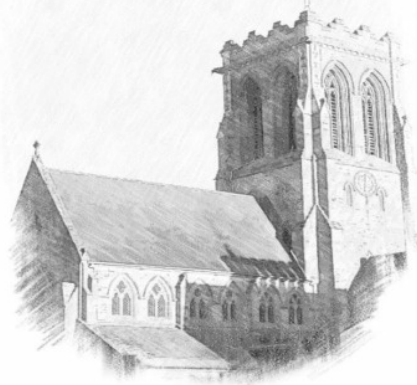


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

25 February 2018

2nd Sunday of Lent

PARISH PRIEST

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Today's gospel reading is of the Transfiguration. At the end of this extraordinary event, when the voice from heaven commands us to "listen to him", we are challenged to be transfigured by the divine presence in our own lives. This should prompt us to deepen our prayer lives and our lives of love and charity. This is the hall mark of our Lenten Season.

The second collection today is for Cafod. God created a world of abundance with enough food for everyone, but we have turned it into a world of want. Let's share the abundance of God's creation with our global family by supporting Cafod's Lent appeal.

The February distribution of Tesco Vouchers takes place today. May I ask subscribers to carefully read the letter enclosed with the gift cards.

Date for your diary – Parish Day of Reflection for those exercising Ministry in the Church, especially our readers and extraordinary ministers – **Saturday 24th March**

We welcome the Benedictine Oblates of Belmont Abbey to the 9.30 am Mass this morning.

Fr Nicholas

Welcome to Belmont Abbey. If you are as 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	£326.23
	Standing Orders	£501.23
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£178.25
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: Mary's Meals. Thank You!		

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Parish Outreach

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project, SPUC, St Barnabas Society and the local Acorns Children's Hospice. Thank you. This month there will be the annual collections for Marriage Care (4 & 11 Feb), Mary's Meals (18 Feb) and Cafod (25 Feb).

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The funeral Masses for three of our former parishioners will take place as follows:

Wednesday 28 February 2 pm – Elaine White RIP

Monday 5 March 2 pm – Sheila Langford RIP

Tuesday 6 March 11 am – William Padden RIP

May they rest in peace.

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EMMAUS YOUTH

The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is 17 March at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 2.30-5.30 pm. Come and join us for some fun!! Rob and Jacqui Corrigan, Annie Ridgway and Ben Aldridge. 01432 352241 & 07739566578.emmausyouth@hotmail.com

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Lenten Station Mass celebrated by Archbishop Stack at Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 13 March 7 pm.

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150 Club

The winners of the January draw were:

1st No. 160 Brenda Warde £50
 2nd No. 5 Parry Grandchildren £25
 3rd No. 148 Pauline Holman £12

There are still some cash subscriptions outstanding so please pay to either Chris Moore or Fr Nick as soon as possible.

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The **Wednesday Midday Masses during Lent** will be in the Church to accommodate the larger number of people joining us for the Lenten Days of Recollection.



On Sunday, 4th March, at 4 pm, **Hereford Cathedral Choir** will sing Choral Evensong at Belmont Abbey. All are welcome.



Dates for your Diary

6 March
Diamond Diners
The Three Horseshoes
12:45 pm

8 March
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

13 March
Station Mass
OLQM 6:00 pm

14 April
Jumble Sale
OLQM 1:30 pm



OUR LADY'S PARISH LENT COURSE - *"Let It Be Done to Me According to Your Word."* A Lent course of 5 sessions, pondering how Mary helps us to be filled with God. Each session involving a video presentation, discussion, prayer and refreshments. Wednesdays of Lent beginning 21st

February in the parish room at 7 pm, and the next 4 Wednesday evenings.



Wales and the Marches Catholic History Society

Our next talk at St. David's RC Sixth Form College, Tygwyn Rd., Cardiff Sunday March 4th 2018 at 3pm Mary Sullivan and the Newtown Association: "Little Ireland" – the story of Newtown and the Newtown Association. This will be a joint presentation by Mary and her Committee and should be of great interest to the many Catholics in Cardiff with Irish roots. ALL ARE WELCOME. For further details please contact: Tricia Coulthard - 02920 595 899 or email triciacoulthard@outlook.com.



WHAT CAN I DO FOR LENT?

Why not take advantage of a great opportunity this Lent to learn more about some

"CATHOLICISM-PIVOTAL PLAYERS" Every Monday evening in Lent at SFX. 7 pm - 8.30 pm in Parish Hall

26 Feb: St. Thomas Aquinas

5 Mar: St. Catherine of Siena

12 Mar: Bl. John Henry Newman

19 Mar: G. K. Chesterton

26 Mar: Michelangelo

ALL WELCOME! Tea/coffee and informal discussion



**Wednesday Lent Days -
An English Spring**

The 20th Century saw many powerful contributions to Christian life and letters in this country. Through their writings and witness they helped shape the Church in their lifetime and offer to us many fruits of the spirit. During Lent we enrich our faith through exploring this new inheritance.

The day starts with coffee at 10.00 am, Mass at 12 noon and includes a soup lunch with a suggested offering £10.

28 Feb Helen Waddell – Abbot Paul Stonham

7 March – Ronald Knox – Dom Jonathan Rollinson

14 March Caryl Houselander – Dom Brendan Thomas

21 March Basil Hume – Dom David Yates



**Lent Study Lunches at Ewyas Harold:
“Making all things new”**

On four Thursdays continuing 1 March at 12.30 in the Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall (With soup lunch first)

Thursday 1 March - Rev Jon Chesworth

Thursday 8 March - Rev Joy James

Thursday 15 March - Fr Nick

Thursday 22 March - Rev Eric Locke



ADOREMUS - PREPARATION DAY The Catholic Church will hold a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool this September. To prepare for this, the Archdiocese of Cardiff invites everyone to a Preparation Day which will be held in Cardiff at St David’s Catholic College on 17 March 2018 from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm. To attend, please contact Christian Mahoney on 07764515864 or christianmahoney2@gmail.com



Jumble Sale

Our next jumble sale is on 14 April at OLQM parish hall. As always we could do with clean clothing, books, bric-a-brac and children’s toys. Please leave all items in the Parish Porch not in the Church porch. Thank you.



Don’t forget on **Palm Sunday** (25th March) there are only two Sunday Masses at Belmont Abbey - **8.30 & 10.00** am only. The Abbot will preside at the 10 am Pontifical High Mass, which, because of the long liturgy, replaces the 9.30 & 11 am Masses. Blessed Palms will of course be available at the 8.30 am Parish Mass



REAL FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS made by the Meaningful Chocolate

Company with the Easter Story in the box. www.traidcraftshop.co.uk



Homily

“Listen to him.”

Illustration

The Voice is a reality TV series, which essentially is a singing competition. Created in the Netherlands in 2010, variations of the show are now broadcast in most countries of the world. There are various stages of the competition, but perhaps the unique selling point is the “blind audition”: in the opening round, the judges have their backs to the contestants. If the judges are impressed by the quality of a contestant’s singing voice, they press a button and turn around in their iconic swivelling chairs to see who it is they have voted for. Once committed, the judge becomes the contestant’s coach, collaborating with the singer to win the competition and become “The Voice” – and gain a lucrative deal with a music company to boot. This audition is emblematic of the show: what counts is not the contestants’ beauty or their ability to dance or look good, but simply the quality of their singing. It all depends on the voice – and, of course, on the judges’ ability to really listen.

Gospel Teaching

The voice figures prominently in today’s readings. In the first reading, the voice of God seems to be asking if not the impossible, then the inhuman. Isaac – Abraham and Sarah’s only son – was the child God promised so that Abraham could become the founding father of “a great nation”. Not only did God seem to be asking the unimaginable, but also to be going back on that sacred promise. With relief, we discover that in fact the point of the story is the very opposite to what it appears to be on the surface: whereas human sacrifice was commonplace in the ancient Near East, what is revealed is that God does not want human sacrifice. By careful listening, Abraham’s understanding of God develops and grows, and their relationship of trust and faith deepens.

The voice of God takes centre stage at the transfiguration, affirming a truth that up to this point in Mark’s Gospel God had revealed only to Jesus himself at his baptism – his identity as God’s own beloved Son – a truth that literally makes Jesus glow. Finally his disciples have come to the point where they are ready to hear this truth. But their listening is only partial. As Jesus descends the mountain, he starts to help his disciples to understand the meaning of his sonship: that he will be faithful

and obedient to his Father, even to the point of having to give up his life. Jesus trusts God's faithfulness and ability to raise him from the dead. Yet this episode occurs shortly after Peter has protested at Jesus' talk of crucifixion and resurrection. He hasn't really been listening; all he hears is suffering and death. And it is only after the resurrection that the disciples begin to really hear and appreciate what Jesus has been telling them.

Application

As Christians, we believe that the transfiguration is not merely a past event but an ongoing reality. God's voice is creative – God spoke and creation came into being. God's voice is transformative: Jesus literally glowed as God affirmed him as the Son. God's voice continues to be at work in our world today, and in our lives. But like Abraham and the disciples, we need to learn how to listen and perceive at more than just a superficial level. That takes time and practice and commitment. So much in our modern world militates against that – we want things instantly and effortlessly. But there is no such thing as an instant relationship – with God or anyone else.

When we do listen in prayer – when we are able to step outside our own expectations and preconceptions and

focus, like those judges on the TV show, simply on the voice – we find that God's voice continues to be creative and transformative. By making time each day quietly to open ourselves to the presence of God, we make room for God to affirm our dignity as God's beloved sons and daughters. And as that reality gradually seeps into the marrow of our bones, we increasingly learn how to live out of that sacred space – to live as sons and daughters of God not as a moral imperative or commandment, but because that is who we know we really are at the core of our being. Being children of the loving Father is something that shines out from our lives – because we have learnt to listen to the voice.



Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 4 March 2018 -3rd Sunday of Lent Year B Cycle 2</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Liz Norman	Phyll Buckley	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Patrick Walesby	Margaret Rose
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Pat Wood
Bidding Prayers	Bill Jackson		Niamh Coyle
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Jacqui Ramage S		Jane Davies & Tony Archer
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Supporting Catholic Education			

Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	25-Feb	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	04-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	11-Mar	Jackie King & Jan Wyman
	18-Mar	Andrew M & Pauline Gill
	25-Mar	Pat Wood & Mary Wood

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 25 Feb)

Deaths: William Padden, Elaine White, Sheila Langford and Phillip Cook

Anniversaries: David Ellis, Robert Hann, John Harrison, Molly Hawkins, Sr Aloysius Walsh, Terance Falkiner, Rose Magness, Phyllis Mailes, William O'Toole, Helena Rhodes, Mary McGowan, Maurice Blackmon, Ethel Telford, Marion Arnold, Elizabeth Vose-Davies, Kotska Oddie, Joseph McGurk, Bess Lee, Emily Louise Hayes and John Mills.

The Sick: Please pray for: Neal Harries, Kevin 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 Medicott, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

<p>2nd Sunday Of Lent</p>	<p>Entrance: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.

	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Desmond Keohane	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Paul Nickhold	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Richard Batho		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		Pat Draper
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Anthea Morton-S & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Monica Russell & Deacon Eddie
Mass Intention		Arnold Family RIP	
Second Collection - Cafod			
Food Bank Collection: Chris Moore			

What's On for the week

Mon	Lenten Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Lenten Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Lenten Feria: Mass at 8 am & Midday Mass in the Abbey: Funeral Mass for Elaine White RIP 2 pm
Thu	St David: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Lenten Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 & Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	Lenten Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00