

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**25 March 2018
Palm Sunday**

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Today, we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This week, this **Holy Week**, draws us in to the whole meaning and mystery of our Christian faith and the liturgies of Holy Week lead us through those final days of Christ's earthly ministry.

The Easter Triduum begins with Mass on **Holy Thursday** evening, when Jesus sacramentally anticipated the gift he would make of himself on the cross. His command to serve others is dramatically recalled this night in the ceremony of the washing of the feet. The evening concludes with a symbolic sharing in Christ's agony in the garden of Gethsemane by our spending some time in prayer at the Altar of Repose.

The **Good Friday** rites focus on the reading of the Passion. With simple dignity that story is retold, followed by prayers for the entire world, and according to ancient tradition, the cross is venerated. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

The **Easter Vigil**, which opens with a service of light, is the high point of the Easter Triduum celebrating the passion and resurrection of Jesus. With a rich display of symbols, rites and readings, the church in worship expresses her faith in the mystery that brings her into being.

Don't forget next Sunday – Easter Sunday, the two parish Masses are 8.30 and 9.30 with the Community Mass moving to 11 am.

Fr Nicholas

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

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| Last Sunday's | 1 st Collection | £112.92 |
| | Standing Orders | £501.23 |

The 1st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.

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| | 2 nd Collection | £68.03 |
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The 2nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for **Easter Flowers. Thank You!**

Parish Outreach

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards supporting Marriage Care, Mary's Meals and Cafod. Thank you. This month there will be collections to support local Catholic Education (4th), Hereford Food Bank (11th), Easter Flowers (18th) and Aid to the Church in Need (25th).



REAL FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS made by the Meaningful Chocolate Company with the Easter Story in the box. www.traidcraftshop.co.uk.



Gift Aid

The financial tax year draws to a close in a few weeks and the new Gift Aid envelopes are now available for collection. Don't forget, Gift Aiding costs

you nothing but allows the parish to reclaim the tax paid.



Dates for your Diary

3 April

Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes
12:45

14 April

Jumble Sale
OLQM 1:30 pm



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. If you can help on the day, please let Kath know. Thank you.



If you cannot get to Mass- 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.





CELEBRATE WALES:21-22 APRIL 2018

Celebrate Wales, the Catholic Family Charismatic Conference, is in its 7 year and will be held at Mary Immaculate High School, Wenvoe, Cardiff, CF5 5QZ. There are groups for all ages with amazing young leaders and inspirational speakers. It starts on Saturday 21 April and ends on Sunday 22. The theme is 'See I am doing a new thing' (Is 43:19) Come and hear some inspired teachings along with Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer ministry and workshops. www.celebrateconference.org/wales or ring Michael Coyle on 01952 417223. Bursaries are available for those in need. Alternatively, you can ring Rob or Jacqui Corrigan on H. 352241 if you would like more information.



The Triduum

Foot Washing

The foot washing on Holy Thursday may seem somewhat anachronistic. The church has kept it in the liturgy for good reason. As Christ washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, emphasizing for them the connection between Eucharist and service to others, this ritual remains in our liturgy for the same reason. It is to emphasize that Eucharist is not separate from service, but that they

are inextricably bound together. Part of the nature of receiving Holy Communion is acknowledging that we are intimately connected to one another and responsible for one another's well-being. The essential nature of Holy Communion is unity, not only with God, but also with one another. This is to be demonstrated through service.

Receiving Holy Oils

During the Holy Thursday liturgy, the holy oils that were blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass are processed into the parish church. They are presented to the community with a prayer by the celebrant for each one. The oil of the sick for the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, the oil of catechumens for those preparing to celebrate baptism, and the sacred chrism used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy orders are each presented and reverently placed in a visible location.

Concluding Good Friday

How does the Good Friday liturgy end? Or does it? There is no final blessing or recessional, because this is not the end. This is just the second instalment of the three-part liturgy called "Triduum." So the end is silent, the ministers walk silently back to the sacristy. The people are free to leave, also in silence, or to remain longer in prayer. The

conclusion comes with great flourish on the next night at the Easter Vigil, when this three-day liturgical celebration finally concludes with an Easter celebration

Easter Vigil Liturgy of the Word

The readings on this night give a strong sense of vigiling. Instead of one Old Testament reading, there are seven. Each has its own sung psalm and prayer. During these readings we hear important parts of salvation history, the events that have brought us as a people to where we are today. Listening to them reminds us of how God has worked in the lives of our ancestors to form them into a people that are God's own. Following the Gloria, there are the usual reading from the New Testament and the Easter gospel. For pastoral reasons, the number of Old Testament readings can be reduced, but they must always include the reading of the Exodus. If possible, the full readings of the Old Testament story should be experienced. The Easter Vigil readings are a fundamental part of this liturgy which brings us to the initiation of the elect.



Homily

"In truth this man was a son of God."

Illustration

He was a soldier of the Second World War. He fought with the "Desert Rats", the name given to the British soldiers of Montgomery's Eighth Army in North Africa, who overcame

the might of the German Afrika Korps and their great general, Rommel. He landed in Sicily and mainland Italy and fought his way through Cassino and into Rome. He met a girl in Naples and when the war was over he went back to find her and to marry her. He brought her back to England and settled down to civilian life. Except that he did not settle down. He became a policeman and worked in the Metropolitan Police Force in London. Through the dangers of his work he became the target for vengeance by a criminal, and the form of vengeance took the painful path of a deliberate "hit and run", which killed his beloved wife. He was in despair for a while and nearly gave up his work.

However, moving away from London, he found new purpose, and helped bring on new protégés to carry on the vital work of policing and justice. He was a just man living in an imperfect world and working within a flawed police culture, but his story was followed by millions of people who also live in an unjust world and who long for justice and peace to succeed. This is the story of George Gently, the title character in a popular UK television drama, a just man trying to live an honourable life and to persevere in goodness despite his own sorrows.

Gospel Teaching

The Gospel story, told by Mark, tells us the story of Jesus, the just man, of his life journey and its culmination in arrest, unjust condemnation and death on a cross. Today we hear that story told again and we witness the injustice of it, the unfairness of it and the cruelty of it. The man who lived in the daylight is arrested in the dark. The man who spoke openly sees his words twisted and used against him. The man who honoured every person he met is brutally treated and taken out to die.

There is a powerful witness to all this, a centurion, a Roman soldier charged with executing the orders of the governor, Pilate, and overseeing the legal execution of this man, Jesus. He watches as his junior soldiers have their fun with the prisoner, mocking him and knocking him about. He leads the procession through the streets of Jerusalem and observes the demeanour of this unfortunate man. At the place of execution he organises the process and forms the guard to contain proceedings, and then he stands there and watches this man slowly die. But as the sky darkens and the taunts of the crowd grow weaker, this Roman officer begins to realise that the man whose death he is charged to oversee is not any ordinary man. Though cruelly tormented and about to lose his life, the man on the cross is more alive than any person

ever was. When he finally breathes his last breath, the soldier is forced to cry out, "In truth this man was a son of God."

Application

We tell this story and continue to tell it because it is the story of every person in this world. It is the story of the just person who seeks to live an honourable life, who meets with suffering and with cruelty, with injustice and with flawed societies. It is the story of how the just person perseveres in goodness despite all setbacks and opposition, and seeks the face of God. This is how life is in a fallen world.

The forces of darkness are very real. The darkened sky over Calvary, where Jesus died, tells us to prepare ourselves for difficult times, and the way Christ died teaches us how to live our daily lives today. Jesus did not resign himself to being taken and done to death. No one takes my life from me, he told his friends. I give it of my own free will. He took a dark situation and he faced it and remained true to his Father to the end. The centurion witnessed the power of a truly good man. Now in our turn, by the Lord's grace, we too follow this way of the crucified one. So that people today may look at you and say, "In truth this person is truly a son, a daughter of God."

Holy Week & Easter 2018

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week

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| Mass | 8.00 am |
| Wednesday Mass in Oratory | 12.00 pm |

Holy Thursday 29th March

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| Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7.00 pm |
| Compline | 9.00 pm |

Good Friday 30th March

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| Stations of the Cross | 11.00 am |
| Liturgy of the Passion | 3.00 pm |
| Compline | 8.00 pm |

Holy Saturday 31st March

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| Morning Prayer | 9.00 am |
| Vespers | 6.00 pm |
| The Easter Vigil | 9.00 pm |

Easter Sunday 1st April

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| Parish Mass | 8.30 am |
| Parish Sung Mass | 9.30 am |
| Monastic Conventual Mass | 11.00 am |
| Vespers & Benediction | 6.00 pm |

Easter Monday 2nd April

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| Sung Mass | 9.00 am |
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Next Sunday, Easter Day, there is only one collection which is the traditional offering to the Parish Priest and the Belmont Community.

| Ministers, etc. for next <u>Sunday 1 April 2018</u> <u>Easter Sunday Year B Cycle 2</u> | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | 08:30: | 9:30 | 11:00 |
| Celebrant | Fr Nicholas | Fr Nicholas | |
| Welcomers | Cooper Family | Ross & Anne Williams | Nickerson Family |
| Sacristan | | Rob Corrigan | |
| 1 st Reading | tba | Jennifer Hackman | Anthea Morton-S |
| 2 nd Reading | Jacqui Ramage-S | Tony Archer | |
| Bidding Prayers | Mary Hayes | Monica Tomlin | |
| Offertory | Hayes Family | | Gillick Family |
| Extraordinary Ministers | Kath Parry & Julia Davey | Deacon Eddie & Margaret Evans | |
| Next Sunday -only one Collection for PP and the Clergy | | | |

| 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 | |
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| | 25-Mar | Pat Wood & Mary Wood |
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Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 25 March)

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

Anniversaries: *Winifred Sosna, Anthony Preddy, Patrick Campbell, Catherine Holtom, Winifred Hayes, Richard Hayes, Ann Theresa McNally, David Methven, Dom Theodore Morris osb, Lousia Dupak, Elizabeth Gwillam, Bernard Clayton, Francis Howell, Dom Winfred de Normanville osb, Eileen Larkin, Thomas Kelly and Dom Francis Metcalf osb.*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Gill Wiseman, Neal Harries, Kenny 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 Medlicott, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

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

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| <h1 style="margin: 0;">Palm Sunday</h1> | <p>Entrance: Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna to the Son of David.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread....</p> <p>Communion: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.</p> |
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| Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc. | | | |
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| | 08:30: | | 10:00: |
| Celebrant | Fr Nicholas | | Father Abbot |
| Welcomer | Monica Russell & Rita Chamberlain | | Phyll Buckley |
| Sacristan | | | |
| 1 st Reading | Monica Tomlin | | Phyll Buckley |
| 2 nd Reading | Jacqui Ramage-S | | |
| Bidding Prayer | Margaret Rose | | |
| Offertory | Hayes Family | | |
| Extra-Ordinary Minister(s) | Eddie Wyman & Seamus Hayes | | |
| Mass Intention | <i>Dick Hayes RIP</i> | | <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| Second Collection - <i>Aid to the Church in Need</i> | | | |
| Food Bank Collection: Kath Parry | | | |

| <i>What's On for the week</i> | |
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| Mon | Holy Week: Mass at 8:00 am |
| Tue | Holy Week: Mass at 8:00 am |
| Wed | Holy Week: Mass at 8 am & Midday Mass in the Oratory |
| Thu | Holy Thursday: NO 8 am Mass: <i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i> : 7 pm |
| Fri | Good Friday: NO 8 am Mass: <i>A day of fasting & abstinence</i> <i>The Passion of the Lord</i> : 3 pm |
| Sat | Holy Saturday: No 8 am Mass: <i>Easter Vigil</i> : 9:00 pm |