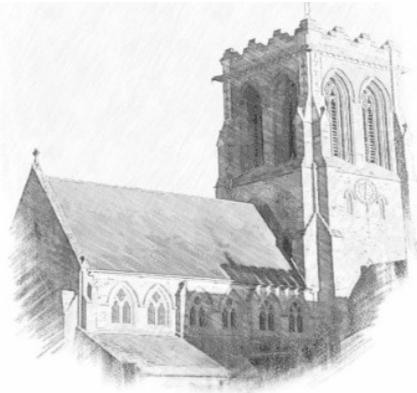


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

26th November 2017
Christ the Universal King

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB

Tel: 01432 - 277319

email: pp@belmontparish.plus.com

www.belmontparish.org.uk

Parish Deacon

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

Tel: 01432 - 263575

Safeguarding Representative
Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

Articles for newsletter:

admin@belmontparish.org.uk

Today is the feast of Christ the King. We celebrate publicly that Jesus is first in our lives. We could say it is really a celebration of the first commandment, "I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me." The feast asks a fundamental question: who exercises dominion over us? Who or what rules our lives and how? Today, is also dedicated as a day for the youth of our Church. Let us pray with them and for them that God may fill them with his grace and guide them in the years ahead.

To mark the end of the liturgical year, there will be an extended period of Exposition from 1 pm and finishing with Vespers and Benediction at 6 pm. Please try and pop in for a short while and take advantage of this special prayer opportunity.

Draw Tickets are now available for the Christmas Raffle – lots of wonderful Christmas hamper type prizes to be won!

We welcome to our 9.30 am Mass today members of the Belmont Association

Today's second collection will be for the Hereford Homeless

Fr Nicholas

Last	1 st Collection	£269.29
Sunday's	Standing Orders	£457.76

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

	2 nd Collection	£252.18
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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: **Hereford Homeless. Thank You!**



Parish Outreach - During November, the Second Collections, marked as Parish Outreach, will be for local Hereford charities caring for the Homeless and the Hereford Food Bank



Thank you to everyone who supported the **Parish Quiz** last week. A big thank you to Clare Nickerson for organizing such a tremendous event which raised just over £800. Thank you!!



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you have a relative or fellow parishioner in hospital and they would like to be visited by Fr. Matthew, please contact him with the details on 01432 265177 or fr.matthew@live.co.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26 Nov

Pay & Collect Tesco Vouchers

1 December

Church Cleaning 9:00 am

5 December

Diamond Diners

Three Horseshoes 12:45

10 December

Christmas Draw

13 December

Retired Persons Lunch



A HUG TO PORTUGAL

Special Christmas Fundraiser for the victims of the fires in Portugal this summer. A charity Christmas sale to be held at Our Lady's Church on Saturday 9th December from 12-4 pm. Hot dogs and refreshments available.



Many thanks to everyone who put together a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. We collected 19 in total and will find out in 2 weeks which part of the world they've been sent to.

Kitty Nichols



**Parish Retired Person's
Christmas Lunch -**

12.30 pm Wednesday 13th December
at Hedley Lodge. Tickets £10.00 –
please return completed leaflet to
Parish Office.



Catenians Pray for the Dead

In November each year, the Catenians
have a special Mass celebrated to
pray for the repose of the souls of
deceased members and their families.
We also pray for each one of them by
name at our monthly meetings and
we endeavour to care for our widows
too, writing to them regularly and
inviting them to our social events.
Local Contact: Chris Moore:
cjm1957@btinternet.com 07928
119128.



The first of our Preparing for the
Sacrament of Confirmation sessions
takes place this afternoon at 4.30 pm
in the Parish Centre. Please see Chris
Moore for more information.



Hereford Food Bank is always in need
of the following: rice, fish, soup, baked
beans, tinned cold meat, Smash, UHT

milk, baby formula milk, baby
shampoo, soap, wipes, shampoo
and shower gel. Many thanks.



EMMAUS Youth are meeting on
Saturday 16 December 2.30-5.30 pm
when we will also include our
Christmas party. You are invited to
share in some Praise and Worship,
Liturgy, refreshments and time to
socialize. Come and join us for some
fun!! Rob and Jacqui Corrigan, Annie
Ridgway and Ben Aldridge 01432
352241 and 07739 566578
jacqui.corrigan@btopenworld.com



**Hereford & Belmont Abbey
Walsingham Group**

next meet on Wednesday 29
November at the Abbey at 5:55 pm.
Vespers, rosary and Mass
(Tridentine) Refreshments to follow,
all welcome.



The Angel

It is hoped to produce a **Christmas
Angel**. If you have anything that
could go in the Angel, please send it
to the admin e-mail or hand in to
Father Nicholas. Pictures are also
welcome.





Amazing! Although at the moment only a few parishioners are active on **Easygiving**, they have just helped us to achieve the **£1000** mark in donations to the parish! Thank you!



Easygiving - With so many of us doing our Christmas shopping online these days, there is an excellent way to turn your shopping into a fundraising opportunity for the Parish. Go on line to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to register and depending on which shop you are using, a percentage of the money you spend will be allocated to the Belmont Parish. It does NOT cost you anymore! There are hundreds of retailers (including M & S, John Lewis, Amazon, Argos, Tesco and Selfridges) who are quite happy to give money to charities and it really is only a matter of getting into the habit of going through the Easyfundraising website. Please give it a try and see how simple it is and how much more we can raise for the Parish.



First Holy Communion

classes start on Saturday 13th January 2018 from 10.30 am to 12pm in the Phillips Library at Belmont Abbey. Please contact Fr Nick or Rob and Jacqui Corrigan if you would like your

child to receive this special sacrament next year.

There will be an Advent activity morning on Saturday 2nd December 10.30 am to 12.00 pm for all those who have made their First Holy Communion over the past few years and we would like to invite new candidates. Please let Rob and Jacqui Corrigan know by Tuesday 28th November if your child would like to come on:- 01432 352241 or by email: jacqui.corrigan@btopenworld.com



Our **Parish Council** these days is now more of a small parish advisory group, which meets from time to time to advise the parish priest and to raise ideas or concerns. If you would like anything discussed, please email admin@belmontparish.org.uk. The group hope to meet again before Christmas.



Thank you to all those parishioners who have responded so generously to our recent Finance appeal by increasing their Offertory giving or joining the Gift Aid scheme or supporting one of our other fund raising projects. This is tremendously important to us and allows us to plan ahead with more certainty. Thank you.



Carol Service

Monastery of the Poor Clares

Much Birch

Sunday 10 December

Evening Prayer 3 pm

Carol Service 3.30 pm

Refreshments follow



Homily

"In so far as you did this to one of the least of these... you did it to me."

Illustration

In the autumn of 1974, Mother Teresa of Calcutta visited Britain to thank the many people who were responding so generously to her work. This was the result of a BBC documentary about her Missionaries of Charity, entitled *Something Beautiful for God*. Now picture this diminutive nun in Durham Cathedral, her head only just peeping over the huge pulpit, yet holding a packed congregation spellbound. She had chosen for her subject Matthew's last judgement passage, which we have heard today, and she kept returning to the question, which became a kind of refrain throughout her talk: "Do you really know who your neighbour is?" She was eminently practical, acknowledging that for the majority of the congregation, the possibility of being able to pack up and go to Calcutta and work with her there was a non-

starter. But she was at pains to remind us that we did not need to go to Calcutta to find our poor brothers and sisters in need of our help.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus knew the Hebrew scriptures well. He would have been familiar with today's psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd"; he would have been familiar with Ezekiel's description of the Lord as a true shepherd to all the sheep, bandaging the wounded and making the weak strong as well as watching over the healthy. Matthew records Jesus telling us about the shepherd who goes in search of the stray, leaving the ninety-nine others while he does so. And of course he tells us that Jesus returned to this image when describing the final judgement, which we will all have to face. The message is unambiguous. We are the Lord's flock and he will do everything he can to look after us, but love is reciprocal and we are called to return his love. The choice is ours: either we can be part of his flock, which will ultimately make us not just sheep to be looked after, but brothers and sisters of the Lord and therefore shepherds in our own right; or we can stray off for good and join the goats, the unredeemed, those who believe they can save themselves.

Application

There is a temptation to view the last

judgement as some kind of final examination, which we either pass or fail and which we approach with trepidation, hoping that we will have done enough to sneak into heaven. Haunted by such an understanding, we may view the moral life as a kind of game, which we play with God or which God plays with us. But, for all the sufferings we endure and the sins we commit, God's judgement is not some kind of lottery. It is worth noting that St John, whose Gospel was written much later than the three synoptic Gospels, recalls Jesus advising us that the judgement has already taken place: "I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words, and believes in the one who sent me, has eternal life; without being brought to judgement he has passed from death to life."

This rather enriching view of the last judgement brings us neatly back to St Teresa of Calcutta, for here we have a saint of our time, who lived out before our eyes this vision, recognising that the sole criterion by which we will be judged is the recognition of Christ in our neighbour. So, can we answer her question: "Do you really know who your neighbour is?" In Durham Cathedral she warned everyone that it is all too easy to have great plans on God's behalf to reach out to a broken world, while at the same time being oblivious to the person in our own

family or religious community who is crying out for help. How we judge ourselves here and now may help us to prepare well for the final accounting.

Last year we had our Year of Mercy, inspired by the desire of Pope Francis that we be a compassionate Church, looking out for one another and sharing in the ministry of shepherding one another into the kingdom. Indeed he encouraged the clergy to live "with the smell of the sheep", but there is no reason why we should not extend that invitation to everyone, for there is the rub. Once we have encountered the Lord and been baptised, we are already living the new life of the kingdom and sharing in his priestly ministry, and in that sense we are all called to be his shepherds.



Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 3 December - 1st Sunday of Advent; Year B Cycle 2

	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Brenda Warde	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Bill Jackson	Patrick Walesby	Gabrielle Stanley
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Pat Wood
Bidding Prayers	Ann Jackson		Tony Archer
Offertory	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Kath Parry		Joao & Andre Pavia
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Christmas Flowers			

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	
	26-Nov	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	03-Dec	Jacqui Moore & Rachel Cowdery
	10-Dec	Pat Wood & Rob Blackburn
	17-Dec	A Morawiecki & Pauline Gill
	24-Dec	Jacqui King & Mary Wood

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 26 Nov)

Deaths: *Sister Mary Clare and David Wood*

Anniversaries: *Ted Allsopp, Chloe Brymer, Doris May Corrigan, Elizabeth Cosgrove, Evelyn Hanson, Kenneth Harding, David Roebuck, Martha Dyer, Michael Preece, Charles Wegg-Prosser, Brian Holberry, Kathleen Powell, John Wegg-Prosser, Lesley Jane Baker, Ann Hogan, Aileen Sybil Morris, Dom Benedict Adams, Alfred Curme, Adrian Poole and Peter Weare.*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Philomena Nicholas, Robin Hayward, Julia Davey, Gil Savory, Eddie Wyman, Sam Evans, Denise Ellis, Michael Kennedy, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Dominique Wetz, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsop, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Elaine White, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.*

Liturgy for Sunday 26 November 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 34)*

<p><i>Feast of Christ the Universal King</i></p>	<p>Entrance: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the World</p> <p>Communion: The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.</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	Annette Mansie	Phyll Buckley	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S	Brenda Warde	Niamh Coyle
2 nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Fran Smallwood		Sergio Pavia
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Gillick Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Kath Parry		Jan Wyman & Monica Russell
Mass Intention	<i>Muriel Parry RIP</i>	<i>Belmont Association</i>	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Second Collection - Parish Outreach - Hereford Shelter			
Food Bank Collection: Chris Moore			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	St Andrew: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 with by Midday Mass
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am