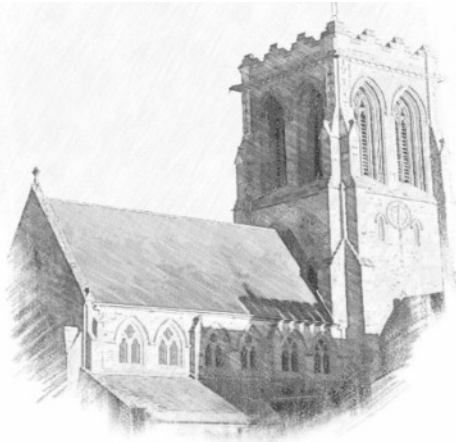


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER
3rd Sunday of Lent 28 th February 2016 (Cycle C)
PARISH PRIEST Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB Tel: 01432 - 277319 email: pp.belmontparish@gmail.com www.belmontparish.org.uk
Parish Deacon Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman Tel: 01432 - 263575
Safeguarding Representative Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059
Items for the Newsletter to admin@belmontparish.org.uk or The Parish Office

How's Lent going? Are you motoring along with all Lenten intentions intact or maybe you've stalled a little bit, perhaps not got going at all yet. It's easy to do this! We see Lent coming and then suddenly find we are half way through and we just never managed to sit down and think about what we should be doing! However, it's not too late! Lent is not an endurance test with only the 'winners' able to celebrate Easter. Lent is a time for us to re-think and re-order our Christian lives. The fasting, prayer and penance just helps us to focus our minds on what is really important. However, next weekend provides a wonderful opportunity for all the parish to spend some Lenten time with the Lord.

When Pope Francis announced the Jubilee Year of Mercy, one of the things he called for was "24 Hours for the Lord," to be held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the fourth Sunday of Lent, March 4-5, 2016. The 24 Hours for the Lord will begin here with Exposition and confessions at 11 am on Friday 4th March and close with Benediction on Saturday 5th March at 11 am. The church will be open for a full 24 hours of prayer so a list is provided on the notice board in the porch for you to indicate the time you will be available to participate. Please see the notice on the board for the times of Mass and devotions during the 24 hour period.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	£441.37
	Standing Orders	£438.00
The 1 st Collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2nd Collection	£554.30
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>Cafod</i> . Thank you.		



TEA & CHAT

The next four dates for Tea and Chat are, Tuesday March 15th, Tuesday April 19th, Tuesday May 17th and Tuesday June 21st. Anyone who would like to meet others over a drink and slice of cake, and a good chat will be very welcome. These meetings are proving very popular so don't be shy come along, bring your knitting or anything else and enjoy the company of others. All meetings start at 2.30 pm and finish around 4.00 pm.

Margaret Rose



REFUGEE CRISIS

A huge thank you to all who supported our plea for help for the refugees; we have had a wonderful

amount of items and last week we saw a minibus loaded up ready to go to Chepstow and then on to Syria in a container lorry; most of the items were from Belmont parishioners. We now have enough money to send a minibus to Calais/Dunkirk. We will keep collecting items and delivering them to Leominster for as long as donations are coming in, but please make sure that you label them, as items for the jumble sale are also being collected.

Jacqui & Rob Corrigan



JUMBLE SALE

The next Jumble Sale will be on March 12 at OLQM Parish Hall. As always we would be grateful for all items you have to bring in. Clothes should be clean and in wearable condition. If you have some that are not suitable to be resold, please put them in a black bag and MARK the bag as rags. We can sell the rag bags so nothing is wasted. Anything else you have, from a needle to an elephant, will also be useful. Please leave all items in our Parish porch and not in the Church porch. Many thanks for your help.





24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

**Friday 4 March to Saturday 5 March
Begins at Friday 11 am Exposition,
Confessions & Mass at 12 noon.**

Day of Prayer continues with Divine Office at usual times, Rosary/stations of the Cross, Confessions. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament through the night. Ends at 11 am Saturday Morning. Please sign up on the Poster in the Porch or contact Brother Bernard on 01432 374735 or on e-mail brbernard@belmontabbey.org.uk



**HEREFORD CATHOLIC HISTORY
SOCIETY**

Please note that the next meeting of the HCHS will be on Friday 4th March in the Parish Centre at Belmont Abbey at 2.30 pm when we will have a talk by Margaret Harcourt-Williams on “ Catholic Archives in 2016”, an important topic for anyone interested in researching Catholic history. Visitors welcome Further information from bmwarde@aol.com.



**Lent Study Lunches at
Ewyas Harold:**

Migration & Movement

On five Thursdays beginning 18th February at 12 noon in the Ewyas

Harold Baptist Hall (With soup lunch from 1 pm - donations)



Hereford LIFE

There will be a meeting of Hereford LIFE on the Monday 29 February at 7 pm at St Martins which has an entry to the car park from Holme Lacey Rd. All are very welcome and if you would like to come but have no transport please ring 371654.



Don't forget on Palm Sunday (20th March) there are only two Sunday Masses at Belmont Abbey - **8.30 & 10.00** am only. The Abbot will preside at the 10 am Pontifical High Mass, which, because of the long liturgy, replaces the 9.30 & 11 am Masses. Blessed Palms will of course be available at the 8.30 am Parish Mass



Anne Thomas

Would like it to be known that she will be residing, until further notice, at Gwen Walford House, 48-50 Hampton Park Rd, Hereford HR1 1TH. Phone: 01432 272418. Anne would be very pleased to receive visitors but please avoid lunch time (Noon to 1:30pm) and tea time (4:30 to 5:15pm)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 2 March
Lenten day of Recollection
10 am to 4 pm

Friday 4 March
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

Thursday 10th March 7 pm
Lenten Station Mass
celebrated by Archbishop Stack
at Belmont Abbey

Saturday 12 March 1:30 pm
Jumble Sale
OLQM

Tuesday 15 March
Tea & Chat
2:30 to 4:00

Sunday 22 May
Confirmation Mass
11:00 am

Queen's Jubilee Picnic
12 June

Belmont Grand Fete
18 June

Grandparents and
Grandchildren's Day
16 July



Wednesdays in Lent at
Belmont Abbey

St Paul and his Communities

Throughout his lifetime Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, travelled widely across the then known world, founding churches and building up relationships with those that already existed. During Lent we examine Paul's relationship with five very different Christian communities.

Wednesday 2nd March: Thessalonica:
Abbot Paul

Wednesday 9th March: Ephesus: Dom
Andrew

Wednesday 16th March: Philippi: Ab-
bot Paul

Morning Coffee 10.00, Talk 10.30,
Mass at 12 noon. 1.00 Simple Bread &
Soup Lunch. Talk 2.00. Afternoon Tea
3.30 pm. Suggested Offering £10.00.
Includes Lunch.



PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Spaces still available on Our Lady's Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 12th-19th August, flying from Stanstead. Organised by Tangey Tours, led by Fr. Matthew. Cost £630, all inclusive. More info from Fr. Matthew 265177.



Gospel Teaching

HOMILY

“Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered... were greater sinners than any other Galileans?”

Illustration

On 17 June 1940, the greatest British maritime disaster in history took place. A British troopship, the former Cunard liner *Lancastria*, was lying off the French coast near Saint-Nazaire, waiting to evacuate troops and civilians including women and children. No one knows how many people were actually on board. It's certain that there were more than six thousand, but some think there could have been as many as nine thousand. The ship was bombed by German aircraft and sank rapidly. Only about two thousand were rescued.

The sinking of the *Lancastria* and the great loss of human life combined two types of suffering that cause us most horror, because they entail the suffering of innocent people. The many deaths were caused by the combination of the sea and the bombing – in other words, by natural forces and human atrocity. Both types of tragedy are the subject matter of today's Gospel passage.

In the Gospel, only here, in Luke, is the thorny subject of the suffering of innocent people tackled. There is a conversation between Jesus and people who told him about Pontius Pilate's latest atrocity: he had killed some Galileans who were offering sacrifices. This is an atrocity on different levels. First, Pilate had innocent people slaughtered: according to Jesus these were no greater sinners than other Galileans, and therefore their deaths were not punishment for sins. Second, Pilate violated their religious practice by mixing human blood he had caused to be shed with the blood of sacrificial animals, adding desecration to murder.

No documentary evidence for this example of Pilate's brutality exists apart from this passage in Luke, but such impetuous and disproportionate action was in keeping with his customary behaviour. We need only remember his actions during Jesus' trial, when he chose to condemn a patently innocent man to death in order to save his own reputation with the Roman emperor. In today's Gospel, Jesus adds his own tragic story, about a collapsed tower at Siloam (near the Temple) that killed eighteen people. Again, we have a story that is not found anywhere else in contemporary literature, although

archaeological discoveries in the area may possibly point to just such a structure. Again, Jesus states that the tragic deaths of the poor victims are no indication of their guilt.

Jesus stresses that all people need to repent, otherwise they too will perish – a strange statement, until we realise that in the New Testament the word that in English becomes “repent” literally means a change of mind, rather than penitential activity. In Matthew and Mark, Jesus issues a call to repent when he announces the Good News that the kingdom of God is at hand. This repentance means a change of mind, which embraces the idea of the kingdom of God among us. Now Jesus implies that failing to make that change of mind, repentance, carries even greater danger than the threat of unexpected death.

Application

The Gospel leaves some major questions unanswered. How can God allow innocent people to suffer and die? It would almost be easier to understand (though harder to accept) a God who instantly punishes sins, but Jesus clearly distances himself (and his Father) from any such conclusion. Of course, this is what causes people to ask, “How can God allow innocent people to suffer?” Glib answers are not helpful. There is, however, some helpful biblical background to this issue in today’s first reading: the conversation between

Moses and God via the burning bush. Moses is given a remarkable insight into the plans of God. Briefly, what God says to Moses is, “I have heard the cry of my people in their distress... I mean to respond to their need.” This applies to the distress of God’s people who are slaves in Egypt. God pledges to free them, but there is also the revelation of the name by which God chooses to be known: “I Am”, meaning “the one who always is”.

We can conclude, then, that God *always* hears the cry of God’s people in their distress, and *always* responds. The Good News that Jesus reveals is that he is God’s response to our need. In Jesus, God does not take away human suffering; God shares in it. Every parent knows the impossibility of taking away a child’s pain; like every parent, God our Father shares the suffering of all his children. The death of Jesus guarantees this, and his resurrection points to the total destruction of all suffering, all pain, all sorrow.



“The only wisdom we can hope to acquire is the wisdom of humility: humility is endless.

Four Quartets T S Eliot



Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 6 March 4th Sunday of Lent Year C</u>			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Welcomer(s)	Kath Parry	Desmond Keohane	Rota Chamberlain & Brenda Sherwood
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1st Reading	Fran Smallwood	Polly Maund-Powell	Jennifer Hackman
2nd Reading	Fran Grant		Gabrielle Stanley
Bidding Prayer	Mary Hayes		Margaret Rose
Offertory	Ramage-Hill Family	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Kath Parry		Chris Moore
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach			

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 10 am - 4 pm Day of Recollection with Mass Lenten Lunch Confessions 2.30 pm - 3:30 pm Wednesday 2 March	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 6 Mar	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	28-Feb	Jacqui Moore & Pauline Gill
	06-Mar	Jacqui Corrigan & Mary Wood
	13-Mar	Pat Wood & Rachel Cowdrey
20-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Jan Wyman	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.**

Deaths: *Mary Carroll, John Wallin, Henry Worsley, Sheila Kinsey and John Keeler*

Anniversaries: *Alice Cotterell, Margaret Grundy, Canon Daniel Hallahan, Emily Louisa Hayes, Margaret Holland, Cyril Lawden, John Mills, Elizabethde Normanville, Frances Schomberg, Peter Skuse, Edith Preddy, William Rosser, Dorothy Shaw, Dom Wilfrid Chadwick osb, Bessie Catherine Lee, Joseph McGurk, Ada Dobson, William Eburn, Patrick Waldron, Monica Devlin, Carolyn McEwen, Anna Pannier and Dom Bruno Reynolds osb.*

The Sick: Please pray for *Margaret O'Connor, Sue Ball, Kenny Hanna, Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Edward Medlicott, Bridie Gittoes, Sr Philipa, Teresa Chowles, Elaine White, Edna Ledford, Sue Rogers, Fr Michal Cronin, Elaine Campbell, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna, and Sadie Bowyer.*

Liturgy for Sunday 28th February

Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2

<p>3RD SUNDAY IN LENT</p>	<p>Entrance: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your death ...</p> <p>Communion: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.</p>
--	--

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.

	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Annette Mansie	Clare Wichbold	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1st Reading	Richard Batho	Brenda Warde	Jacqui Corrigan
2nd Reading	Julia Davey		Jane Davies
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-Smith		Peter Davies
Offertory	Children's Liturgy	Anthea Morton-S & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes		Tony Archer
Mass Intention	Emily Louisa Hayes RIP	Pro Populo	John Keeler RIP

Second Collection : Hereford Food Bank

Food Bank Delivery: John Copestake-Goodall

Collect and Pay for Tesco Vouchers

What's On for the week

Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	St David: Mass at 8:00 am - Requiem Mass for Mary Carroll RIP at 12 Noon
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Abbey. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm.
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am Exposition at 11-12 and Midday Mass in the Abbey: 24 Hours for the Lord from 11 am
Sat	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00