Testament and the Easter gospel. For pastoral reasons, the number of Old Testament readings can be reduced, but they must always include the reading of the Exodus. If possible, the full readings of the Old Testament story should be experienced. The Easter Vigil readings are a fundamental part of this liturgy which brings us to the initiation of the elect.



HOMILY

"Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Illustration

In 1999 a statue called *Ecce Homo*, depicting the naked Christ, was put on a plinth in Trafalgar Square in London. It

portrayed Christ as a slim young man who looked weak and vulnerable. It was not like the other statues that are found at this famous landmark. They represent the great and the good and, like the stone lions that lie by the fountains there, they are larger than life. But Christ was just our size. He is a human being like us. A passer-by is said to have expressed his doubt that this could be Christ, “You couldn’t put your faith in someone like that. He’s as weak as a kitten.”

You can understand what he meant. If God is going to save us, surely it will mean sending a figure who will be able to exercise real power and be an equal to those who call the shots in our world? In Isaiah God tells us, “Turn to me and be saved.” When we turn to Christ we want to see a face we can put our trust in – a mighty warrior, not a crucified criminal.

Gospel Teaching

But in Luke’s passion, which we have just read, we hear Christ first speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. He wants to teach them the meaning of the death he is about to undergo. He gives them his body and blood as an act of sacrifice, but this is not what they are seeking. They are arguing about status and who is the greatest among them. Jesus tells them they are not to imitate the ways of the world, where dominating power is the prize. Among

his disciples the one who serves is the greatest. But this teaching is hard. Among Jesus’ disciples, Judas will betray him, and Peter, despite claiming that he will let not Jesus down, will deny him three times. It is only when Peter is vulnerable himself and knows how he has failed that he can turn and face the gaze of Jesus. His tears are the beginning of repentance, a change of heart.

Jesus is faithful to his word and suffers the judgement of the world. He is condemned to the horrible death of crucifixion. He is stripped naked and nailed to the wood of the cross between two criminals. He is mocked by the leaders because he does not exercise the power that would bring him down from the cross. For them he is no saviour figure. But as his enemies insult him he puts his teaching into practice and asks his Father to forgive them. As he hangs dying, weak and vulnerable, one criminal ridicules him but the other turns to him, asking to be saved: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He has seen in the face of Christ the saving power of God and finds redemption: “Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise.”



Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Offertory Procession</u>	
Jacqui Ramage - Smith	& A Monk	Teresa Harris & Menna McBain	
<i>Washing of Feet</i>	Two Monks	Retreatant	Fran Grant
Clare Nickerson	Jane Davies	Kath Parry	Ray Rose
Margaret Rose	Retreatant	Stephen Fisher	Frances Wood

Good Friday 3:00 pm		
<u>Welcomer</u>	Marion Luscombe	
<u>Readers</u>	Gabrielle Stanley	A Monk
<u>Collection for the Holy Places</u>	Anne & Ross Williams & Seamus Hayes	

Holy Saturday 9:00 pm		<u>Offertory Procession</u>
<u>Welcomers</u>	Kath Parry & Monica Russell	Nickerson Family & Gabrielle Stanley
<u>Readers</u>		
1 st - Genesis 1 Patrick Walesby	2 nd - Genesis 22 Sally Johns	3 rd Exodus 14 Polly Maund-Powell
4 th - Isaiah 54 Menna McBain	5 th - Ezekiel 35 Clare Nickerson	Epistle St Paul A Monk

Ministers, etc. For next 27th March Easter Sunday Year C			
	8:30 am	9:30 am Parish Mass	11:00 am Conventual Mass
Welcomer(s)	Cooper Family	Ross & Anne Williams	Patrick Walesby
Sacristan		Stephen Fisher	
1st Reading	Mary Hayes	Monica Tomlin	Marion Luscombe
2nd Reading	Fran Grant	Tony Archer	
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-Smith	Pat Draper	
Offertory	Children's Liturgy		Frances Riddell & Teresa Harriss
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Fran Smallwood	Jan Wyman	
Next Sunday -One collection only: Easter Clergy Offering			

Pay for and collect Tesco Vouchers

<p>PLAINSONG AND PRAYER <i>April 1-3 2 days (Reg fee £26)</i> <i>This weekend offers a chance to learn and sing the joyful melodies that enrich the Church's worship in the Easter Season.</i> <i>Abbot Paul Stonham</i></p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 27 Mar	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	20-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Jan Wyman
	27-Mar	Jackie King & Monica Russell

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.**

Deaths: Sue Ball, Mary Carroll, John Wallin and John Keeler

Anniversaries: Maureen Ballam, , Maria Cochrane, Mary Gwilt, Mary Haan, Albert Milsom, Francis Holtom, Tom Walsh, Maria Hendrika Williams, Mary Donovan, Sarah Edmonds, Rt Rev Mgr O'Reily, Bernard Bray, Joan Curme, Frank Underwood, Winifred Sosna, John Lambe, Thomas Walters, Saul Jones and Anthony Preddy

The Sick: Please pray for Margaret O'Connor, Kenny Hanna, Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Edward Medicott, Bridie Gittoes, Sr Philpa, Teresa Chowles, Elaine White, Edna Ledford, Sue Rogers, Fr Michal Cronin, Elaine Campbell, 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 20th March Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2

<h1><i>PALM SUNDAY</i></h1>	<p>Entrance: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Repeat Hosanna....</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death...</p> <p>Communion: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	8:30 am		10:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Father Abbot
Welcomer	Kath Parry		Clare Wichbold
Sacristan			
1st Reading	Jennifer Hackman		Patrick Walesby
2nd Reading	Richard Batho		
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		
Offertory	Children of the Parish		Anthea Morton-S & Maria Large
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes		
Mass Intention	Tom Walsh RIP		Pro Populo
Second Collection : <i>Easter Flowers</i>			
Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am - 12 Noon Requiem Mass for Sue Ball
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm.
Thu	Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm <i>No 8 am Mass</i>
Fri	Good Friday Day of Fasting and Abstinence: <i>No 8 am Mass</i> Solemn Stations of the Cross 11 am Liturgy of the Passion 3 pm
Sat	Easter Vigil: Vigil Mass at 9:00 pm