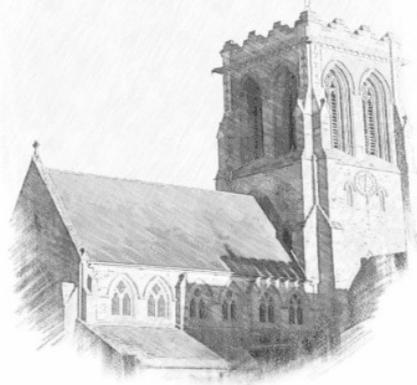


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**24 June 2018**

**St John the Baptist**

**PARISH PRIEST**

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Today we celebrate the feast of St John the Baptist. He had a specific role ordained by God to be the forerunner or precursor to the Messiah. As Jesus himself says, "In truth I tell you, of all the children born to women, there has never been anyone greater than John the Baptist". John's role was to prepare the way and to point to Christ. We too, are entrusted with that mission to point out Christ to others by our words and deeds. Please remember in your prayers the young people who will be making their First Holy Communion today: Phoebe Blackburn, Luciano Pavi Degl'Innocenti, Joseph Hickey, Ruairí Hickey, Evie Price, and Charlotte West.

A very special thank you to all those who worked so hard to help organise our Parish Fete, and to those who gave up their time last Saturday to make it a success. It was a wonderful day with a great turnout and even the weather turned warm and sunny and in the end we managed to raise over £6500 which was a great achievement. Thank you!

Friday is the Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul and a Holy Day of Obligation. This ancient feast commemorates the martyrdom at Rome of the two great Apostles. There will be a vigil Mass on Thursday evening at 7 pm and Masses on Friday at 8 am and 12 noon (sung).

*Fr Nicholas*

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

Last Sunday's	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	<b>£289.92</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£581.00</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>£193.46</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>Day for Life. Thank You</b>		



### 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 are not able to get a newsletter - 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.



### CAFOD Free will-writing service

Did you know that CAFOD offers a free will-writing service? Pick up a leaflet in the porch, email [legacy@cafod.org.uk](mailto:legacy@cafod.org.uk) or call Hannah on 020 7095 5367 to find out more.



### Dates for your diary

**29 June**

Church Cleaning  
9:00 am

### Diamond Diners

July 3rd  
August 7th  
September 4th  
October 2nd  
November 6th  
December 4th

### Tea & Chat

July 17th  
August 21st  
September 18th  
October 16th  
November 20th  
December 18th



### St Michael's Hospice - Wheelie Big Cycle

On Sunday 15th July I am cycling 58 miles at the Wheelie Big Cycle event in aid of St Michael's Hospice. If you would like to donate to this cause, please visit my JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chris-moore38> or I'll be happy to accept cheques or cash. Many thanks for your support, Chris Moore.





On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June; 9.30 -17.00, at Douai Abbey the English Benedictine Congregation will be holding a day of monastic exploration. So if you are aged between 18 and 30 and would like to learn more about the monastic way of life then join us for a day exploring the depth of our monastic tradition. Come and discover a wisdom that helps you make better choices and offers a way to God. For further details visit our website [www.benedictines.org.uk/open](http://www.benedictines.org.uk/open) or contact Dom Andrew Berry OSB on 01905 454352.

**EMMAUS YOUTH** are having their next meeting on Saturday 23rd June from 2.30-5.30 pm at Our Lady's church hall. We would also like to invite current Year 6's to an open session on Saturday 14th July from 2.30-5.30 pm where they can join us for faith, fun and friendship. For information please call Jacqui on 01432 352241 or email [emmaus.youth@hotmail.com](mailto:emmaus.youth@hotmail.com).



**CAFOD SCHOOL  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Could you spare some time to volunteer with CAFOD? CAFOD in South Wales is looking for volunteers to work with children and young people in Catholic schools to help them learn about global poverty and inspire them to take action. Full training and resources provided. To find out more please contact Therese Warwick on 02920 344882 or email [southwales@cafod.org.uk](mailto:southwales@cafod.org.uk)



**How do we help people become active Catholics?**

How can we share our faith better? Sherry Weddell's book tells us how 150 people become active Catholics! Come and find out how with Madeline Page our diocesan Evangelisation and Education Officer. Please join us either in All Hallows', Miskin every Tuesday, 3 pm – 4 pm, June 5– July 10 or **Our Lady's, Hereford every Wednesday**, 7 pm-8 pm, June 6– July 11. For any questions please contact Madeline on 029 2036 5965 / [madeline.page@rcadc.org](mailto:madeline.page@rcadc.org)





## Marriage Preparation in the Archdiocese of Cardiff

We are currently recruiting volunteers who would be interested in joining our Marriage Preparation team. As the provision of lay led preparation across the diocese is expanded and developed, we need to recruit more volunteers.

### Could you work with engaged couples as a facilitator?

As a volunteer facilitator you would:

- Become part of the developing network of Marriage Preparation providers within our archdiocese
- Deliver Marriage Care programmes to engaged couples of your deanery
- Help engaged couples discern their readiness for the Sacrament of Marriage
- Deepen your own appreciation of the Sacrament of Matrimony

Training and support will be provided by Marriage Care in partnership with the Archdiocesan Family Life Worker. For more details pick up a leaflet at the back of church, speak to your parish priest, contact either [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk) or in the diocese Joanne White, FAMILY LIFE WORKER, Tel: (029)20 365964, e-mail: [parenting@rcadc.org](mailto:parenting@rcadc.org)



## Homily

*"What will this child turn out to be?"*

### Illustration

Are there signs that appear at a child's birth which indicate what he or she will become? The ancient world believed that signs accompanied an important birth. When Alexander the Great was born there were storms and earthquakes and two eagles appeared, which were said to presage his conquest of Asia and Europe. But even today psychologists have shown that there are less dramatic indications in young children of what they will become as adults. Long before you can express yourself with words you may show signs of your future temperament. So if you show signs of aggression or shyness very early on as a child these can be a sign that these traits may also appear when you are grown up.

### Gospel Teaching

Today we are celebrating the birth of someone who showed signs that he was a prophet even before he was born. Normally the liturgy celebrates saints on the day of their death and, in fact, only celebrates the birthdays of three people: Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist. Why does John the Baptist merit this honour? Even at his

birth his family is full of wonder as they ask, "What will this child turn out to be?" If we look at the events and signs that surround his birth, we can begin to appreciate why, as Jesus said, "of all the children born of women there is no one greater than John".

First, John's parents represent the righteous people of the Old Testament. Elizabeth, barren and old, is blessed with this child. Zechariah, his father, receives the news from the angel in the Temple with all its ancient rituals. The child is circumcised on the eighth day. Then the name John is given, which makes a break with tradition. John brings together the new and the old. He is the hinge between the two testaments. And even in the womb he jumped for joy in recognition of Jesus when the pregnant Mary visited Elizabeth. Even before birth he was the precursor of Jesus. But also in his death, beheaded by Herod, he points forward to Jesus' death under Pilate in Jerusalem.

Second, at his birth his father Zechariah recognises this little child as a "Prophet... [who] will go before the Lord to prepare the way for him". Through preaching repentance he will make ready the way for Jesus and finally have the singular honour of baptising him. John's baptism was to be in water alone and he directs our

gaze to Jesus' baptism, which will be in the Holy Spirit. But, thirdly, John will show his humility. He knows that he is only the voice crying in the wilderness while Jesus is the Word of God. He knows that it is Christ who is the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world and he, John, is unworthy to baptise him or untie his sandals. His role is clear: he must give way to Christ. "He must grow greater, I must grow smaller."

### **Application**

How can we celebrate this feast of John the Baptist's birthday? Here at Mass, of course, but also by heeding his words and putting into practice the lessons of his life. If we are going to recognise Jesus for what he is, then we must see him against the long history of the Old Testament. We cannot appreciate the new without knowing what came before. We will then appreciate how Jesus fulfils what the prophets foretold. Once we have recognised Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, then we too need to repent and confess our failings so that he can heal us. As we go to confession John's words of judgement can touch our consciences and convict us so that Jesus may grant his forgiveness and absolution.

And finally, as Christians who have been sent to evangelise and to point

the way to Christ, we need the humility of John. For all Christians, not just those who are lay ministers, deacons or priests, are called to be sure that we are pointing to Christ and not to ourselves. We are also here to prepare the way for his coming. For from now on, after this feast of midsummer, the days will be getting shorter until Christ comes at Christmas and the light increases in our lives. So, too, we are called to decrease and let him increase.



### **St Irenaeus**

The writings of St Irenaeus entitle him to a high place among the fathers of the Church, for they not only laid the foundations of Christian theology but, by exposing and refuting the errors of the Gnostics, they delivered the Catholic Faith from the real danger of the doctrines of those heretics. He was probably born about the year 125, in one of those maritime provinces of Asia Minor where the memory of the apostles was still cherished and where Christians were numerous. He was most influenced by St. Polycarp who had known the apostles or their immediate disciples.

It was the spread of gnosticism in Gaul, and the ravages it was making among the Christians of his diocese,

that inspired him to undertake the task of exposing its errors. He produced a treatise in five books in which he sets forth fully the inner doctrines of the various sects, and afterwards contrasts them with the teaching of the Apostles and the text of the Holy Scripture. His work, written in Greek but quickly translated to Latin, was widely circulated and succeeded in dealing a death-blow to gnosticism. At any rate, from that time onwards, it ceased to offer a serious menace to the Catholic faith.

The date of death of St. Irenaeus is not known, but it is believed to be in the year 202. The bodily remains of St Irenaeus were buried in a crypt under the altar of what was then called the church of St. John, but was later known by the name of St Irenaeus himself. This tomb or shrine was destroyed by the Calvinists in 1562, and all trace of his relics seems to have perished.



<b>Ministries for next <u>Sunday 1 July 2018</u> 13 Sunday in OT Year B Cycle 2</b>			
	08:30:	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Hayes Family	Clare Wichbold	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S	Brenda Warde	Sergio Pavia
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Bidding Prayers	Adrian Eyre		Margaret Rose
Offertory	Parish Children	Frances Riddle & Teresa Harriss	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Deacon Eddie & Jan Wyman
<b>Next Sunday: Peter's Pence</b>			

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	
	24 -Jun	Jacqui Moore & Pauline Gill
	01-Jul	Pat Wood & tba
	08-Jul	Pat Wood & Jan Wyman
	15-Jul	Andrew M & Mary Wood
		School Holidays

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

**Deaths:** *Dominique Wetz, Catherine Craig, Claire George and Lillian Allsopp*

**Anniversaries:** *Norah Lenehan, Edward Corrigan, Alice Mary Dawe, Douglas John Fish, William, Griffin, Bro John Johnson osb, John Hurley, Gertrude Davies, John Doughty, Henry Pritchard, Ludwig Sosna, Robert Eccles, Jean Sheedy, John Smith, Margaret, Smith, Henry Power and Patrick Wallis.*

**The Sick:** Please pray for: *Delia Swainson, Sally Johns, Neal Harries, Kenny Hanna, Fr Aidan, Rachel Thompson, Robin Hayward, Gil Savory, Denise Ellis, Chris & Sue Rogers, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

*Belmont Abbey Parish is part of Belmont Abbey Mission Trust (Registered Charity - 226277)*

# The Nativity of John the Baptist

**Entrance:** A man was sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.

**Acclamation:** We proclaim your Death...

**Communion:** Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

<b>Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.</b>			
	08:30:	09:30	11:00:
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Kath Parry	Nickerson family	Rita Chamberlain & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Richard Batho	Phyll Buckley	Jennifer Hackman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Anne Jackson		Sally Johns
Bidding Prayer	Bill Jackson		Pat Wood
Offertory	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Children
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Julia Davey		Deacon Eddie & Gabrielle Stanley
Mass Intention	<b><i>1st Holy Communion Children</i></b>	<b><i>Pro Populo</i></b>	<b><i>William Griffin RIP</i></b>
<b><i>Second Collection: Mary's Meals</i></b>			
<b><i>Food Bank Collection: John Goodall-Copestake</i></b>			

<b><i>What's On for the week</i></b>	
Mon	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am;
Wed	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	<b>St Irenaeus:</b> Mass at 8 am: <b>Vigil Mass at 7:00 pm</b>
Fri	<b>Sts Peter &amp; Paul:</b> Mass at 8 am & 12 noon: Exposition from 11 to 11:45 in Oratory
Sat	<b>BVM:</b> Mass at 8 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10 am