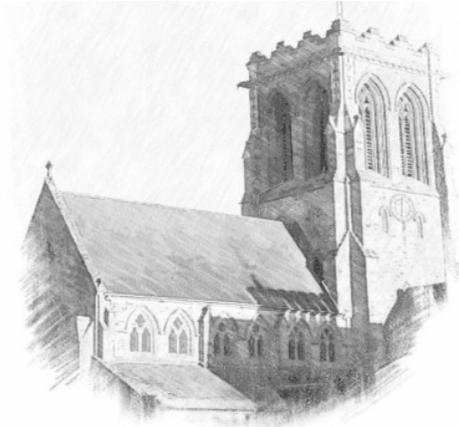


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th June 2016

17th Sunday

In Ordinary Time (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**

The readings today are about prayer and intercessory prayer in particular. We hear in the first reading how Abraham pleaded with God. In the Gospel Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray and invites us to be completely familiar with the Father using the very intimate term Abba, which we know translates into modern day English as daddy. This beautiful word underlines the depth of the relationship between us and the Father, use of this word Abba is something deeply intimate and utterly familiar. By using it we realise that God is not distant but is in fact extremely close to us. He loves us as deeply as any human parent loves their own child. In the words of the Our Father Jesus tells us to pray that God will give us our daily bread. By this he does not simply mean food for our mouths but in fact all our needs, everything that sustains us in our daily lives. This underlines our complete dependence on God but also stresses his wish to provide for us in our every need.

Today we welcome Michael Scarlett to Belmont who wishes to say a few words on behalf of the APF Mill Hill missionaries. The parish supports APF essentially through the Red Box collections. This is not an appeal but an opportunity for the Society to thank the parish for their support.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£311.50
	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	£167.96
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. Thank you!</i>		



Diamond Diners

The forthcoming date for the Lunch Club is 2nd August. If you are over 60 and would like to join a friendly group for lunch at the Three Horseshoes at 1:00 pm just tick or add your name to the list in the Parish Centre.



2nd Collections

During the month of June the 2nd collections were devoted to both local and international charities. These included 'Day for Life', the Alzheimer's Society Hereford, Headway and DEC (Disaster Emergency Relief Fund).

During this month, July, the 2nd collections will be devoted, again, to both local and international charities. These will include Peter's Pence, the Apostleship of the Sea, Retired Priests' fund, and St Michael's Hospice.

Occasionally there will have to be last minute changes and the actual charities supported will be confirmed retrospectively. From time to time more detailed information about the charities supported will appear either in the Newsletter or in the Angel.



The 25th - 29th of August are the dates for Youth 2000's Walsingham retreat 2016! A 5 day Prayer Festival, packed with dynamic talks, live-band worship, powerful prayer services, fun social activities, and loads more with over a thousand other young Catholics from the UK. With top speakers from the USA and all over the country, all descending on the National shrine of Walsingham. For more details on the festival, e-mail: info@youth2000.org or find us on Facebook.



Rotherwas Chapel

On Monday 15th August the Mass of the Assumption will be celebrated in Rotherwas Chapel by Abbot Paul at 11 am. This will be the first Mass to be said since 1914 in this beautiful, historic Catholic chapel, formerly belonging to the Bodenham family of Rotherwas House, and so an

important occasion for the Catholic community in Hereford. All are welcome. Further information: bmwarde@aol.com .

obligation to attend Mass on Sunday still holds! Check with me or the Internet to locate the nearest Sunday Mass near your vacation spot.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 31 July
Pay for and Collect
Tesco Vouchers

Friday 5 August
9:00 am
Church Cleaning

Tuesday 16 August
2:30
Tea & Chat
Parish Hall

Friday 19 August
9:00 am
Church Cleaning



Fr Nicholas continued

As the schools break up and the holiday season kicks in, we are reminded of the importance of "getting away" from the business of life. If you are going away on holiday this month, then have a wonderful time and travel safely! Don't forget to rest in body and soul and spend some time with God in prayer. If you're planning to be away, don't forget the



REFUGEE CRISIS

Thanks to those who donated items for us to take across to Calais/Dunkirk on our visit at the beginning of June and for all your prayers. We had an amazing time and met many kind people who have given up their jobs to be volunteers.

Many of you have asked us what you could do to help and here are some suggestions:- while we were putting together food bags to be delivered into the camps we noticed that small bags of spices were included. These spices have to be weighed and packed into bags by the volunteers; this obviously takes time so our friend David Bland decided to get members of the Leominster Priory congregation together in small groups to pack these bags. If anyone is interested in getting together in small groups locally to pack spice bags, please let us know and we'll give you the details. We will then make sure they get delivered to David who is again going over to Calais at the beginning of August. Donations are still needed so if you can help in any way please

contact Rob and Jacqui on 01432 352241.



Sick and Housebound Parishioners

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners please let the Parish Office know. We can then make arrangements for Fr Nicholas or an extraordinary minister to bring them Holy Communion or for a priest to come and hear confession if that is required. This also applies to parishioners who move into a care or nursing home. Please remember that hospitals no longer advise us of Catholics in hospital!



With sadness we report the death of Peter Lee who died on Tuesday. His requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 26th July at 2 pm. May he rest in peace.



Jumble

We would be very grateful if you would stop bringing jumble to the Parish Hall until further notice. We are still sorting things out after the Fete and could also do with a break.

We will let you know when you can bring jumble again. Many thanks for your help.



Congratulations to Kerry Matthews & Jon Dallow who were married in the abbey church yesterday. We offer them our prayers and best wishes for their future life together.



HOMILY

“Give us each day our daily bread.”

Illustration

Years ago, when many more people smoked than do today, a certain priest finished his Sunday morning duties and realised he had run out of cigarettes. Panic! In those days shops closed on Sundays. The only answer was to find a vending machine. All afternoon he drove round town, and then round the entire county. He used up torrents of fuel. He became more and more exasperated by the lack of cigarette dispensers, and more and more determined not to be defeated. In the end he found one on the forecourt of a remote petrol station, put his money in the slot, grasped the packet he’d been dreaming of and drove home contented. But in fact a better word would be “humiliated”.

The priest suddenly realised to what extent he was enslaved by the need for tobacco: what a grotesque way to spend a Sunday afternoon! He reflected on his addiction, for that's what it was. And he made a superhuman effort and gave up smoking. He hasn't touched a cigarette since.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus says to his disciples: "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." We serve a generous and merciful Father. Today's first reading is dramatic. God loses patience with a sinful city, and is about to obliterate it, wipe it off the face of the earth. But then Abraham comes along and pleads with God. To our ears his pleading is artful and childish, like haggling in an eastern market, perhaps – Abraham wheedles more and more concessions out of God until it is clear that the place will be spared after all. The whole point of the passage is the power of prayer. A good person storming heaven with prayers works wonders.

In the book of Exodus, still in the Old Testament, Moses fulfils the same role. The Israelites in the desert are not true to God, they worship false gods, they stop trusting the true God and complain about the lack of food

and water. "Right," says God, "I've had enough of these people, I shall abandon them." "Oh no," says Moses, "please don't do that, please give them another chance. I'll tell them what you've said, let me reason with them." Moses' main job, once he has escaped the clutches of the Egyptians, is to intercede with God for his unruly mob of followers. He becomes a professional man of prayer. Again and again he softens the heart of God, until he has brought his quarrelsome tribes to the verge of the promised land. Prayer works, is the message. It works, because God cares.

Application

It works, but in a context of love and trust. Abraham and Moses were loving sons of the Father, they treated him with profound respect, they were prepared to be patient. When Jesus talks to his friends about prayer, he is presuming that we too respect and cherish God as our Father, that we trust his judgement. If you know a family where the children rudely demand expensive presents, and shout and scream if they are frustrated, you may think to yourself, "I hope the parents don't cave in, I hope they stand firm." Wilful infants can treat their parents like vending machines: insert the demand, receive the goods. God the Father is not about to be treated like that: after all, we already owe him so much. What

he wants of me is my heart, my confidence, my patience. My relationship with him is far more valuable than the gifts he might give me.

The biggest gift God can give us is the Holy Spirit. This gift will ensure that we live in union and communion with Jesus. We shall learn to share his passion, during which he appealed to his Father, "Father, if it be your will, let this chalice pass from me." It seemed that his prayer was not heard, because the next day brought him to his death on Calvary. But wait until Sunday morning, when the stone in the garden rolls away, and Christ steps out, risen, strong, immortal, saviour and lover of humankind, and, with the Father, giver of the Spirit. He understands our deepest needs, he has anticipated our worst sufferings and he has come through victorious. To him we can say, in the words of today's psalm, "You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me."



Saints Joaquin and Anne, are the parents of the Virgin Mary. There are no mentions of them in the Bible or Gospels, what we know comes from Catholic legend and the Gospel of James, which is an unsanctioned, apocryphal writing form the second century AD.

We do know from scholarship that the Gospel of James was not written by James, the Brother of Jesus, despite its claim to be so authored.

Even the early Church fathers expressed skepticism about the Gospel of James in their writings. There are about 150 copies of the ancient manuscript which often have different titles, but tell the same story, that Mary was promised to Joaquin and Anne by an angel, was consecrated to God, and she remained a virgin all her life.

Naturally, there is plenty of room for scholarly debate about these saints. We have no true primary sources that prove they even existed, but certainly we can agree that Mary had parents. Likewise, we can agree that Mary had good, faithful parents who raised her with a love and devotion to God like none other except Jesus Christ Himself.

Joaquin and Anne serve as role models for parents and both deserve to be honoured and emulated for their devotion to God and Our Lady Mary, the Mother of God.



Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 31st July - 18th in Ordinary Time Year C

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Patrick Walesby	Ross & Ann Williams
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Jacqui R-Smith	Marion Luscombe	Peter Davies
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayers	Bill Jackson		Jane Davies
Offertory	Children's Lit	Anthea M-Saner & Margaret Campbell	
Extraordinary Ministers	Julia Davey		Jan Wyman

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach

<p><i>Cistercian Cloister: the School of Love</i> <i>August 15-18 (Reg Fee £28 & £22</i> <i>Transport/Entry)</i> <i>Reflections on St Bernard and the great</i> <i>Cistercian saints and a visit to Tintern Abbey</i> <i>Dom Brendan, Dom Bernard, Dom Alistair</i></p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 31 July	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	24-Jul	Pat Wood & Mary Wood
	31-Jul	Jacqui Moore & Rachel Cowdrey
		No Children's Liturgy in August

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 24 July)

Deaths: Peter Lee, Father Jerome, Shaun Harrington, Edna Ledford and Fr Luke.

Anniversaries: Juliana Simon, Emilia Williams, Helen Brown, Maurice Edge, Keith Upham, Alice Mason, Rt Rev Abbot Fowler, Lucy Preece, William Riley, Dom Ambrose Buisseret, Kevin Roebuck, Regina Fourvito and Francis Kay.

The Sick: Please pray for: Bernard Johnson, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Sue Savory, Stephen Fisher, Gordon Wilson, Syliva Evans, David Kinsey, Polly Maund-Powell, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Duncan Sykes, Margaret O'Connor, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Edward Medlicott, Sr Philipa, Teresa Chowles, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Fr Michael Cronin, Elaine Campbell, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Liturgy for Sunday 24th July Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2 (Wk 17 OT)

<p>17th Sunday In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death ...</p> <p>Communion: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.</p>
---	--

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Kath Parry	Marion Luscombe	Rita Chamberlain & Brenda Sherwood
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Mary Hayes	Anthea Morton-S	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Sally Johns
Bidding Prayer	Ann Jackson		Tony Archer
Offertory	Ramage-Hill Family	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Kath Parry		Tony Archer
Mass Intention	Kerry Niblett RIP		Fr Jerome RIP
Second Collection - Parish Outreach			
Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore			

What's On for the week	
Mon	St James: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	SS Joachim & Anne: Mass at 8:00 am: Requiem Mass for Peter Lee at 2:00 pm
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	SS Martha, Mary & Lazarus: NO 8:00 am or Midday Mass: Exposition at 11: Requiem Mass for Fr Jerome at 2:30
Sat	St Peter Chrysologus: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am