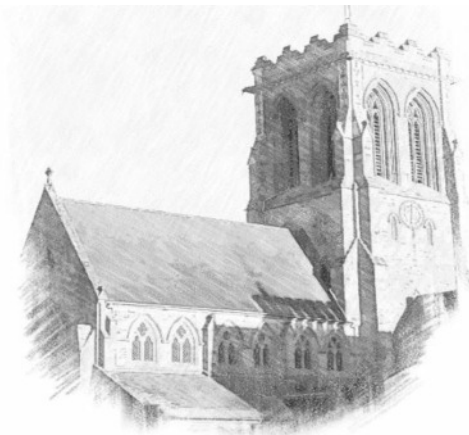


# ***St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey***



## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

### ***Feast of the Epiphany***

*3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016  
(Cycle C)*

#### **PARISH PRIEST**

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB  
Tel: 01432 - 277319

email: [pp.belmontparish@gmail.com](mailto:pp.belmontparish@gmail.com)  
[www.belmontparish.org.uk](http://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](mailto:admin@belmontparish.org.uk)  
or The Parish Office

Happy New Year! Today we celebrate the great solemnity of the Epiphany. On this feast the young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. It is so much more than the belated arrival of three 'Magi' bearing odd gifts. "Today, the *Child born in the night of Bethlehem is manifested to the world as the light of salvation for all peoples.*" The Christ child revealed first to the Jewish shepherds is now revealed to the world. The message of salvation is shared with the whole of humanity. To this episode, the Fathers of the Church associated two others in which Jesus manifested his glory: his *Baptism* in the River Jordan, and the *Wedding at Cana*. We rejoice in Christ's coming and the beginning of our salvation. Let us treasure this wondrous news and share this wonderful event with all those we meet in this New Year.

### **Walking with Kings**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 3 pm Belmont Abbey  
Service of Music, Carols and Readings

**NO COFFEE AFTER THE 11 AM MASS TODAY**

*Fr Nicholas is away this weekend*

*Fr Nicholas*

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	<b>£286.66</b>
	Standing Orders	<b>£533.00</b>
	2nd Collection	<b>£138.10</b>
<b><i>Parish Outreach - Thank you.</i></b>		
Christmas Belmont Abbey	£ 1230.00	



### **150 Club**

May I thank everyone for their support for the 150 Club this year which helps to raise funds for the parish and its various commitments. Subscriptions are now due for 2016 so if you pay by cash or cheque, please place your subscription of £12 per number in an envelope marked '150 Club' and hand it to me or to the parish office. Cheques payable to 'Belmont Abbey Parish' please. Standing order forms are also available and if anyone in the parish wishes to join or increase their shares, please let me know. Many thanks,

*Chris Moore.*



If you have lost gloves, hats or an umbrella please have a look in top drawer in the porch. The items will go to the next jumble sale if not collected by the 10 January. Thank you!



### **The Angel**

The Christmas edition of the Angel will now be the New Year edition. Please help us to continue to produce this parish magazine by writing or submitting an article for publication. The new deadline for submission is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January.



At the beginning of a new year, I wish to express my gratitude to those many people whose help, in so many different ways, makes my task as Parish Priest all the easier. Thank you to all who help with the Liturgy, the music, the extraordinary Ministers and Servers, Counters, Collectors, Cleaners and Welcomers and those who run the Children's Liturgy, and not forgetting those who most importantly help with visiting the sick. Many thanks too for your kind Christmas cards and gifts. God bless you all. Thank you!



### **Tea and Chat**

The next Tea & Chat will take place on January 19th, everyone most wel-

come, including gentlemen. It is not only ladies who like to talk. A reminder to those who promised cake and help.

Looking forward to seeing you all after our Christmas break.

*Margaret Rose*



**Abbey Shop**

The Abbey Shop will be closed after Wednesday 23rd Dec until Sunday 10th January 2016.



**There will be no Coffee after the 11 Mass this Sunday as the kitchen is being painted.**



**Dates for your Diary**

**8 January  
Exposition with  
Confession & Midday Mass  
Abbey Church: 12 noon**

**19 January 2016  
Tea and Chat**

**22 January  
Church Cleaning - 9 am**



**Thank you from LIFE**

This is the season for writing thank you letters and so here is one from Hereford LIFE. We are very grateful to you all for responding so generously to our request for little knitted garments and cot blankets. They came from every side individuals, the parishes and groups like the St Anne's group and we have collected about seventy little jackets and hats and more than two dozen blankets. In the Christmas rush it has been difficult to thank you properly but we do appreciate not only the cost of making but the love that has gone into each one. This means that seventy little souls many of whom will not survive will have something made specially for them and a keepsake for their parents. So far a parcel has been carried to the Birmingham City Hospital and we have posted 2 parcels to the LIFE Help Centre in Walsall and another to the Sanctuary opposite the Birmingham Catholic Cathedral which is a refuge for refugees and trafficked and homeless women. (We also kept some back for our Hereford babies). Thank you.





**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EWYAS  
HAROLD  
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN  
UNITY  
THE SALT OF THE EARTH**

**Monday**

**18th to Monday 25th January 2016**

The theme for the 2016 Week of Prayer - The Salt of the Earth – was prepared by the Christians of Latvia. We will be given the opportunity to reflect upon our Christian vocation to be salt and light, to be one in Christ, and to work together in service to our local community and to the world.

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” 1 Peter 2 v 9

**Special launch Service** followed by bring and share refreshments. **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 3.00 pm at St Michael's Church**

**Daytime Prayers** each prepared by one of the diverse Church communities in Latvia. **Monday 18th to Monday 25th January** (omitting Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January) **at The Acres, Pontrilas Road HR2 0EN (Pam Wright's house) from 11.30 am to 12.15 pm**



**HOMILY**

*“Where is the infant king of the Jews?”*

**Illustration**

In Spain, Three Kings’ Day is considered by most people to be more important than Christmas and many Spanish children wait until that day to open their presents. Madrid and other Spanish cities celebrate with “three kings” riding camels through the streets, laden with sweets and presents for children. The Madrid event, which sees the streets lined with tens of thousands of people, is broadcast on national television and is one of the most watched programmes of the year. Viewers can see children scrambling to pick up the sweets thrown out to them by the kings.

In households across Spain, families leave out food and drink to refresh the kings, as well as water for their camels and one shoe for each person in the house. According to the tradition, they come from the east on their camels to visit the houses of all the children and, much like Santa Claus with his reindeer, they visit everyone in one night. There is a tradition of burning fires – Epiphany fires – to light the way of the three kings. The following day, those

children who have been well behaved throughout the year will find that the food has been eaten and that a small gift has been left in their shoe.

### **Gospel Teaching**

How well do we know the Epiphany story? How many of us think of a Christmas-card image of three kings, wearing crowns and riding camels, following a star towards a stable in the distance? In fact, the Gospel simply describes them as “wise men” and doesn’t specify that there were three or that they arrived on camels. There are thought to be three because there were three gifts for baby Jesus. The tradition that the magi were kings dates from around the sixth century; so, too, the names of Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar. Matthew’s description of the wise men as coming from “the east” probably referred to Babylon (Iraq) or Persia (Iran). Babylon had a tradition of astronomy and the means to study the stars. Yet some of the earliest images of the magi in churches show them in Persian dress.

The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh had symbolic meaning. Gold meant kingship and power. Frankincense, a highly fragrant gum burned in worship to God, symbolised holiness and righteousness. Myrrh, an embalming spice, meant death, foreshadowing the execution of Jesus. But the greatest significance of the

story is that it highlights that non-Jewish people from across the world recognised Jesus as king soon after his birth. The wise men were the first to reveal Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ, and in popular Epiphany celebrations they often represent the African, Asiatic and European peoples – there’s a tradition that each of the kings represents a different continent: Europe (Melchior), Asia (Caspar) and Africa (Balthasar). Matthew hints at the eventual spread of the Gospel beyond the Jews. Indeed the presence of the star suggests that the baby Jesus is revealed to the whole of creation.

### **Application**

Today’s joyful celebration reminds us that for God there are no foreigners, no outsiders. The wise men teach us that Jesus came for all peoples, of all nations, of all races. The call today is to live our lives in such a way that in our words to people and about people, and in our actions, we will never behave in any way except as caring brothers or sisters. It is also a time to focus on healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God’s children. We are in a season of peace, and perhaps we can reflect on the causes of conflict and wars and try to address them. On 1 January, World Peace Day, we were invited by our Church to be peacemakers in the

world. At the Epiphany the light of a star guided the wise men to the birthplace of Jesus; and we see how all creation is responding to the new life brought by the appearance of Jesus. Perhaps, too, we could reflect on making peace with all God's creation.

Epiphanies are transforming events, and the feast of the Epiphany allows us to see and be changed in all our relationships. The Epiphany invites us to reflection on the consequences of the life of Jesus for our discipleship on behalf of humanity and the entire created order.



Today's feast celebrates the epiphany (manifestation) of Christ to the Gentiles, symbolized by Christ's manifestation to the Magi (Wise Men). The feast originally was more closely connected to Jesus' baptism, the primary theme of the feast in Eastern Churches to this day. In addition, other manifestations of Christ were often commemorated during Epiphany, including the miracle at Cana. The story of the Magi travelling from the East to see the Christ child appears only in the Gospel According to St. Matthew. The word Magi, in Greek *magoi*, comes from the

Latin word meaning "sage." These particular sages were possibly Zoroastrian astrologers from Persia. Upon seeing a star rising in the East (the Star of Bethlehem), they realized it was a sign that the king of the Jews had been born. There have been numerous traditions that have grown up about the Wise Men. Typically we think of there being three wise men because of the number of gifts, but Matthew doesn't tell us the exact number. St. Bede the Venerable fills in a few gaps, providing colourful details about the Magi:

The first was called Melchior. He was an old man, with white hair and a long beard; he offered gold to the Lord as to his King. The second, Gaspar by name, young, beardless, of ruddy hue, offered to Jesus his gift of incense, the homage due to Divinity. The third, of black complexion, with heavy beard, was middle-aged and called Balthasar. The myrrh he held in his hand prefigured the death of the son of Man



<b>Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January Baptism of the Lord <i>Year C</i></b>			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Welcomer(s)	Cooper Family	Ann Stapleton	Ross & Ann Williams
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1st Reading	Julia Davey	Sally Johns	Peter Davies
2nd Reading	Richard Batho		Monica Tomlin
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui Ramage-Smith		Jane Davies
Offertory	Ramage-Hill Family	Lucy Zammit & Paul Nickholds	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Rob Corrigan
<b>Next Sunday - SPUC</b>			
Next Week: Newsletter folding: Monica Lynch			

<p><b>The Tender Gaze of Love</b> January 29-31 (2 days Reg fee £26) <i>Dom Alex explores the mystery and meaning of Icons of the Virgin in the beautiful period between Christmas and the Presentation of the Lord.</i> <i>Dom Alex Echeandia</i></p>	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
	<b>8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 3 Jan</b>	
	<b>11.00 am Liturgy</b>	
	<b>03-Jan</b>	Marje Hayes & Monica Russell
	<b>10-Jan</b>	Jacqui Corrigan & Jan Wyman
	<b>17-Jan</b>	A Morawiecki & R Blackburn
<b>24-Jan</b>	Jacqui Moore & Pauline Gill	

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

**Deaths:** *Mark Evans, Jeanne and Ken Harding and Lesley Baker*

**Anniversaries:** *Francesco Fuorvito, Hannah Jones, Margaret Morrison, James Smith, John Rosser, Ann Marie Impey, Rev Fr. Philip Garrett, Kevin Harrington, William Jones, Frances Mary Connell, Beatrice Powell, Hugh George, George Baker, Olive Baker, John Burn, James Lewis, Leonard Cosgrove, Winifred Garrett, Thomas Hogan, William Rankin, Annemarie Kuehn and Mary Sharp.*

**The Sick:** Please pray for *Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Mary Carroll, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Jo Hourahane, Edward Medicott, Bridie Gittoes, Sr Philpa, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> January***

*Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1*

<p><b><i>THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY</i></b></p>	<p><b>Entrance:</b> <i>Behold , the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.</i></p> <p><b>Acclamation:</b> <i>When we eat this Bread...</i></p> <p><b>Communion:</b> <i>We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.</i></p>
--	--

<b>Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.</b>			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Cadfan		Fr Cadfan
Welcomer	Annette Mansie	Marion Luscombe	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Stephen Fisher
1st Reading	Fran Grant	Patrick Walesby	Jennifer Hackman
2nd Reading	Liz Norman		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayer	Adrian Eyre		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Children's Liturgy	Anthea Morton-Saner & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Monica Russell
Mass Intention	M. Monica & M. Regina	Pro Populo	Elizabeth Lee RIP
<b>Second Collection : <i>Parish Outreach</i></b>			

<b><i>What's On for the week</i></b>	
Mon	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: <b>NO</b> Midday Mass in the Oratory. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm
Thu	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	<b>Feria: Mass at 9:00 am - Exposition &amp; Midday Mass in Abbey Church</b>
Sat	<b>Feria:</b> Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00