

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

25 June 2017

**12th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

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A very special thank you to all those who worked so hard over the last few weeks and months to help organise our Parish Fete, and to those who gave up their time last week, and in preparation, to make it a success. We raised just under £6000 which is a tremendous result. Thank you. Although fund raising is an important reason for such an event, it is also an occasion to bring local people to our beautiful monastery gardens to enjoy our parish hospitality and cream teas once a year.

Thursday 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 Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm and Masses on Thursday at 8 am and 12 noon.

Br Patrick will be ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop George Stack on Tuesday at 2.30 pm. The parish are invited to join the community on this special occasion.

The second collection today is the annual Peter's Pence Collection.

Fr Nicholas is away for a few days.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£297.82
	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	£258.98
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: Day for Life. Thank You!		



There will be a Latin Mass at 7 pm on 29th June (this Thursday). The Latin Masses will resume after next Thursday at the regular Wednesday 7 pm slot.



Be an Angel

And write or photograph something for *The Angel*, which we hope to publish shortly. Please send items to the Parish Office or give to Fr Nick. If you have photos of the Fete or any other parish events, please e-mail them to Father Nick. Many thanks!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30 June
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

1 July
Picnic & Prayer
1:00 pm, at Our Lady's

4 July
Diamond Diners
The Three Horseshoes
12:45 pm

14 July
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

18 July
Tea & Chat
2:30 pm



Walsingham Association

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28 June at 5.55 pm for Vespers in the Abbey Church followed by the Angelus and Rosary. At 7:00 pm there will be a Meditation in the Kemble Room. At 7:30 pm Vigil Mass for Sts Peter & Paul. Tea & Coffee after Mass in the Kemble Room. All welcome - you do not have to be a member.





Emmaus Youth

Due to there being two celebrations of First Holy Communion at Our Lady's Church on Saturday 24th June we have decided to change the date of the next Emmaus Youth meeting. It will now be held on Saturday 1st July from 2.30-5.30 pm. This will replace the meeting scheduled for 15th July. We will be sending out future dates later in the summer.



Hereford Food Bank

The Food Bank is in urgent need of more supplies and is particularly short of **tinned soup and tinned fish**. At this time there is no need for pasta or tins of beans but all other items would be very much welcomed. Thank you for your continued support. Chris



Confirmation 2018

Will you be in School Year 9 or above this September? Do you have a desire to learn more about your faith and to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the summer of 2018? This usually involves a commitment to a weekend non-

residential retreat at the start in the autumn and 22 sessions lasting approximately 90 minutes over the following months (avoiding school holidays).

Please contact Fr Nick or Chris Moore (cjm1957@btinternet.com) (if you are interested) as soon as possible so we can consider the options for preparation of candidates.



Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

Sat 29th July

Jennifer Woodman &
Charles Kirby

Sat 19th August

Kitty Massarella &
Jonathon Nicholls

Sat 26th August

Natalie Dewhurst &
Robert Dewen



HOMILY

"Do not be afraid."

Nothing in life is to be feared, we only need to understand more, that we may fear less." This was said by Marie Curie, the famous Polish scientist, radioactivity pioneer and first female professor in the

University of Paris. Her words sit well with Jesus' words in today's Gospel. He has much to say to his listeners about not being afraid, but his words would also have had a profound significance for those reading them forty years or so after Jesus' death and resurrection.

By then, the Romans had destroyed Jerusalem and its Temple. The consequences for the Jewish people were great, but they had serious implications for early Christians too. When the Temple was destroyed, a huge change occurred because the formerly all-powerful Temple priests lost their power base. The power gap was filled by the Pharisees, who argued that the true hallmark of Judaism was the Law given to Moses on Mount Sinai. They presented themselves as the authentic interpreters of that Law. All might have been well for them if there had not been a group of people originally from the synagogues who were pledging allegiance to Jesus the Nazarene and who followed his disciples' teaching on the Law. A clash was inevitable, and a climate of fear broke out as the rabbis excommunicated the followers of the Nazarene, expelled them from synagogues and encouraged their families to disown them.

Gospel Teaching

There are many Gospel episodes where Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid. In Luke, he says: "There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has

pleased your Father to give you the kingdom." In Mark and Matthew, after calming the storm at sea, Jesus asks his disciples why they had been so frightened. In John, during the Last Supper discourse, Jesus twice says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." On the second occasion, he adds, "... or afraid".

In today's Gospel, however, there is a specific reason why disciples should not be afraid. Jesus says, "everything that is now covered will be uncovered". On Jesus' lips these words were a reassurance that the day would come when it would be clear just who Jesus was, and what he had achieved in dying and rising from the dead. In the ears of this Gospel's first hearers, it would additionally have been an encouragement during the terrible opposition and persecution that they faced from their former fellow synagogue-attenders.

There may have been a puzzle here for both sets of hearers, however, one that remains to this day: who does Jesus mean by the one to be feared because he has power to "destroy both body and soul in hell"? There is an automatic tendency to think that this must mean the devil, and this has been a traditional approach, but the devil has no power to cast into hell – only to tempt and to cause serious mischief. The only person who could possibly have that power is God. The

“fear of God” is a common expression of piety in the scriptures, but we can reflect on what that might mean. Before we do so, however, it is important to remember that Jesus began this speech with the words, “Do not be afraid.” So, whatever the fear of the Lord is, it is certainly not being afraid of God.

Application

Traditionally, we designate one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit as “the fear of God”. Here again we see an anomaly – being afraid is not much of a gift. In more recent times, there has been a tendency to express this gift as “wonder and awe in God’s presence”. Certainly, wonder and awe describe how we should sit in the presence of the God who has the power to destroy body and soul in hell, but who has chosen to give us the kingdom. This is truly wonderful. It inspires us to the awe of silence – or to the sigh too deep for words, which St Paul tells us the Spirit uses to intercede for us when our own words fail.

The rest of what Jesus has to say continues in the same vein. It may not at first sound very comforting to be told we are worth more than hundreds of sparrows, but Jesus is telling us that no one ever escapes the watchful eye of the God of infinite love, who never lets us out of sight – the God who could never forget the number of hairs on our heads.



Saints Peter & Paul

Margherita Guarducci was an eminent archaeologist and an expert in deciphering ancient inscriptions. In 1952, excavations taking place underneath the Papal Altar of St Peter’s Basilica in Rome caught her attention. One of the archaeologists involved had published a fragmentary two-line Greek inscription, which had been found many feet below the altar. Margherita interpreted the inscription as meaning “Peter is within”. Having obtained permission to inspect the plaster bearing the inscription, she discovered that one of the archaeologists, a priest, had taken it home. She also detected that the contents of a nearby niche had been catalogued, put in a box in a damp cellar and were still there after twelve years. Her analysis of the contents revealed human remains, which she identified as having belonged to a sturdy man who had died in his sixties. There were also fragments of cloth once covered by a fine plate of gold. After much research, she concluded that the remains were those of St Peter. Her findings were met with some opposition, but in 1968 her conclusion was confirmed by Pope Paul VI when he announced that the relics of St Peter “have been identified in a manner which we consider convincing”.

Both Peter and Paul were put to death following a great fire in Rome in AD 64 for which the Emperor Nero, putting the blame on the Christians, set off a violent

reaction against them. Because he was a Roman citizen, Paul suffered the less ignominious fate of beheading rather than crucifixion. In the second century the theologian Tertullian wrote that Paul was beheaded at *Aquae Salviae* (now known as *Tre Fontane*, the “Three Fountains”). An ancient tradition relates that his body was claimed by a devout woman, Lucina, who had it buried in her family tomb in their vineyard on the Ostian Way. In AD 324 Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor, had a basilica built over the tomb. In the fifth century a larger basilica replaced it and this remained mostly unchanged until 1823 when it was nearly totally destroyed by fire. Prior to the reconstruction of the present Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, completed in 1854, excavations made beneath the Papal Altar revealed St Paul’s tomb.

Information about the martyrdom of Peter and Paul and their places of burial has its source in writings and traditions going back to the first and second centuries AD. Though there is no reference to their martyrdom in the New Testament, there is much about events that were central to their lives. Such an event is related by Matthew in today’s Gospel. Jesus asks the disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God”, a confession that Jesus tells him has been directly revealed to him by God the Father.

Until this moment Peter has been “Simon son of Jonah” but now Jesus gives him a new name, “You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.” The name Peter means “rock”. He is called the rock because he has expressed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah and has done so on behalf of the community formed by Jesus. As long as that faith remains, death will have no power over them. Peter is entrusted with a unique position of leadership and authority in the Church by being given the keys of the kingdom of heaven and the power of binding and loosing.

Saul of Tarsus, a man learned in the Law and the scriptures, was totally opposed to the new “Way” of the followers of Jesus. He was on the road to Damascus to arrest some of their number when a blinding light and a voice that said, “I am Jesus and you are persecuting me,” changed him into the Lord’s chosen instrument, Paul the apostle of the Gentiles.

Peter and Paul acknowledged their own frailty and experienced much suffering but they believed in God’s infinite love. “The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me,” exclaims Peter. Paul rejoices that the Lord “stood by me and gave me power”. No wonder that through the ages millions of people have venerated their tombs and that the memory of both apostles has been celebrated on this day since the early centuries.

Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 2 July, 13 Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Clare Wichbold	Rita Chamberlain & Marnie Archer
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Mary Hayes	Menna McBain	Rob Corrigan
2 nd Reading	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Bidding Prayers	Liz Norman		Sally Johns
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extraordinary Ministers	Frances Dees & Jacqui Ramage-S		Jan Wyman & Tony Archer
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	25-Jun	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	02-Jul	Jacqui Moore & Rob Blackburn
	09-Jul	Pat Wood & Jan Wyman
	16-Jul	Jackie King & Pauline Gill
	23-Jul	Pat Wood & Monica Russell

These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.

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

Deaths: Mary Walsh, Anna Schmidt, Brian Lawrence, Sister Clare, Mary Jo Donnelly.

Anniversaries: 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, Patrick Wallis and Stacy Smith..

The Sick: Please pray for: Seamus Hayes, Denise Ellis, Carol Baines, Michael Kennedy, Chris Rogers, Peter Draper, Fr Simon, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Sr Philpa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

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

Liturgy for Sunday 25th June 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 12)*

<p>12th Sunday In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance: The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord and bless your heritage and govern them for ever.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: The eyes of all look to you, Lord and you give them their food in due season.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Jonathon		Fr Jonathan
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Anne Stapleton	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Clare Wichbold	Jacqui Corrigan
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayer	Ann Jackson		Margaret Rose
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Julia Davey		Rob Corrigan & Andre Pavia
Mass Intention	Seamus Hayes	The Parish	William Griffin RIP
Second Collection - Peter's Pence			
Food Bank Collection: Eddie & Jan Wyman			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	St Cyril of Alexandria: NO Mass at 8:00 am: Ordination of Brother Patrick at 2:30
Wed	St Irenaeus: Mass at 8:00 am: NO Midday Mass: Vigil Mass of SS Peter & Paul at 7:30 pm
Thu	SS Peter & Paul: Mass at 8:00 am & 12 noon (sung) Holy Day of Obligation
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 am and Midday Mass at 12 noon
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am