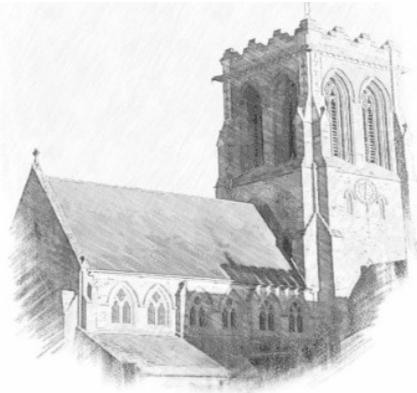


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

22 April 2018

4th Sunday of Easter

PARISH PRIEST

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The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Each year on this Sunday we reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, devotedly taking care of his flock. The earliest Christians had seen Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient Jewish dream of a good shepherd. They also wished to include the Gentiles as part of God's flock. The Gospel text offers us both comfort and challenge. The comforting good news is that Jesus the Good Shepherd knows us, provides for us and loves us. The challenge is that we should be good shepherds to those entrusted to our care.

Thank you to all who supported our Jumble Sale last week. I appreciate all the really hard work and preparation that goes into these events and a special thank you to all the volunteers and helpers on the day. We raised £854.39. Thank you

SURVIVE-MIVA is a Catholic lay Association. They exist to provide one vital element for the success of the Church's health and pastoral work in areas of great need - a means of transport. During 2017, SURVIVE-MIVA funded the purchase of 268 modes of transportation over nine countries. There will be a short appeal on behalf of their work and a second collection at all Masses today.

Fr Nicholas

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

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£497.78
	Standing Orders	£581.00

The 1st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.

	2 nd Collection	£219.75
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The 2nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for Hereford Close House. **Thank You**



Second Collections – During April, our parish outreach second collections will be going to support Catholic Education (April 8), Hereford Close House (April 15), the Survive Miva Charity appeal (April 22) and the Syrian Refugees (April 29)



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 cannot get to Mass- remember that you can go to our website to find out what is going on in the parish. Website address is on the first page.



Important request

Would the parishioner whose gift aid number is 12, please contact Fr Nick as soon as possible. Many Thanks.



Red Boxes

Please hand your red boxes in as soon possible to your promoter or to me, Mandy, at the 8:30 Mass. Thank you.



EMMAUS YOUTH - The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is Saturday 12th May, from 2.30-5.30 pm. You are invited to share in some Praise and Worship, Liturgy, refreshments and time to socialize. Come and join us for some fun!! Rob and Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway and Ben Aldridge 01432 352241, 07739 566578 emmausyouth@hotmail.com



Congratulations to Kasia Ziolkowska & Andrew Reedman who were married in the Abbey Church yesterday. We offer them our prayers and best wishes for their married life together.





Gift Aid & Committed Offertory Contributors

The 2017-18 Tax Year has just ended. Please use the new envelopes from this Sunday. If you are a Standing Order contributor and would like a set of second collection envelopes, please let me know. In due time the Gift Aid returns will be calculated; please let us know if you would like a receipt of monies paid to Belmont Abbey Parish in this last tax year. They will only be provided on request. May I also ask all 'Gift Aid' contributors to check and let the Finance Office know if they ceased to be tax payers in the last year.

Fr Nicholas



"ADOREMUS"

The Bishops Conference of England and Wales decided to hold a Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage in 2018. It takes place in Liverpool from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 September.

Anyone interested in going to the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress should contact Fr. Matthew at fr.matthew@live.co.uk or OLQM@talktalk.net. Please also see the poster in the porch and in Parish Hall.



Prayer for Vocations

Jesus Christ, Guide and Shepherd of your people, touch the hearts of our young people, that they may, for the love of you, give their lives in the service of the Church. Renew the hearts of priests, that they may model their lives on the mystery of the Cross, and imitate the Sacred Mysteries they celebrate at the Altar. Strengthen our families that they may generously support those of their sons whom you call to serve you as priests. Amen.



General Data Protection Regulation

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will take effect in the UK from 25 May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used by organisations. Parishes must comply with its requirements, just like any other charity or organisation. The GDPR is an evolution of existing UK data protection law. However, there are significant new obligations that will have an impact on parishes. We are already trying to update our parish data policies and assess what further needs to be done

The law is complex, but there are a number of underlying principles, including that personal data will be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently. That it is only used for a specific processing purpose that the data subject has been made aware of and no other, without further consent. That data collected should be “adequate, relevant and limited.” i.e. only the minimum amount of data should be kept for specific processing. Data must be “accurate and where necessary kept up to date” and should not be stored for longer than is necessary, and that storage is safe and secure.

The newsletter will keep parishioners up to date on this new law and will soon be writing to all parishioners regarding details held by the parish.



Longworth Chapel - 14th June

His Grace Archbishop George Stack will be celebrating Holy Mass at the Chapel again this year on Thursday, 14th June, at 11.00 a.m. The beautiful East Window, taken down for preservation many years ago, has with the help of grants from English Heritage and other bodies (notably Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust) and generous personal donors, been restored and re-erected. The Archbishop will be blessing the East Window at this celebration.

Dates for your diary

1 May

Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes
12:45 pm

4 May

Church Cleaning
9:00 am

15 May

Tea & Chat
Parish Hall
2:30 pm

16 May

Torchlight Procession
9:00 pm

16 June

Garden Fete
2:00 pm



The Fete

We are now looking for bric-a-brac, books, good condition children’s toys and only clean and in very good condition clothes. We can no longer take “rags” as we have no way of disposing of them. We also cannot take electrical goods for the fete, as

customers cannot test them in the tent. We also need items that can be used for the Grand Tombola, so if you have any gifts you cannot use, do give them to us for the Tombola. As always all bottles are gratefully accepted. The bottle stall is one of our best ones but it does take a lot of bottles to stock, so please be generous. If you have spare plants, please remember the Plant Stall.

Many thanks for your help!



Homily

"And there will be only one flock and one shepherd."

Illustration

We are often asked to fill in questionnaires. Some forms have a religious belief section, in which you may be given a selection of choices. You can tick one of the major religions, or indicate that you are an atheist, or you can choose SBNR. What is SBNR? It has become a popular choice in the last few years and it stands for "Spiritual But Not Religious". It is understandable why many people choose this. They want something spiritual in their life but don't want to get involved with the controversies and scandals that can be associated with organised religion. They also avoid the effort of having to come to worship.

But on the other hand there are dangers in only being spiritual. People may become very individualistic, with themselves at the centre of everything. Or they may get involved with weird ideas about the supernatural without the wisdom of the community to guide them.

Gospel Teaching

What does our Catholic faith say about this? During this Easter season we are reading the Acts of the Apostles, which describes what happened at the beginning of the Church. First came Pentecost. You could not have a more spiritual occasion. The Spirit comes with power in wind and fire to each of the apostles. In today's reading from Acts, Peter speaks filled with the Holy Spirit. The healing he has performed was only possible in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified and whom God raised from the dead. But how do we share in the power of the risen Christ? Peter did not tell the crowds at Pentecost just to enjoy themselves and let the Spirit take them over. No, he told them that they must be baptised. They must become a member of the body of Christ, join a community, a church.

Our Christian faith tells us that we are saved as individuals, but as part of a people or community. After baptism

the early Christians shared their possessions with each other and broke bread together. It was a religious group. Being alone and spiritual is not defence enough to withstand those powers that tried to destroy Jesus. Jesus tells us in the Gospel today that we are called to be part of his flock. At the heart of this flock, this community, is a God who shows his face in Jesus the good shepherd. He respects our freedom and nourishes and cares for us. He is willing to lay down his life for us when the wolf comes to attack. The hireling lets the sheep scatter because he is only interested in payment. Jesus will sacrifice his own life in order to bring his sheep together, united in the one fold.

Application

It is interesting to note in our society that even some atheists want religion. A popular philosopher, Alain de Botton, has written a book called *Religion for Atheists*. He sees good in religious rituals that bind people together in a fragmented society. He even suggests a new kind of restaurant in which atheists could have meals together, with a “Book of Agape” on hand to read from (*agape* is the New Testament Greek word for “love”). But this is, of course, what we have when we come to Mass, when we receive the divine words of scripture and the real presence of Christ in sacramental food. Together

we are part of the body of Christ. And in our turn we are called to bear witness to that divine love of Christ in the way we care for each other, especially when it challenges our individual selfishness. We could ask ourselves whether we imitate Christ in our pastoral care for our neighbours. Are we good shepherds to our family and friends?

Religion has many weaknesses and is in constant need of reform, but we need it to give our spirituality a push in the right direction towards justice and charity, to preventing it becoming too self-centred. The spiritual needs the wisdom of religion to keep it close to Christ the good shepherd. But what kind of religion? We could heed what St James writes in his letter. There he talks about a down-to-earth kind of religion. Listen to what he says: “Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.”



Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 29 April 2018 5th Sunday of Easter Year B Cycle

	08:30:	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Brenda Warde	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Anthea Morton-S	Gabrielle Stanley
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Tony Archer
Bidding Prayers	Julia Davey		Niamh Coyle
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Maria Large & Frances Riddle	
Extraordinary Ministers	Frances Dees & Kath Parry		Deacon Eddie & Monica Tomlin

Next Sunday - Syrian Refugees

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	
	22-Apr	Pat Wood & Monica Russell
	29-Apr	Jackie King & Jan Wyman
	06-May	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	13-May	Pat Wood & Monica Russell
	20-May	Andrew M & Pauline Gill

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 22 April)

Deaths: Gill Wiseman, William Padden, Elaine White and Sheila Langford

Anniversaries: Philip Morrissey, Edward Brant, Glyn Matthews, Nedas Damasas, Sidney Donovan, Dom Fabian Lee osb, Rose McLoughlin, Dorothy Rawkins, Charles Preedy, Bernadette Tonking, Marie Dolores Sessarego, Phyllis Bond, Reginald Holt, Lady Mildred Falkiner and Jane Smith.

The Sick: Please pray for: Sally Johns, Neal Harries, Kenny Hanna, Fr Aidan, Rachel Thompson, Phillip Archer, Sonja Hayes, Robin Hayward, Gil Savory, Denise Ellis, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Dominique Wetz, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsop, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

<p>4th</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>of Easter</p>	<p>Entrance: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, ...</p> <p>Communion: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30:	09:30	11:00:
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Kath Parry	Desmond Keohane	Rita Chamberlain & Marnie Archer
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Mary Hayes	Marion Luscombe	Monica Tomlin
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-S		Pat Draper
Offertory	Hayes Family	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Deacon Eddie & Chris Moore
Mass Intention	Muriel Parry RIP	Pro Populo	Vocations
Second Collection: Survive Miva Charity appeal			
Food Bank Collection: Ray & Margaret Rose			

What's On for the week	
Mon	St George: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Mark: Mass at 8 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am
Fri	Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am: Exposition and Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	St Anselm: Mass at 8 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10 am