

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

28th August 2016

22nd in Ordinary Time
(Cycle C)

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In the Gospel last week Jesus told us to enter the Kingdom through the Narrow Gate. This Sunday we learn **how** to enter the Narrow Gate. The key is humility and love. "My son, conduct your affairs with humility and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." Humility enables us to have a relationship with others. And as Jesus indicates in the Gospel, without humility we cannot have a relationship with God.

Congratulations to all the 'young' people in the parish who took public examinations this summer at College or our local schools and are currently 'pondering' over their GCE A level or GCSE results. As we approach a new academic year we wish all our young people a good year, especially those beginning school for the first time. We also pray for those leaving school that they may be guided in their career and academic choices and for teachers, governors and parents in their role in helping the formation of our young people.

Fr Nicholas is away today celebrating his mother's 80th Birthday

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£595.24
	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	£183.18
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 <i>Parish Outreach. (St Joseph Makeni)Thank you!</i>		



Tea & Chat

The dates for forthcoming meetings are: September 20th, October 18th, November 15th. Meet in the Parish Centre starting at 2:30 pm.

Diamond Diners

The dates for forthcoming dinners are: September 6th, November 1st, December 6th. Meet at the Three Horseshoes, Allensmore at 1.00 pm.



Thank you to everyone who didn't bring us any jumble over the last weeks. BUT now is the time - the next **JUMBLE** is on 29 October - so we do need some more items. If you do have clothes that are not fit for purpose do put them in a bag and mark it rags - we can sell them. Thank you for your continued efforts.



Sick and Housebound Parishioners

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners please let the Parish Office know. We can then make arrangements for Fr Nicholas or an extraordinary minister to bring them Holy Communion or for a priest to come and hear confession if that is required. This also applies to parishioners who move into a care or nursing home. Please remember that hospitals no longer advise us of Catholics in hospital!



Forthcoming Marriages

We offer our prayers and best wishes to the following couples who are preparing for marriage here at Belmont Abbey over the next few weeks:

3rd Sept

Agnieszka Chepa &
Roberto Degl'Innocenti

9th Sept

Natalie Sadler &
Michael Paiano

17th Sept

Bryony Barling &
Victor Lamarque





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p>Wednesday 31 August 2:30 Requiem for Margaret O'Connor</p> <p>Friday 2 September 9:00 am Church Cleaning</p> <p>Tues 20 Sept 2:30 Tea and Chat Parish Hall</p>



Join the **Ride and Stride** this year to help fund repairs badly needed in many of Herefordshire's churches. This national event takes place on Saturday 10th September. Cycle or walk between the churches in your area. Half of the sponsorship raised goes to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, half to the church of your choice. For more information go to herefordhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/Ride.php



No children's liturgy of the Word during August. Don't forget we are al-

ways looking for new volunteers to lead or merely help with these sessions. Please see Fr Nicholas for more details.



DOES CARE OF THE DYING MEAN RATIONING MERCY?

During this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has constantly reminded us of the Corporal Works of Mercy. One of these is caring for those who are sick, and all that implies in an age of extraordinary medical advances. In the light of this, and in view of the increasingly controversial issues surrounding 'end of life decisions', Baroness Finlay of Llandaff has been invited to St. David's Cathedral to give an important talk on the subject of Palliative Care. Her talk will be entitled "Does Care of the Dying mean Rationing Mercy".

Ilora Finlay is a Professor of Palliative Care at Cardiff University and a practising consultant at the Velindre Cancer Hospital in the city. She is a cross bench member of the House of Lords and Chair of Trustees of the National Council for Palliative Care. She is well known for her outstanding work particularly in the field of care for those patients living with cancer. Her talk will cover many areas including: patients and doctors; the

control of pain; responsibility for decision making; necessary information; withholding and withdrawing treatment; end of life decisions.

The talk will take place at 1.15 pm on Wednesday 14 September in the Mostyn Room at St. David's Cathedral. It will be of particular value to patients and their relatives and carers, hospital chaplains and those who visit the sick. Although admission is free, it is expected that there will be a big demand for places. If you would like a ticket, please email arch@rcadc.org so that places may be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Homily

“Repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.”

Illustration

In many human societies throughout history honour and status played important roles. To be seen to be important was half the battle in actually being important. Any perceived or actual slight to one's honour or status could mean loss of reputation and public humiliation. One interesting and amusing example of this was a game invented by the courtiers of the great Spanish king

Philip II. This was a board game described as a cross between Snakes and Ladders and Monopoly. The game was called “The Courtier's Philosophy” and represented the ups and downs of being in favour at the royal court. You could land on a square called “the step of hope”, or “the house of the favourite”, if you were doing well. Otherwise, you might land on a square called “the well of forgetfulness”, or “your patron dies”. Much of your success at court depended upon reputation and honour, as well as any actual talents you might have.

However, there is also a more positive side to human customs about status, courtesy, reputation and social standing. All societies require a certain structure, and given that we live in a fallen world, we will never realise the absolute equality some societies have tried to achieve. At their best, human customs and courtesy oil the wheels of society and lessen the chance of conflict. And as the Catechism says, everyone also has the right to their good reputation. So while our customs and mores can have a corrosive and ridiculous side, they can also have a positive side.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus seems to be concentrating on the positive side of the honour code of society in his time. In

Mediterranean societies of Jesus' day public shame and public honour were of very great importance. His advice seems to be about how not to be shamed in public, and how to be wise enough so that you are more likely to be honoured. Don't sit in the top seat in case you're moved down, but do sit in the lower place so that you have the chance of being moved up. There is a certain practical wisdom being deployed. However, Jesus is surely saying much more than that.

Heaven is often compared in the scriptures to a wedding banquet, so we can assume Jesus is using this imagery here. The context is one of eternal salvation. So in the case of getting to the heavenly banquet, do not presume that you are worthy and better than everyone else. Presumption, St Thomas Aquinas says, comes from pursuing something beyond our powers. Authentic humility is necessary because without it we can never benefit from God's grace. If we think we are self-sufficient, God will respect that, but we will never be able to enjoy the banquet of eternal life. Presumption is better than despair, better than false humility, but all should be avoided in favour of genuine humility.

Application

So how are we to be invited to the great wedding banquet of eternal life?

First of all we are called to realise that there is absolutely nothing we can do to deserve, earn or buy an invitation. The invitation is entirely the free gift of God. That is the first reason why we should not presume to think we should even be there, let alone sit at the top place. Secondly, the invitation we have been given is always available through the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. The crucifixion is the real nuptial feast between God and humanity, foretold by the wedding feast at Cana. The superabundance of wine at Cana foretells the superabundant power of the blood of Christ shed on Calvary.

So how do we respond to the invitation? We can do so by participating in the sacraments. Through the sacrament of penance we show the necessary and fitting humility to accept the invitation. Then the Eucharist is the great feast in this world which anticipates the heavenly banquet. In the Eucharist, Christ is the host, the groom, the master of ceremonies and the feast itself. In the Mass, Jesus is the lamb of sacrifice, the high priest and the bread of life. In fact, in the whole sacramental system, we have a new way of conducting human affairs, a new way of looking at honour and customs. It is the renewal from within of our human interaction, with the added benefit that it also helps us

interact with and be more closely united to God.

† † † † †
St John the Baptist

The Church, having celebrated the earthly birthday of St. John the Baptist on June 24, today honours the anniversary of his martyrdom. Besides our Lord and our Lady, St. John the Baptist is the only one whose birth and death are thus celebrated.

Today's Gospel relates the circumstances of his execution. He had the courage to blame Herod to his face for the scandal of his illegal union with his sister-in-law Herodias, whose husband was still alive. Herodias contrived to make Herod imprison him and took advantage of an unexpected opportunity to obtain through her daughter Salome the beheading of the saint.

There is no doubt that blessed John suffered imprisonment and chains as a witness to our Redeemer, whose forerunner he was, and gave his life for him. His persecutor had demanded not that he should deny Christ, but only that he should keep silent about the truth. Nevertheless, he died for Christ. Does Christ not say: "I am the truth"? Therefore, because John shed his blood for the truth, he surely died for Christ.

Through his birth, preaching and baptizing, he bore witness to the coming birth, preaching and baptism of Christ, and by his own suffering he showed that Christ also would suffer.

† † † † †

Acclaim to the Suffering Christ
O Lord, You received affronts
without number from your blasphemers,
yet each day You free captive souls
from the grip of the ancient enemy.

You did not avert your face from the spittle of perfidy, yet You wash souls in saving waters. You accepted Your scourging without murmur, yet through your meditation You deliver us from endless chastisements.

You endured ill-treatment of all kinds, yet You want to give us a share in the choirs of angels in glory everlasting. You did not refuse to be crowned with thorns, yet You save us from the wounds of sin.

In your thirst You accepted the bitterness of gall, yet You prepare Yourself to fill us with eternal delights. You kept silence under the derisive homage rendered You by Your executioners, yet You petition the Father for us although You are his equal in Divinity.

You came to taste death,
yet You were the Life
and had come to bring it to the dead.

Amen.

Prayer of St Gregory the Great

Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 4th September- 23rd in Ordinary Time Year C

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Cooper Family	Desmond Keohane	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Jacqui R-Smith	Basil Nickerson	Marje Hayes
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Jane Davies
Bidding Prayers	Richard Batho		Peter Davies
Offertory	Children's Liturgy	Frances Riddell & Teresa Harriss	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Julia Davey		Rob Corrigan

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach

<p>A Vision of Angels Sept 2-4 (Reg Fee £26) <i>From Genesis to Revelation, angels are always there.. We will reflect on their origin, portrayal and meaning.</i> Dom Brendan</p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 4 Sept	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	No Children's Liturgy in August	
	For 8:30 am or 11:00 am Masses	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 28 August)

Deaths: Margaret O'Connor, Robert Moriawiecki, Peter Lee and Father Jerome.

Anniversaries: Douglas James, Laura Lilwall, Peter Wilson, Selina Kemeys, Rosemary Delores Mills, Dom Illtud Barrett, Francis Donovan, Ellen Fish, Sidonie Kindersley, Patrick O'Neill, Claude Ruffhead, Harry Biltcliff, Frances Holtom, Anthony Davies, John Edward Hickman, Frederick Ward, Cecil Wegg-Prosser and Sebastian Michael Wood.

The Sick: Please pray for: Connie Luxon, Sheila Langford, Dominique Wetz, Eddie Wyman, Bernard Johnson, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Sue Savory, Stephen Fisher, Gordon Wilson, Syliva Evans, David Kinsey, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Duncan Sykes, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Edward Medlicott, Sr Philipa, Teresa Chowles, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Fr Michael Cronin, Elaine Campbell, 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 28th August Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2 (Wk 22 OT)

<p>22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Jonathan		Fr Jonathan
Welcomer	Liz Norman	Marion Luscombe	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Sally Johns	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Hayes Family	Anthea Morton-S & Menna McBain	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Fran Smallwood & Kath Parry		Monica Russell
Mass Intention	Vera Dawson RIP	Pro Populo	Tonie Cornforth RIP
Second Collection - Parish Outreach			
Food Bank Delivery: Ray & Margaret Rose			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Passion of St John the Baptist: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Aidan: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition and Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	St Gregory the Great: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am