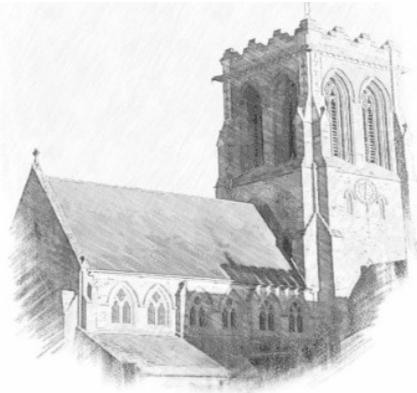


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

29 April 2018

5th Sunday of Easter

PARISH PRIEST

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Adoremus - The Bishops' Conference has decided that the first ever *National Eucharistic Congress* will take place in Liverpool on 7-9 September 2018. It is expected to be the largest gathering of Catholics in this country since Pope Benedict's visit in 2010.

Who can attend? Everyone is welcome to the Blessed Sacrament procession on the Sunday. However, constraints of space mean the Friday and Saturday events are ticketed. Tickets have been offered to dioceses and parishes roughly in proportion to Mass attendance. If you are interested in attending, please speak to me or contact Fr Matthew who is coordinating the deanery group. The final date for reserving a ticket will be Saturday 5th May and tickets will be allocated on a first come – first served basis. See the poster for more details.

The primary aim of Adoremus is to promote a personal encounter with Our Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist. Experiencing there his overwhelming love we are empowered to take that love to others, to become missionary disciples. It is hoped that this historic occasion will help foster devotion to the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, extend the practice of Eucharistic Adoration in parishes and develop a greater understanding of this central mystery of our faith.

Fr Nicholas

Welcome to Belmont Abbey. If you are a visitor here and would like to Gift Aid your offertory collection, please collect an envelope from the Porch. Thank you!

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£279.06
	Standing Orders	£581.00

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

	2 nd Collection	£390.30
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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 **Survive Miva Thank You**



Second Collections – During April, our parish outreach second collections will be going to support Catholic Education (April 8), Hereford Close House (April 15), the Survive Miva Charity appeal (April 22) and the Syrian Refugees (April 29)



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit from Fr Matthew, please let him know on 01432 265177 / fr.matthew@live.co.uk.



If you cannot get to Mass- remember that you can go to our website to find out what is going on in the parish. Website address is on the first page.



Confirmation 2018

A number of young people are currently being prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in our Parish. This Sunday they will be formally enrolled in a short ceremony at the end of the 11 am Mass. Please keep them in your prayers, they are: Bonnie Collins, Niamh Gabb, Jack Williams, Abel Joseph, Louis Kostorz, Bethany Seymour and Ellie Humphries



Red Boxes

Please hand your red boxes in as soon possible to your promoter or to me, Mandy, at the 8:30 Mass. Thank you.



EMMAUS YOUTH - The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is Saturday 12th May, from 2.30-5.30 pm. 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, 07739 566578 emmausyouth@hotmail.com





Gift Aid & Committed Offertory Contributors

The 2017-18 Tax Year has just ended. Please use your new envelopes. If you are a Standing Order contributor and would like a set of second collection envelopes, please let me know. In due time the Gift Aid returns will be calculated; please let us know if you would like a receipt of monies paid to Belmont Abbey Parish in this last tax year. They will only be provided on request. May I also ask all 'Gift Aid' contributors to check and let the Finance Office know if they ceased to be tax payers in the last year.

Fr Nicholas



Cafod invites parishioners to go along to Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs in Hereford for a brief presentation on **Share the Journey** on Thursday 8 May at 6 pm. Share the Journey is a global campaign launched by Pope Francis because at the end of this year (in September and December) the UN will agree two new agreements (known as compacts) which will shape how countries respond to migrants and refugees for years to come.



General Data Protection Regulation

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will take effect in the UK from 25 May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used by organisations. Parishes must comply with its requirements, just like any other charity or organisation. The GDPR is an evolution of existing UK data protection law. However, there are significant new obligations that will have an impact on parishes. We are already trying to update our parish data policies and assess what further needs to be done

The law is complex, but there are a number of underlying principles, including that personal data will be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently. That it is only used for a specific processing purpose that the data subject has been made aware of and no other, without further consent. That data collected should be "adequate, relevant and limited." i.e. only the minimum amount of data should be kept for specific processing. Data must be "accurate and where necessary kept up to date" and should not be stored

for longer than is necessary, and that storage is safe and secure.

The newsletter will keep parishioners up to date on this new law and will soon be writing to all parishioners regarding details held by the parish.



Dates for your diary

<p>1 May Diamond Diners Three Horseshoes 12:45 pm</p> <p>4 May Church Cleaning 9 am</p> <p>15 May Tea & Chat Parish Hall 2:30 pm</p> <p>16 May Torchlight Procession 9:00 pm</p> <p>16 June Garden Fete 2:00 pm</p>
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The Fete

We are now looking for bric-a-brac, books, good condition children’s toys and only clean and in very good condition clothes. We can no longer take “rags” as we have no way of disposing of them. We also cannot take electrical goods for the fete, as customers cannot test them in the tent. We also need items that can be used for the Grand Tombola, so if you have any gifts you cannot use, do give them to us for the Tombola. As always all bottles are gratefully accepted. The bottle stall is one of our best ones but it does take a lot of bottles to stock, so please be generous. If you have spare plants, please remember the Plant Stall.

Many thanks for your help!



SPUC - Following Ealing Council’s decision earlier this week to impose a Public Space Protection Order to ban pro-lifers from staging prayer vigils close to the clinic in the borough, a number of other local authorities are understood to be preparing to follow suit. SPUC has launched a major petition calling on the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, to oppose any moves to restrict peaceful pro-life citizens’ freedom of expression and freedom to pray outside abortion

centres. To sign the online petition, or for more information, visit www.spuc.org.uk or contact John Hargaden.



Homily

“Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.”

Illustration

You might be surprised to learn that the oldest and largest grapevine in the world is in Britain, at Hampton Court Palace, in Richmond, south London, in a purpose-built greenhouse in the gardens. Known as the Great Vine, it was planted in 1768, 250 years ago this year. It is four metres around the base, the root from where life pervades, reaching through to the last leaf on the furthest branch. It is a very fruitful vine. The average annual crop of sweet black dessert grapes is about 272 kilograms; but in the autumn of 2001 it was 383 kilograms – the best crop ever. The grapes are ripe at the end of August and are sold to the public during the first three weeks of September.

The vine is carefully tended. In February the buds begin to break, and once the new shoots have reached a certain length, they are disbudded to reduce their number. The remaining shoots grow until they are sufficiently

long. They then have their growing point pinched out and are tied in with raffia. Immediately after flowering, the number of bunches is reduced and the remaining ones thinned. Later in the summer some leaf thinning is carried out to allow sunlight to fall upon the ripening fruit. In November and December, when the plant is fully dormant, the fruiting spurs are pruned back to one or two buds.

Gospel Teaching

The traditional grapevine is one of the world’s most important agricultural crops. At the time of Jesus vineyards were everywhere, and practices relating to their cultivation would be familiar. In today’s Gospel Jesus emphasises that a vine needs to be carefully tended, and that it has a living and connected structure. The vine produces fruit through the branches and the branches are dependent on the central vine.

Jesus describes himself as the “true vine” and says, “my Father is the vine-dresser”. The motif of the grapevine is present in a great deal of Christian art as a metaphor of the ongoing presence of Jesus. On the mosaic floors of churches of the Byzantine period in the Holy Land and its vicinity, the grape is often seen and it is a symbol of Jesus. The love and connection between God, Jesus and our community is described in John’s Gospel using the image of the vine and the branches.

Jesus tells us that “you are the branches” and we will bear “fruit in plenty” if we remain with him. The organic unity suggests a community of many people who are sharers in a single life. Union with Christ is the condition of fruitfulness. Being followers of Jesus gives our lives meaning and direction. Fruit is possible only if we are in union with him, for he is the productive source of it all.

Application

Our opportunity of bearing any fruit worthy of our natures and of God’s purpose concerning us is by vital union with Jesus Christ. If we do not have that, there may be plenty of activity and mountains of work in our lives, but there will be no lasting fruit. The next time you eat a grape and savour its succulent flavour, reflect upon the fruits that we share in our lives because of our relationship with God. The Christian faith is an experience of being in relationship to God, to each other, and to all our family and friends. Caring and love bind us all together. Reflect on the growth you see in your life as the fullness of Christ’s promise of that connection and love. And remember in this Easter season that resurrection fuels and nurtures growth, hope and love.

Open your hearts to Christ and let his life and his Spirit come into you. Through our prayer here today we are strengthened in our belief that Christ

is the vine and we are the branches, and that through the strength of God’s love for us, God’s relationship with us, we are able to produce fruit. Our fruits will be in working for the common good, and in caring for each other, creation and the wider world. Over this week we may be praying with and tending to an elderly and frail relative, or we may be teaching children gardening skills and care of the environment, or we may be supporting a charity reaching out to vulnerable people. These are all fruits of the true vine.



God our Father, Creator and Ruler of the universe, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St. Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 6 May 2018 6th Sunday of Easter Year B Cycle

	08:30:	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Clare Wichbold	Monica Russell & Brenda Sherwood
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	William Jackson	Paul Nickhold	Pat Wood
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Monica Tomlin
Bidding Prayers	Adrian Eyre		Sergio Pavia
Offertory	Parish Children	Teresa Harriss & Menna McBain	
Extraordinary Ministers	Jacqui Ramage-S & Julia Davey		Deacon Eddie & Jane Davies

Next Sunday - Diocesan Priests Training

Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is usually celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	29-Apr	Jackie King & Jan Wyman
	06-May	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	13-May	Pat Wood & Monica Russell
	20-May	Andrew M & Pauline Gill
		Half Term

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 29 April)

Deaths: Gill Wiseman, William Padden, Elaine White and Sheila Langford

Anniversaries: John Simpson, Margaret Stevens, Doreen Sulston, Elizabeth McLoughlin, John Davidson, Ronald Fisher, Lilian Forrester, Dom Peter Fell osb, Dom Denis Mercer osb, Thomas Smallman, Eileen Clark, Alice Frances Derrick, Irene Handley, Paddy Ledford and Anthony Meredith.

The Sick: Please pray for: Sally Johns, Neal Harries, Kenny Hanna, Fr Aidan, Rachel Thompson, Phillip Archer, Sonja Hayes, Robin Hayward, Gil Savory, Denise Ellis, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Dominique Wetz, Lillian Allsop, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

<p>5th</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>of Easter</p>	<p>Entrance: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and ...</p> <p>Communion: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30:	09:30	11:00:
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Brenda Warde	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Anthea Morton-S	Gabrielle Stanley
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Tony Archer
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		Niamh Coyle
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Maria Large & Frances Riddle	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Kath Parry		Deacon Eddie & Monica Tomlin
Mass Intention		<i>Pro Populo</i>	
Second Collection: Syrian Refugees			
Food Bank Collection: John Goodall-Copestake			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	St Joseph the Worker: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Athanasius: Mass at 8 am: NO Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	SS Philip & James: Mass at 8 am
Fri	All Martyrs of England & Wales: Mass at 8 am: Exposition and Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10 am