

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

28 May 2017

The Ascension of the Lord

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 we celebrate the transferred solemnity of the Ascension. The Feast commemorates when Our Lord made his last appearance on earth, and ascended into heaven after completing his earthly mission. He commissioned the disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations. This is the day when Catholics are asked to reflect on the necessity of fulfilling the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world.

Today we welcome Fr Pasquino who is making the annual missionary appeal at all Masses. The Comboni Missionaries are a world-wide group of more than 3,500 priests, brothers, sisters, and laity from diverse cultures who have dedicated their lives to following Christ's example and St. Daniel Comboni's missionary ideal of evangelization. Today the Comboni Missionaries serve on five continents. Comboni Missionaries believe God's call to mission is as strong today as it was 2000 years ago when Jesus told His apostles, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"

The second collection today will be for the Society's work and mission.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£264.13
	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	£186.58
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: World Communications Day. Thank You!		

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Parish Outreach

This month our second collections are essentially the mandatory ones for May: Priests Training Funds, World Communications Day and the annual mission appeal which this year will be made by the Comboni Fathers on Sunday 28th May.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Churches Together in Hereford invite you to a General Election Hustings chaired by the Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Revd Richard Frith with a panel of candidates for the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency on Tues 30 May, 7pm at St John's methodist Church, St Owen St. Please submit questions to Sheila Milne, s.milne40@btinternet.com or on 01432 297740.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Pentecost Vigil Service

Pentecost Vigil Service at Our Lady's Church on Saturday 3rd June. To include: Exposition, music and readings. Starts at 7.00 pm, all welcome.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

Sat 10th June Matthew Corrigan & Esther Rich

Sat 29th July Jennifer Woodman & Charles Kirby

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Belmont Fete

The Fete is only 3 weeks away. We would be grateful if the gardeners among you would grow some plants for the plant stall and of course we need bottles for the very popular Bottle Stall. We need about 400 + bottles so if you could start bringing them in, it would be much appreciated. Thank you for your help!

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Tea Tent

The tea tent is looking for donations of washing up liquid, j-cloths, rubber

gloves, cans of drink (fruit shoots), crisps, serviettes, plastic bowls, coffee, tea and plastic spoons. If you can help please drop your items off at the Parish Hall or leave with Father Nick or contact Jacqui Moore. Many Thanks for your help!



MATT AND ESTHER'S WEDDING

Parishioners are warmly invited to the Abbey on Saturday 10 June at 12.30 pm for the wedding of our son Matt. Many of you will have watched him grow up and it would be lovely to see you support him on the day. Also, there will be refreshments in the Parish Centre after the wedding to which you are also invited.



Rob and Jacqui



Longworth Catholic Chapel

His Grace Archbishop George Stack is returning again to celebrate Holy Mass in the Chapel on Thursday, 15th June at 12.00 noon. It is hoped that parishioners from every Parish in the County will be able to come together for this annual celebration in Herefordshire's only surviving Catholic Pre-Reformation Chapel. Note. Longworth Chapel lies next to the old Bartestree Convent (now Frome Court , HR1 4DX) and is on the

entrance road leading to St. Michael's Hospice from the Hereford -Ledbury road.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sunday 28 May at 3 pm
Concert of Organ Music and
Gregorian Chant
Belmont Abbey**

2 June

Church Cleaning
9 am

3 June

First Holy Communion Class
10:30

6 June

Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes
12:45

17 June

Belmont Abbey Fete
2:00 pm



**Wales and the Marches Catholic
History Society- Annual History Day**

Saturday June 10th at St. David's College Cardiff. Starts with Mass at 10 am.

Speakers:

11.15 Rev Dr. Trystan Owain-Hughes: “Winds of Change Revisited: New Perspectives on the Catholic Church in Wales in the Twentieth Century”

2.15 Prof. Madeleine Gray: “Sin Mercy, Death and the Gallant: the Llancarfan wall paintings as a coherent scheme”

Cost for the Day: £10 (Members) £12.50 (non-Members) includes lunch, teas, coffees, pastries and a glass of wine. All are most welcome to join us. For more information please contact: Tricia Coulthard email: triciacoulthard@outlook.com or on 02920595899.



150 + Club Winners

April

1st Eileen Walsh

2nd Sarah DeRohan

3rd Jenny Campbell

May

1st Andrew Campbell

2nd Tony McVeigh

3rd Jennifer Hackman



THY KINGDOM COME

Each parish has received a delivery of prayer cards from the Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops inviting them to participate in a Pentecost Novena

entitled “Thy Kingdom Come”. The origins of this initiative lie with the Archbishop of Canterbury who is inviting people throughout the United Kingdom to set aside ten minutes of prayer each day between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday. The key to the novena is a few minutes of stillness at the beginning of prayer, inviting the Spirit of God to touch our minds and hearts. It is true that we can pray anywhere, anytime. The important thing is that we pray somewhere, sometime. “Thy Kingdom Come” gives a short meditative text to follow the stillness, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer. The prayer cards may be reproduced in whatever form parishes wish. The key is that they are distributed as widely as possible so that together we may allow the “breath of the Spirit” to pray within us, even when we cannot find the words to say.



Homily

“This same Jesus will come back.”

Illustration

The English author P.G. Wodehouse, when he was living in the USA, remarked how every Sunday, everyone in Jacksonville would make their way to Johnsonville, and everyone in Johnsonville would make their way to Jacksonville. This is an image of travel for the sake of travel.

In itself travel is not necessarily a bad thing, but there are different ways of travelling. Either we travel to get away from something, or we travel to get to somewhere. The first reason can be dangerous. It is often a sign of something wrong when people leave their home and spend the rest of their life blaming the place they came from, for all their troubles. Among those who work with people who have addictions, whether to substances or to types of behaviour, this is called the geographical switch, where those who are addicted are unwilling to look at themselves and move on. That sort of travel is what is meant when we say that people are running away from themselves.

Yet the Church incorporates travel into its life, and has done since its earliest days: pilgrimages, processions with the Blessed Sacrament, or while saying the rosary, for example. Even the Mass begins with the priest walking up the aisle. This is not a journey from somewhere, but a journey to somewhere; a journey we make on this earth, but a journey to heaven.

Gospel Teaching

In today's first reading the Lord takes the apostles out of the city of Jerusalem before he departs. He leaves them on the road, where they are rebuked by "two men in white" (by which Luke, the author, means

angels). The apostles are left standing on the road, staring up into heaven, but they have forgotten about their new role. They are apostles, which means people who have been sent out. They respond by returning to Jerusalem, which seems reasonable enough, and spend their time praising God there.

Yet the story of the Acts of the Apostles is a story of how the Church is forced out of Jerusalem. After the martyrdom of St Stephen, many were scattered, a verb used in Genesis to describe how the people scattered after they had challenged God by building the tower of Babel. This is no accident. Pentecost had allowed the people to hear in their own languages but humanity had been scattered from Babel, separated by no longer speaking a common language.

Pentecost does not reverse this separation but allows the separation to be overcome. So the Church has to go out on the road and bring the good news to the world. St Paul is converted on the road from Jerusalem, the same road from which Christ rose to heaven. The Church is always on the road. This does not mean we cannot look up; indeed we are called to look up. What the angels object to is our standing still while we do this: "Why are you men from Galilee standing here?"

Application

Some people travel all over the world but never really go anywhere. True travel is in the heart and these people never reach out to others from the heart. Some spend almost their whole lives in one place, yet they stretch out their hearts to all humanity. This is the power of their prayer, which makes them Godlike. When we say that God is everywhere, we mean that God touches everywhere, sustains all things in being. In prayer we share in that reaching out to all things.

Still it is good to have ways of showing that the Church is spreading out to the world. So liturgy often involves movement. The Eucharist can be seen as a movement. Many churches were built in the shapes of boats, an important symbol. The priest walks forwards at the beginning of the Mass, the one point when priest and people face the same direction. "Go," says the Lord in the Gospel, and so does the priest (or the deacon) at the end of the Mass. Do we follow that call, going out to spread the good news we have received? As we do so we can know that the Lord will be with us always on our journey; "yes, to the end of time".



The veiled character of the glory of the Risen One during this time is intimated in his mysterious words to Mary Magdalene: "I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."⁵³⁶ This indicates a difference in manifestation between the glory of the risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted to the Father's right hand, a transition marked by the historical and transcendent event of the Ascension.

Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 4 June Pentecost Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Brenda Warde	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Frances Wood	Sally Johns
2 nd Reading	Fran Smallwood		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayers	Mary Hayes		Tony Archer
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Nickerson Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Frances Dees & Julia Davey		Chris Moore & Gabrielle Stanley
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Peru			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	28-May	No Children's Liturgy
	04-Jun	No Children's Liturgy
	11-Jun	Jacqui Moore & Jan Wyman
	18- Jun	A Morawiecki & Rachel Cowdrey
	25-Jun	Jackie King & Mary Wood

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 28 May)

Deaths: Brian Lawrence, Sister Clare, Mary Jo Donnelly and Maureen Toner

Anniversaries: Solveigh Hayes, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Frank White, Marie Barley, Rt Rev Anselm Lightbound, Bernadette Hubert, Margaret Pritchard, Alice Warren, Lesley Hayes and Joseph Sessarego.

The Sick: Please pray for: 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 Medlicott, Sr Philipa, 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 28th May 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p><i>The Ascension of the Lord</i></p>	<p>Entrance: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord ...</p> <p>Communion: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.</p>
--	--

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Nickerson Family	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Jacqui R-Smith	Lucy Zammit	Pat Wood
2 nd Reading	Richard Batho		Niamh Coyle
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Hayes Family	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Andre Pavia & David Wood
Mass Intention	<i>Molly & Eric Brooks & Family RIP</i>	<i>The Parish</i>	<i>Anthony Keeler RIP</i>
Second Collection - Parish Outreach - Comboni Fathers Missionary Appeal			
Food Bank Delivery: Ray & Margaret Rose			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	The Visitation of Our Lady: Mass at 8:00 am: NO Midday Mass in Oratory
Thu	St Justin: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11, Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	St Charles Lwanga & Comp: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am