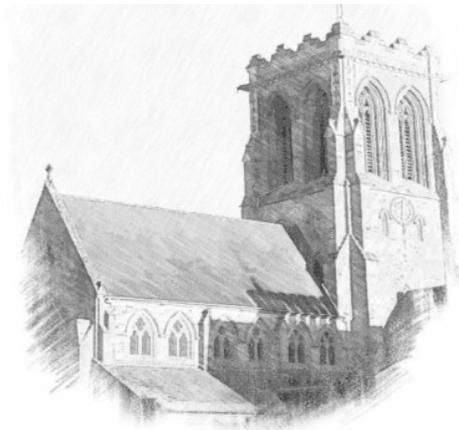


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**27th November 2016
1 Advent**

PARISH PRIEST

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Items for the Newsletter to
admin@belmontparish.org.uk
or The Parish Office

The Advent season begins today and allows us to clearly focus on the coming of our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'coming'). The Catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this 'coming': *'When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming' (No. 524)*. Our Sunday Mass liturgies celebrate Advent in this double perspective of waiting for the Second Coming of the Lord (First and Second Sundays) and the immediate preparation for the feast of Christmas (Third and Fourth Sundays). Through the Advent Liturgy we share in the longing and preparation for the coming of the Messiah by the ancient Chosen People. This in turn helps us to long for and be prepared for His Second Coming.

Churches Together in Ewyas Harold - Advent Ecumenical Service in St Michael's Church tonight at 6 pm

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

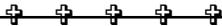
Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	
	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	
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 Parish Outreach. Thank you!		



Second Collections

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



Christmas Mass times

Vigil 'Midnight' Mass at **10.30 pm**
 Parish sung Family Mass at 9 am
 Pontifical High Mass at 11 am
 Please note there are only two Masses on Christmas morning



The Angel - If you would like to write a piece for The Angel magazine or have any articles or digital photographs you would like published please submit

them to the parish office, preferably by email, by 4th December.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 November
 Pick up and Pay
 Tesco Vouchers

Thursday 1 December
 Light up a Life 7:00 pm
 Abbey Church

Sunday 11 December
 Christmas Draw Parish Hall
 After 11 am Mass

Wednesday 14 December
 Retired Persons
 Christmas Lunch 12:30 pm



Light up a Life 2016

This Thursday, 1st December, we are hosting one of the annual 'Light up a Life' services.

It is an occasion for prayer, hymns and reflection for all those who have died, all those directly related to us or known to us as neighbours or friends or as an opportunity just to give thanks for all the good in our lives. There cannot be anyone in the Belmont community who does not know someone affected by Cancer, so please use this very special service to remember your loved ones and help support the wonderful, free, Hospice care for patients and families and friends. St Michael's can only continue to do this as long as the wider

community continues to support them.

If you wish the name of your loved one to appear in the Book of Remembrance please take a leaflet from the table in the entrance. Also on the same table are Gift Aid Donation envelopes – please take one of these and complete the Gift Aid details and bring it with you on Thursday. All donations go to supporting the work of your local Hospice so we should all give them our support.



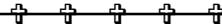
Diamond Diners Festive Party

Will be held on the next scheduled date, 6th December. The cost is 3 courses £12 or 2 courses £10 and consists of a full traditional Christmas lunch. Christmas menu **MUST** be pre-booked and menu sheets are available in the Parish Centre and **MUST** be completed by **TODAY** and the full amount paid **TODAY** to Ray Rose. The usual Diamond Diners Menu will still be available for those **NOT** wishing to have the Christmas Lunch. Everyone is welcome, 1:00pm at The Three Horseshoes, Allensmore.



One of our parishioners has kindly invited up to four parishioners for **Christmas Day Lunch**. This festive invitation is extended to anyone who might be on their own or lonely this Christmas. Transport can be arranged. Please contact Fr Nicholas if you

would like to take up this invitation or know somebody who would be on their own.



With sadness we report the deaths of Dr John Pimblett and John McComish who both died at the beginning of last week. John McComish's funeral will take place here on Friday at 1pm and John Pimblett's in Bromyard at 11 am on 8th December. May they rest in peace.



In the porch are some leaflets with a summary of the new Vatican document **Ad resurgendum cum Christo** regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation.



Parish Retired Person's Christmas Lunch

12.30 pm Wednesday 14th December at Hedley Lodge. Tickets £10.00 – please return completed leaflet to Parish Office.



Shoe Boxes

A big thank you to those who filled a shoebox for a child in need this year. A total of 16 were donated. Many thanks.



Thank You

As I am retiring as secretary of the APF this year I want to take this

opportunity to say a big thank you to all those promoters, past and present, who have helped collect and count the Red Box money your efforts made my job so much easier.

I am always surprised at how generous the Red Box holders are; this year for example we have raised nearly £1000 for our missions abroad, well done and thank you all.

I am very grateful to Mandy Cooper who has volunteered to take over from me. Mandy will be your new secretary from January 20017.

Thank you all one again. *Liz Norman*



Walk With Me Advent 2016

This pocket-size booklet of prayers and reflections for Advent and Christmas is now available. Archbishop George Stack, Bishop Tom Burns and Bishop Peter Brignall have written a forward to the booklet and recommend it as an aid to prayer. In their introduction we read, 'The threefold seasons of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany are a joyous reminder of the underlying framework of the spiritual life. The seasons remind us of the virtue of waiting in hope, of the necessity of living by faith, of the need for reconciliation and forgiveness.' 'Advent is such a busy time, there is much to do. Yet in the midst of all this we can discern the voice of the Spirit calling us, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest', Mark 6:31. We sense an ache or longing to be still and enjoy God's peace and presence.'



The Advent Wreath

A lovely way to help our Advent preparation is the use of the Advent wreath. The Wreath, a venerable European tradition, can be a way to involve even very little children in learning about Christian preparation - not only for celebrating Our Lord's birth, but to make our hearts truly ready to receive Him.

The wreath's symbolism of the advent (coming) of Light into the world is clear. The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end, symbolising the eternity of God. The wreath is made of evergreens representing everlasting life. The lit candles represent Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord.



Easy Giving

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 <http://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. The 23 people who have signed up have raised about £850 for the parish without any extra cost to themselves!



HOMILY

“You do not know the day when your master is coming.”

Illustration

The use of drugs by soldiers in war is attested to from ancient times up to the present day. In conflict situations, drugs are often taken as “performance enhancers”, but also to disconnect soldiers from the horror of what is happening and make them more compliant to orders. There was a high level of drug use by US soldiers in Vietnam, as also by Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Human beings take drugs for a variety of reasons, such as to relieve pain or promote healing at times of illness or injury. The controlled use of such drugs can help us to function as human beings, but the abuse of drugs damages our humanity. In the extreme conditions of warfare it is increasingly difficult to hold onto our humanity, and the temptation to abuse drugs increases. And once

people have lost sight of their humanity, how can they regain it? Good professional care can be essential, but underlying such care they need to know they are wanted, that someone cares about them and loves them. They also have to be willing to accept this care, and to cooperate in their own healing. This is not to say that all is plain sailing; the damage to our humanity can go very deep. But it is in such cases that we are called to find what lies deepest in our humanity: a redeeming love that will not abandon us and which came into our world to teach us how to live fully human lives.

Gospel Teaching

In the Gospel Jesus draws upon the story of Noah and the flood to warn his disciples that they must be on their guard for the coming of the Son of Man. This may seem a harsh judgement: were all the people of Jesus’ time as wicked as the people of Noah’s generation? Here it is instructive to reflect upon how in warfare ordinary people can lose sight of their own humanity and the humanity of others. Most of us do not live our lives in such extreme circumstances; but how many of us could say that we act in a fully human manner each moment of our lives? When we look into the face of those who are suffering, are we able to say

we responded fully in love to the humanity of others?

Each one of us needs help to heal our damaged humanity, and to grow as human beings. God our Father gave us this help by sending his only Son into the world to be one like us. In Advent we prepare ourselves for his coming by living sober, watchful lives. This watchfulness is itself Christ's gift, for he comes to say to each one of us: I care for you and I love you. Our watchfulness is the beginning of our acceptance of his care and love, as he invites us to cooperate in the work of our own healing, so that through his grace we overcome all that dehumanises us. In the extreme suffering of his own life Jesus Christ teaches us what it truly means to be human. His cross saves our humanity and transforms it in love, so as we wait for his coming we are filled with hope in the promise of a restored humanity destined to shine in glory when he comes again.

Application

Advent is a time when we are called to reflect upon the things in our lives that make us less human. Such reflection can be painful when it brings to mind those things that we have done – or that have been done to us – which have damaged our humanity. In order to find peace and healing it is important to see that there is one who cares for us and loves us no matter

what we have done or what has been done to us. All we are asked to do is to accept his help and cooperate with his transforming love.

This does not mean that all the effects of our damaged humanity will be healed overnight. We are complex creatures and the healing of our wounds and emotions takes time, and perhaps will never be complete in this life. Nor does it mean we should not find appropriate human help for our problems whether through professionals or through friends and family. But at the deepest level of our being the coming of Jesus Christ into this world enables us to live in hope that humanity will be healed and transformed through his love.



Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 4th December- 2 Advent - Year A - Cycle 1

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Liz Norman	Nickerson Family	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Bill Jackson	Brenda Warde	Monica Tomlin
2 nd Reading	Ann Jackson		Niamh Coyle
Bidding Prayers	Mary Hayes		Lucy Reed
Offertory	Parish Children	Frances Riddell & Menna McBain	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Julia Davey		Monica Russell

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach

<p>Anniversaries</p> <p>These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.</p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	27-Nov	Marje Hayes & Pauline Gill
	04-Dec	Pat Wood & Mary Wood
	11-Dec	Jacqui Corrigan & Rachel Cowdrey
	18-Dec	A Morawiecki & Monica Russell
25-Dec	No Children's Liturgy	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 27 Nov)

Deaths: John McComish, John Pimblett, Michael Kenneth Rose and Beryl Lonergan

Anniversaries: Doris May Corrigan, Elizabeth Cosgrove, Evelyn Hanson, Kenneth Harding, David Roebuck, Martha Dyer, Michael Preece, Charles Wegg-Prosser, Kathleen Powell, John Wegg-Prosser, Ann Hogan, Aileen Sybil Morris, Dom Benedict Adams, Alfred Curme, Adrian Poole, Mary Waters, Peter Weare, Frances Bold, William Thomas and Monica Mary Thomson.

The Sick: Please pray for: Marnie Archer, Wendy Lyle Cameron, Sister Trish, Brian Holberry, Mother Regina, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Fr Michael Cronin, Philip Herderschee, Sheila Langford, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Stephen Fisher, Gordon Wilson, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Sr Philipa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Liturgy for Sunday 27th November *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p>1st Sunday Of Advent</p>	<p>Entrance: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death...</p> <p>Communion: The Lord will bestow his bounty and our earth shall yield its increase.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.

	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Annette Mansie	Patrick Walesby	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Anthea Morton-S	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Adrian Eyre		Marje Hayes
Offertory	Hayes Family	Frances Wood & Maria Large	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Fran Smallwood & Seamus Hayes		Jan Wyman
Mass Intention	<i>Holy Souls on November Lists</i>	<i>Pro Populo</i>	<i>Ian Cleveland RIP</i>

Second Collection - Parish Outreach

Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore

What's On for the week

Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am:
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Andrew Apostle: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am Light up a Life 7:00 pm
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 am & Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	St Francis Xavier: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am