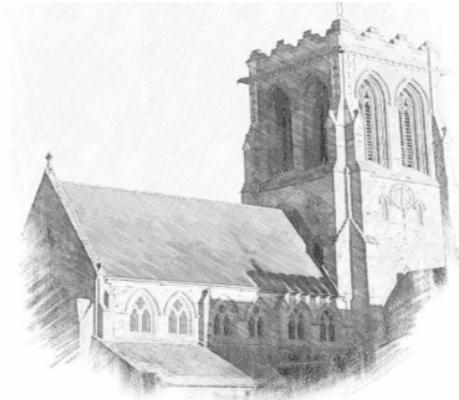


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH PRIEST

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**Parish Deacon**

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

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Safeguarding Representative  
Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

Items for the Newsletter to  
[admin@belmontparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@belmontparish.org.uk)  
or The Parish Office

This week the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is often included in the liturgy. Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration. The Church at Jerusalem observed the feast as early as the first half of the fourth century, and likely earlier. According to Jewish law, the first-born male child belonged to God, and the parents had to "buy him back" on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after his birth, by offering a sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" ([Luke 2:24](#)) in the temple (thus the "presentation" of the child). On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified (thus the "purification").

Thursday is also the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. On this day the Church thanks God for the gift of the different forms of consecrated life, and prays for an increase in vocations to the consecrated life, so that the life and witness of monks and nuns, religious brothers and sisters and members of secular institutes will continue to enrich our Church. Please remember in your prayers Br Dunstan who will make his solemn (final) Profession on Thursday.

*Fr Nicholas*

Last Sunday's	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	<b>£305.68</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£412.50</b>
The 1 <sup>st</sup> collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	<b>£191.25</b>
The 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for <b>Acorn's Children's Hospice. Thank You!</b>		



### Second Collections

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards helping the refugees and children made homeless in Syria and we were able to send over £750 for their relief. Thank you. In January, our Parish Outreach collections will go towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project (1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Jan); the annual White Flower collection (15<sup>th</sup> Jan) and the local Acorns Children's Hospice (22<sup>nd</sup> Jan).



With sadness we report the death of Gordon Wilson who died on Wednesday. May he rest in peace.



At the Belmont Chapter last week, Fr Abbot asked me to convey the community's thanks to all our volunteers, in particular the church cleaning group who maintain the abbey in such a wonderful condition. Thank you.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 February  
Church Cleaning  
9:00 am

21 February  
Tea & Chat  
2:30 Parish Hall

26 February  
Collect & Pay  
For Tesco vouchers

1 April  
Jumble Sale  
12:00  
At OLQM



### Tea and Chat

has resumed, and continues on 21st Feb, 21st March, and 18th of April. It

is always on the 3rd Tuesday in the month. For any newcomers to the Parish this is a a very friendly group that meets for a cup of tea and a piece of cake or a biscuit and a good chat. We meet in the Parish Center at 2.30pm until 4.00pm. There is no charge, but a donation is very welcome for us to buy coffee, tea and milk and help to pay for heating the hall. Everyone is welcome, so don't be shy just come along and join us.



### **DO YOU LOVE ME?**

Friday 3rd February 7pm

Kathryn Turner will be leading an evening event giving a very practical guide to Catholic prayer and formation, based on the booklet published by the bishops of England and Wales. The evening will present a wonderful opportunity to refresh our lives of prayer and to reflect productively on this central aspect of our relationship with Jesus. The evening will start at 7pm and will be held in the Kemble Room. There will be light refreshments provided afterwards.

For further information, please contact Dom David Yates 01432 374 750.



### **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!



### **Unwanted Christmas Presents**

With the need to start collecting Raffle Prizes with ticket printing to be done before Easter, I am appealing for any suitable unwanted Christmas Presents or appropriate donations to be handed in to me as soon as possible please. Your kind help and generosity would be so greatly appreciated, also bearing in mind (if unsuitable for a Raffle Prize) the Tombola Prize Stall and Bottle Stall for the forthcoming Fete in June. A large box will be placed in the Church Porch for a few weeks and items will be collected daily. Many thanks in anticipation. Fr. Nicholas





## Herefordshire & Belmont Abbey Walsingham Group

Pilgrimage to Walsingham - 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017. From £195 per person to include all travel and half-board accommodation. There are still a few places available.

The next meeting of the Group will be at Belmont abbey on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 5.55 pm for Vespers, Angelus, Rosary and Mass followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome - you do not have to be a member of the group. For further information contact Menna MacBain on 01568 797077.



If you are interested in finding out about some of new issues being promoted by SPUC please visit their website at [www.spuc.org.uk/news](http://www.spuc.org.uk/news).



### HOMILY

*"Theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

### Illustration

Robert Browning's poem "How They Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix" tells how three riders set out on horseback to bring news to the city of Aix, or Aachen, that would save it

from its fate. The rhythm of the poem suggests haste on galloping horses. The narrator (one of the riders) lists the names of places they ride through at speed. There is tragedy, though. Two horses die from exhaustion; one within sight of the destination. Only the narrator and his horse survive to pass on the all-important message. The horse is rewarded with the last measure of the wine that they brought with them, and all agree that this "was no more than his due, who brought good news from Ghent". The poem ends, and it is only then that we realise we have not been told what the news was.

### Gospel Teaching

Once Matthew's Gospel gets fully under way, there is much mention of "the Good News". Jesus proclaims that the kingdom of God is at hand, and that people should repent and believe the Good News, but we are not really told what this Good News actually is. Jesus next challenges Simon and Andrew, James and John, to stop what they are doing and follow him. They are not told where they are going. So far, like the reader of the Browning poem, there is a building sense of excitement, but no detail about the Good News. The Gospel then gives a summary of Jesus' activity. He preaches in synagogues, he heals sick people; this does begin to sound like Good News for those involved, but we suspect there must

be more to come – and this is the point we reach in today’s Gospel.

Now we begin to understand the scope of the Good News. It is outlined in full in the Sermon on the Mount, which Jesus now preaches: his first of five public sermons spread throughout the Gospel of Matthew. Today’s passage consists of the famous introduction, which we know as the Beatitudes. These sayings constitute one of the most familiar of all Gospel passages. It is used in the liturgy of the Church more than any other Gospel text, covering a surprising range from ordinary Sundays and weekdays to major seasons, from funerals to weddings, and on a variety of commemorations, sacramental ceremonies and saints’ days. It’s the first passage in the Gospel of Matthew to give a clear indication of what Jesus means by the Good News.

The scene is set in a very formal way. The one who proclaims the Good News assumes the guise of an authoritative teacher. In New Testament times, teachers simply sat down in an open space and began to teach. Their ability as teachers was reflected in the size of the audience that gathered round to listen to them. Matthew says that Jesus saw a large crowd (presumably waiting for him), and he sat down and taught them. In

the Beatitudes, he makes plain what the Good News consists of: it is the possession of the kingdom of heaven. This is stressed at both the beginning and the end of the list: the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are poor in spirit, and to those who are persecuted in the cause of right.

### **Application**

Jesus may well have been the first person ever to declare clearly to whom the kingdom of heaven belongs; he is certainly the first (and only) person who spelled out the qualification for membership. Not only does the kingdom belong to those who are poor in spirit and those who are persecuted for standing up for what is right: it is found among those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst for what is right, who are merciful, pure in heart... and so on.

The Good News is that the kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus turned word into action when he cured sick people, cleansed lepers, forgave sinners; that is when he made the words of the Beatitudes a concrete reality for those whose lives were broken. It is Good News that the values of God are here for humans to share. In Jesus’ final sermon in Matthew, in the last judgement parable, he tells his followers that however they behaved towards the least of his brothers and sisters is the way they behaved to

Christ himself. We may hear the Good News; but how well do we live it out and share it with others?



### Nunc Dimitis

Now Lord, let your servant go in peace according to your promise. For mine eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the world to see. A light of revelation for the gentiles and a glory for your people Israel.



**Saint John Bosco** 16 August 1815 – 31 January 1888), popularly known as **Don Bosco** was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator and writer of the 19th century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered

many of the effects of industrialization and urbanization, he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System.

A follower of the spirituality and philosophy of Saint Francis de Sales, Bosco was an ardent Marian devotee of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title Mary Help of Christians. He later dedicated his works to De Sales when he founded the Salesians of Don Bosco, based in Turin. Together with Maria Domenica Mazzarello, he founded the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a religious congregation of nuns dedicated to the care and education of poor girls.

In 1876 Bosco founded a movement of laity, the Association of Salesian Cooperators, with the same educational mission to the poor. In 1875 he began to publish the Salesian Bulletin. The Bulletin has remained in continuous publication, and is currently published in 50 different editions and 30 languages.

Bosco established a network of organizations and centres to carry on his work. Following his beatification in 1929, he was canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1934.

**Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT Year A - Cycle 1**

	<b>08:30</b>	<b>09:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Liz Norman	Clare Wichbold	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Bill Jackson	Paul Nickhold	Margaret Rose
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Ann Jackson		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayers	Mary Hayes		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Ramage-H family	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Jan Wyman & Chris Moore

**Next Sunday - Parish Outreach**

<p><b>Anniversaries</b></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>	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
	<b>8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled</b>	
	<b>29-Jan</b>	Pat Wood & Jan Wyman
	<b>5 Feb</b>	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	<b>12-Feb</b>	<b>No Children's Liturgy</b>
	<b>19-Feb</b>	<b>No Children's Liturgy</b>
<b>26-Feb</b>	Jacqui Corrigan & Pauline Gill	

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

**Deaths:** Gordon Wilson, Bridgid Smith, Cornelius Linehan, Brian Hayes and Wendy Lyle Cameron

**Anniversaries:** Stephen Marius Gray, Dom Aloysius Lacey OSB, Susan Taylor, Stephen Lewis, James Meredith, Ellen Murphy, Margarita Doverman, Mary Jenkins, Clotilde Woods, Henry Maddison, John Wallin, Kevin Hickman, Dom Paulinus Lyon, Doris Spencer, Timothy Desmond, Elizabeth Snead, Ethel Spalding, Frank Evans, Emmalina Russell and Di Smith.

**The Sick:** Please pray for: Maureen Toner, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Marnie Archer, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Fr Michael Cronin, Sheila Langford, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Stephen Fisher, 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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017** *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 3)*

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> <b>In</b> <b>Ordinary</b> <b>Time</b></p>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> Save us, Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name and make it our glory to praise you.</p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> When we eat this Bread and .....</p> <p><b>Communion:</b> Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.</p>
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<b>Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.</b>			
	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Hayes Family	Brenda Warde	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Adrian Eyre	Phyll Buckley	Margaret Rose
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Richard Batho		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-S		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Kath Parry		Rob Corrigan & Monica Russell
Mass Intention	<b>Donald Parry RIP</b>	<b>Benefactors &amp; Parishioners</b>	<b>John Keeler RIP</b>
<b>Second Collection - Parish Outreach</b>			
<b>Food Bank Delivery: Kath Parry</b>			

<b>What's On for the week</b>	
Mon	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>St John Bosco:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	<b>Presentation of the Lord:</b> Mass at 8:00 am in the Oratory: Solemn Profession of Br Dunstan 11:30 am
Fri	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 and Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	<b>BVM:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am