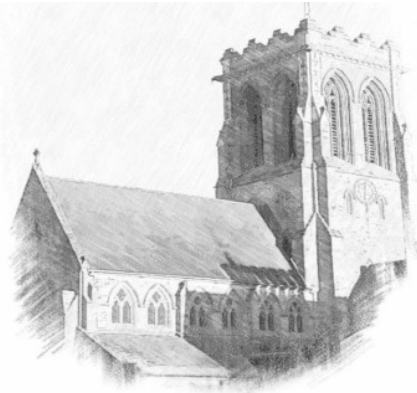


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**21 May 2017**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

PARISH PRIEST

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The Gospel readings over the last few weeks have been taken from the so called 'Farewell Discourses' in St John's Gospel. Jesus' talks given to his closest disciples immediately after the Last Supper. The discourses look through and beyond the death of Jesus to his glorification with the Father and the release of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus knows that the disciples were rather distraught on being told that he was leaving and he promises them the gift of the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit – "who will teach you everything". He promises to send us this Advocate, which is the special name John gives to the Holy Spirit. An advocate is one who stands with another to take away that person's fear and sense of aloneness or inadequacy. This divine Advocate will thus dwell deep within us and will continue the work of Jesus by drawing out all the implications of his teaching. We are never alone when we place our trust in the Lord.

The second collection today is for the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), which is entirely funded by these parish collections. The CCN provides communications support for the bishops of England and Wales, both individually and collectively, the Holy See and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through the media on a variety of different levels. CCN works with the media (behind the scenes) on a daily basis to ensure the best possible coverage of current issues which have relevance for the Catholic faith. Please help the CCN to promote the Good News through the media, by your prayers and generosity.

*Fr Nicholas*

Last Sunday's	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	<b>£271.03</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£412.50</b>
The 1 <sup>st</sup> collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	<b>£247.38</b>
The 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for: <b>Belmont Training Fund. Thank You!</b>		

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### Parish Outreach

This month our second collections are essentially the mandatory ones for May: Priests Training Funds, World Communications Day and the annual mission appeal which this year will be made by the Verona Fathers on Sunday 28th May.

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Congratulations to Hayley Gethins & Piotr Gass who were married in the Abbey yesterday. We wish them every blessing and our prayers on this wonderful occasion.

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**Churches Together in Hereford** invite you to a General Election Hustings chaired by the Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Revd Richard Frith with a panel of

candidates for the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency on Tues 30 May, 7pm at St John's methodist Church, St Owen St. Please submit questions to Sheila Milne, s.milne40@btinternet.com or on 01432 297740.

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### Pentecost Vigil Service

Pentecost Vigil Service at Our Lady's Church on Saturday 3rd June. To include: Exposition, music and readings. Starts at 7.00 pm, all welcome.

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### Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June Matthew Corrigan & Esther Rich

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> July Jennifer Woodman & Charles Kirby

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### Belmont Fete

The Fete is only 5 weeks away. We would be very grateful if you could start bringing in items for the Grand Tombola, books, bric-a-brac, toys and clothes: these should be washed and ironed and in very good condition. We would grateful if the gardeners among you would grow some plants for the

plant stall and of course we need bottles for the very popular Bottle Stall. We need about 400 + bottles so if you could start bringing them in, it would be much appreciated. Thank you for your help!



### Tea Tent

The tea tent is looking for donations of washing up liquid, j-cloths, rubber gloves, cans of drink (fruit shoots), crisps, serviettes, plastic bowls, coffee, tea and plastic spoons. If you can help please drop your items off at the Parish Hall or leave with Father Nick or contact Jacqui Moore. Many Thanks for your help!



### DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

Fr Matthew, the Dean, and Parish Priest of Our Lady's in Hereford is organising a pilgrimage to Fatima for the Deanery, in this the 100th anniversary year of the apparitions; there are still places available.

There are booking forms in Church or available from Fr. Matthew -01432 265177. Monday 25th - Friday 29th September, flying from Manchester. 4 nights, half board. Price £599/person, £120 extra for single rooms (only a few available) and insurance.

Organised by Leisure Time travel in Liverpool.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sunday 28 May at 3 pm**  
**Concert of Organ Music and**  
**Gregorian Chant**  
**Belmont Abbey**

2 June  
 Church Cleaning  
 9:00 am

3 June  
 First Holy Communion Class  
 10:30

6 June  
 Diamond Diners  
 Three Horseshoes  
 12:45

17 June  
 Belmont Abbey Fete  
 2:00 pm



### Wales and the Marches Catholic History Society- Annual History Day

Saturday June 10th at St. David's College Cardiff. Starts with Mass at 10 am

Speakers:

11.15 Rev Dr. Trystan Owain-Hughes:  
“Winds of Change Revisited: New Perspectives on the Catholic Church in Wales in the Twentieth Century”

2.15 Prof. Madeleine Gray: “Sin Mercy, Death and the Gallant: the Llancarfan wall paintings as a coherent scheme”

Cost for the Day: £10 (Members) £12.50 (non-Members) includes lunch, teas, coffees, pastries and a glass of wine. All are most welcome to join us. For more information please contact: Tricia Coulthard email: triciacoulthard@outlook.com or on 02920595899.



### 150 + Club Winners

April

1<sup>st</sup> Eileen Walsh

2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah DeRohan

3<sup>rd</sup> Jenny Campbell

May

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Campbell

2<sup>nd</sup> Tony McVeigh

3<sup>rd</sup> Jennifer Hackman



### Vocations Weekend for young women (20s and 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in my life

Dates: 26th - 28th May 2017

Location: Broadstairs, Kent

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org).



### SFX FILM NIGHTS

presents the

**Award-Winning**

**“THE LETTERS” (PG)**

The untold story of Mother Teresa

Where: SFX Hall: When: Friday 26 May: Time 7:15 pm. All Welcome, free admissions and refreshments.



### THY KINGDOM COME

Each parish has received a delivery of prayer cards from the Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops inviting them to participate in a Pentecost Novena entitled “Thy Kingdom Come”. The origins of this initiative lie with the Archbishop of Canterbury who is

inviting people throughout the United Kingdom to set aside ten minutes of prayer each day between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday. The key to the novena is a few minutes of stillness at the beginning of prayer, inviting the Spirit of God to touch our minds and hearts. It is true that we can pray anywhere, anytime. The important thing is that we pray somewhere, sometime. “Thy Kingdom Come” gives a short meditative text to follow the stillness, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer. The prayer cards may be reproduced in whatever form parishes wish. The key is that they are distributed as widely as possible so that together we may allow the “breath of the Spirit” to pray within us, even when we cannot find the words to say.



### **Homily**

*“I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.”*

### **Illustration**

Choirmaster Gareth Malone gathered together a group of war veterans, men and women who had suffered serious injury in the line of duty. With their help he composed a song to be sung at the opening of the Invictus Games held in Orlando, Florida, in May 2016. The members of the group were uncertain at first about the whole project and their ability to

deliver. Some of them had never sung in their life before. What happened was nothing short of amazing. The group began to share their experiences of suffering and their struggle to recover from serious setbacks in life. Some had lost limbs, one man had lost his sight completely, but as he said about his own fight to be well, “You do not need sight to have vision.” The group began to put words to their feelings and from their common endeavour Gareth Malone formed a lyric and a melody to express their story.

One man was particularly resistant to an easy outcome. “If the song does not measure up to what I feel and what I am still dealing with, then I will not be able to stand beside it,” he said. When the project was completed that man smiled with a deep satisfaction that his story and their story had found a worthy and fitting expression in the music. The song is called “Flesh and Blood”.

### **Gospel Teaching**

The Invictus song is a story of the unconquerable spirit, of the spirit that refuses to die, refuses to give in despite the horrendous sufferings and sadness that have been brought to bear on people. The human spirit is amazing in its ability to come back to life. It is not easy. Indeed it is extremely hard to overcome many of

the obstacles that we face in life, but this story is an inspiration to anyone who will listen.

Today St Peter reminds us to bear witness to the Lord by the simple goodness of our lives, and by the hope that is in us for the joys of the life to come. In the midst of persecution and ill treatment Peter points out the gentle way and urges us to persevere in it. He points to the Lord who, though innocent, “died for the guilty, to lead us to God”. The Lord himself is truly the unconquered one, risen from the dead to be our life.

It is the Spirit of this unconquered Lord that is given to us now to be our life and our inspiration for good in this world of sin. The Lord told his disciples before his death, “I will not leave you orphans.” It is a powerful statement and a vital promise. Orphans are vulnerable people, unsheltered and unprotected from the dangers of this world. They lack the loving care that rightly should be theirs. They are left alone in this world unless someone will love them.

### **Application**

We are not orphans. The life-giving Spirit is given to us in our baptism and confirmation and in the community of the Church. Without the life-giving Spirit there would be no Church – instead just a fading memory of someone who once lived among us, a

good man who lived and died many years ago. But the one who died, rose again. He is the unconquered one and it is his Spirit that now animates his Church and all its members. It is by the power of that Spirit that we can live lives of simple goodness, faithfulness and kindness to others, even when others are not kind to us. It is precisely in times of hardship and persecution that the strength of the Spirit is to be seen in our lives. Persecution does not only mean the oppression of religious believers. It means any kind of human oppression, be it sickness or human hostility. Family feuds, conflicts at work and arguments with friends and neighbours, all these are the daily tests of life where the unconquered Spirit of the Lord can be at work.

The Spirit is given to us precisely to overcome these everyday difficulties. When Gareth Malone was working with his war veterans he was shaken by the depth of suffering that they had endured. But even more powerful was the transformation of spirit that took place in all of them when they came together and listened to one another and allowed music to enter their souls. This is the work of the unconquerable Spirit of the living God.



<b>Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 28 May The Ascension Year A - Cycle 1</u></b>			
	<b>08:30</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Nickerson Family	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Jacqui R-Smith	Lucy Zammit	Pat Wood
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Richard Batho		Niamh Coyle
Bidding Prayers	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Hayes Family	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Andre Pavia & David Wood
<b>Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Verona Fathers Missionary Appeal</b>			

<b>Anniversaries</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
	<b>8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled</b>	
	<b>21-May</b>	<b>A Morawiecki &amp; Rob Blackburn</b>
	<b>28-May</b>	<b>No Children's Liturgy</b>
	<b>04-Jun</b>	<b>No Children's Liturgy</b>
	<b>11-Jun</b>	<b>Jacqui Moore &amp; Jan Wyman</b>
	<b>18- Jun</b>	<b>A Morawiecki &amp; Rachel Cowdrey</b>

These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 21 May)

**Deaths:** Brian Lawrence, Sister Clare, Mary Jo Donnelly and Maureen Toner

**Anniversaries:** Dom Placid Smith, Sebastian Anderson, Mary Broderick, Kathleen Clayton, Doroth Edge, Eileen Morgan, Irene Pogson, Evelyn Rafferty, St Guthlac's Priory remains of 30 monks, Solanje Bowen, Dom Raymund Frost OSB, Amelia Warren-Swettenham, Thomas Rafferty, John O'Neill, Eric Brooks, William Norman, Dom Dunstan Sibley OSB and Ametia Swettenham.

**The Sick:** Please pray for: Carol Baines, Michael Kennedy, Chris Rogers, Patrick Walesby, Peter Draper, Fr Simon, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, 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 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017** *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b></p>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia</p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> Save us Saviour of the World...</p> <p><b>Communion:</b> If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you forever, alleluia.</p>
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<b>Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.</b>			
	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Annette Mansie	Clare Wichbold	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Adrian Eyre	Paul Nickhold	Jennifer Hackman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Richard Batho		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayer	Liz Norman		Lucy Reed
Offertory	Parish Children	Frances Wood & Menna McBain	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Jacqui Ramage-S		Margaret Evans & Joao Pavia
Mass Intention		<b>The Parish</b>	<b>Edna Wood RIP</b>
<b>Second Collection - Parish Outreach (Catholic Communications)</b>			
<b>Food Bank Delivery: John Goodall-Copstake</b>			

<b>What's On for the week</b>	
Mon	<b>St Rita of Cascia:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Funeral Service for Brian Lawrence RIP 2:30 pm
Tue	<b>Easter Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	<b>Dedication of the Cathedral in Cardiff:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory
Thu	<b>St Bede:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	<b>Easter Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11, Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	<b>St Augustine:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am