

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Ordinary Time Week 3

24th January 2016
(Cycle C)

PARISH PRIEST

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In Today's gospel St Luke introduces his two-volume work, his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles and begins this liturgical year's cycle of readings which will be taken principally from St Luke's gospel. The Gospel was written to Theophilus, meaning "the one who loves God." Historians are not sure who this Theophilus (mentioned in Luke 1:3) was, although most likely, he was a Roman with an intense interest in the newly forming Christian religion. Luke may also have been writing in general to those who loved God. The book is written to the Gentiles as well, and all people everywhere.

St Luke is a Greek and the only Gentile Christian writer of the New Testament. The language of Luke reveals that he is an educated man. We learn in Colossians 4:14 that he is a physician. Being a Greek and a doctor would explain his scientific and orderly approach to the book, giving great attention to detail in his accounts. He was also a faithful friend and travel companion of St Paul.

One of his major themes is the universality of Christ's message for all. St Luke's gospel is a social gospel, it challenges us to respond. It calls on us to act. It reminds us that if we are truly children of God then we must take the message to heart and transform our lives.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	£257.89
	Standing Orders	£533.00
	2nd Collection	£185.39
<i>Parish Outreach - Thank you.</i>		



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Archdiocese of Cardiff Family Life Commission in co-operation with Care for the Family will be running a day's course in the Pastoral Resource Centre on Saturday 6th February at 9.30. This course is aimed at anyone who would like to become part of an existing Bereavement Support Group or who is thinking of starting a group within their Parish. The cost of course is £30 to include a light lunch. Parishes will usually pay for this. Previously trained people are also welcome to join us. Places are limited so if you wish to reserve a place please e mail anstic2002@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07799704970.



THE ANGEL

Sadly, there was insufficient material to warrant going to press this time around. I will discuss with the editors as to our alternatives or the best way forward.



**Hereford & Belmont Abbey
Walsingham Association
Year of Mercy**

Pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of England now designated by the Vatican as the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham 6 - 9 May 2016

Come and pray at the Holy Door at the Slipper Chapel. We still have some vacancies left. Three nights' half board and all transport £187. Please Telephone Menna McBain on 01568 797077 for more information.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Take your relationship to another level"



Congratulations

To William Pritchard who will be received into the Church through baptism this afternoon.

Marriage Encounter offer enrichment weekends for good marriages. A meeting will be held on **Sunday 24th January** at 3 pm at

Christ the King Church Hall, Newborough Avenue, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5AA . Please come to find out more about how to enrich and refresh your relationship. For more information on Marriage Encounter visit wwme.org.uk.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

A day of Recollection for Extraordinary Ministers, First Holy Communion Catechists and all involved in Celebrating, Sharing, Receiving, and Building up the Body of Christ in the Parish. With Tom O’Loughlin (Professor of Historical Theology, Nottingham University), and Workshops on Home Ministry, Hospital Ministry, Catechesis, and Prayer. At Saint Illtyd’s School, Rumney, CF3 1XQ, on Saturday 27th February, 10.30 – 3.30. For further details of the day and a booking form, please contact Fr Nicholas.



A big thank you from Joan and the family to all the friends of Tony Colley RIP for the overwhelming number of messages through the post and e-mails. And most of all for attendance at Tony’s Funeral Mass on 31st December. It was a lovely way to say ‘farewell’. We look forward to being

re-united with him in God’s heavenly home. Holy Mass will be celebrated for your intentions next week.



CAFOD MEETING

To find out about the stories behind the Lenten appeal, how to support our Fast Day in our parish, as well as a chance to go through the free Lenten parish resources, a CAFOD supporters’ meeting will take place on Thursday 4th February, 14:00 – 16:00 at Our Lady Queen of the Martyrs, Hereford. All are welcome!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 2 February
Candlemas & Procession
11:30
Abbey Church

Friday 5 February
Church Cleaning
9:00

Friday 5 February
Exposition and Mass in
Abbey Church
11:00





HOMILY

“So that [you] may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.”

Illustration

Each year some two million new books roll off the world’s presses. Even before the advent of the printing press there were other more primitive methods of book production. Among the huge mountain of books that have appeared since time began, a few are best-sellers. Four of them could be described as the best of best-sellers. Written in the first century, translated into all the main languages of the world, read to the corners of the five continents, they have always been revered by Christian people as God’s word. They are the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This year is the year of Luke: virtually every Sunday, except a few during the Lent and Easter seasons, will draw its Gospel reading from St Luke.

It is generally agreed that Luke was a well-educated Gentile, coming

from Antioch in Syria, and that he wrote his Gospel in about AD 85. He had never met Jesus but he assures us that it was only after much research, especially among the records of eyewitnesses, that he undertook to write up the story of Jesus. He did so for a certain Theophilus – who may have been his patron or perhaps a new convert – so that he, and anyone else who reads or hears the story, may know that this faith is firmly grounded.

Gospel Teaching

After some introductory remarks from the very beginning of Luke’s Gospel, today’s Gospel reading takes us to the synagogue at Nazareth. There children would be taught, and adults would gather to pray and sing and discuss the scriptures. How often, we may wonder, did they talk about the Messiah, their promised saviour? It is the Sabbath day and Jesus is invited to read. Apparently he deliberately chooses a passage from Isaiah, long regarded as referring to the Messiah. Then, as was the custom, he sat to preach. All eyes in the synagogue are fixed upon him. Then the bombshell: “This text,” he calmly asserts, “is being fulfilled today even as you listen.” Yesterday, the day of prophecy, the

day of promise, is over; today, the day of fulfilment has arrived. This is the today of the Messiah, and Jesus uses Isaiah's prophetic words as his own statement of intent: he has come "to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free".

Jesus is a man with a mission: he has come with good news. The Gospel of Luke (together with its companion volume, the Acts of the Apostles, which Luke wrote later) makes it clear that sharing this good news is an essential part of following Christ. The good news first delivered in the little synagogue at Nazareth spread throughout the then-known world, because people passed it on, passed it on, passed it on, until it finally reached Rome itself.

Other themes run through Luke's writings, like the place of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life and the vital importance of prayer. But Luke's Gospel has been specially identified as the Gospel of the compassion of Christ: Jesus reaches out to those in need, sits at table with the outcasts of his day – sick people, criminals, those who were poor. The Jesus of Luke did not come to call those who were

righteous and respectable, or who thought they were; he has much more time for those who are sinners and know it. Luke's Gospel has been likened to a rogues' gallery, where we meet all kinds of unsavoury characters. The Jesus of Luke keeps strange company; his life begins in a stable with a posse of low-grade shepherds gathered round him; and it ends with his being nailed to a cross between two criminals.

Application

Each time we come to Mass, that episode in the synagogue is being repeated. Today Jesus is here, today he's bringing us good news, today he's assuring us that he loves us and wants us to be his friends. Above all, today he is proclaiming that the time of "God's favour" has arrived. Through his dying and rising we are today being set free, free to be renewed as the sons and daughters of our great God and Father. And, as we reflect on that, we can also take the time to thank God for the precious gift that has been given us in the Gospel of St Luke.





WHAT IS ORDINARY TIME?

The rhythm of the liturgical seasons reflects the rhythm of life — with its celebrations of anniversaries and its seasons of quiet growth and maturing.

Ordinary Time, meaning ordered or numbered time, is celebrated in two segments: from the Monday following the Baptism of Our Lord up to Ash Wednesday; and from Pentecost Monday to the First Sunday of Advent. This makes it the largest season of the Liturgical Year. In vestments usually green, the colour of hope and growth, the Church counts the thirty-three or thirty-four Sundays of Ordinary Time, inviting her children to meditate upon the whole mystery of Christ — his life, miracles and teachings — in the light of his Resurrection.

If the faithful are to mature in the spiritual life and increase in faith, they must descend the great mountain peaks of Easter and Christmas in order to "pasture" in the vast verdant meadows of *tempus per annum*, or Ordinary Time.

Sunday by Sunday, the Pilgrim Church marks her journey through the *tempus per annum* as she processes through time toward eternity.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

works of Mercy

Spiritual
Admonish the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowful
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living and the dead

Corporal
Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Visit the imprisoned
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick
Bury the dead

Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 31st January Week 4 in Ordinary Time Year C			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Welcomer(s)	Annette Mansie	Nickerson Family	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Stephen Fisher
1st Reading	Adrian Eyre	Paul Nickhold	Jane Davies
2nd Reading	Julia Davey		Peter Davies
Bidding Prayer	Liz Norman		Tony Archer
Offertory	Childrens' Liturgy	Margaret Campbell & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes		Gabrielle Stanley
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach			

<p>The Tender Gaze of Love January 29-31 (2 days Reg fee £26) <i>Dom Alex explores the mystery and meaning of Icons of the Virgin in the beautiful period between Christmas and the Presentation of the Lord.</i> <i>Dom Alex Echeandia</i></p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 31 Jan	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	24-Jan	Jacqui Moore & Pauline Gill
	31-Jan	Pat Wood & Mary Wood
	07-Feb	Jackie King & Rachel Cowdrey
14-Feb	Marje Hayes & Monica Russell	

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

Deaths: *Lil Green and John Keeler.*

Anniversaries: *Jane Davies, Sarah Pilley, Jennifer Snell, William Price, Frank Keating, Mary Buckeridge, Jane Pritchard, Horace Hiles, Dom Christopher Jenkins osb, Mary Smith, Leonard Hill, Gerard Rosser, Emrys Thomas, Stephen Marius Gray, John Lacey, Dom Aloysius Lacey OSB, Phyllis O'Shea, Susan Taylor, Stephen Lewis, James Meredith, Ellen Murphy, and Catherine O'Connor.*

The Sick: Please pray for *Kenny Hanna, John Wallin, Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Mary Carroll, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Jo Hourahane, Edward Medlicott, Bridie Gittoes, Sr Philipa, Teresa Chowles, Elaine White, Edna Ledford, Sue Rogers, Fr Michal Cronin, Elaine Campbell, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna, and Sadie Bowyer.*

Liturgy for Sunday 24th January

Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1 (OT Wk 3)

<p><i>ORDINARY TIME Week 3</i></p>	<p>Entrance: O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord, all the earth. N his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Kath Parry	Marion Luscombe	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1st Reading	Jacqui Ramage-Smith	Lucy Zammit	Margaret Rose
2nd Reading	Fran Grant		Sally Johns
Bidding Prayer	Fran Smallwood		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Julia Davey		Chris Moore
Mass Intention	Belmont Parish	Pro Populo	
Second Collection : <i>Parish Outreach</i>			
Pay for Tesco Vouchers this week. Collect next week!			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Conversion of St Paul: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Sts Robert, Alberic & Stephen: : Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm
Thu	St Thomas Aquinas: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am - Exposition & Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00