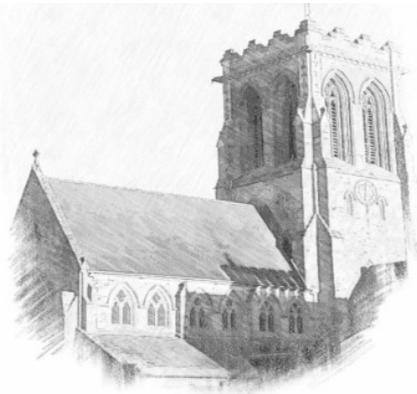


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

3rd September 2017

22nd Week Ordinary Time

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This week's gospel continues the passage from last week. Jesus, you will remember had asked his disciples who did people think he was. More importantly, he asked **them** who **they** thought he was. Today, when Jesus starts talking in gloomy terms about his imminent suffering and death St Peter reacts. He doesn't see why this should happen, he doesn't understand the true meaning of Christ's ministry. However, it was only by associating Himself with our problems and difficulties, our aches and pains, our suffering, our death - that Our Lord could restore mankind to God's kingdom.

As we approach a new academic year we wish all our young people a good year, especially those beginning high school for the first time. We pray, too, for all our teachers and school governors that they continue to be blessed in their important work.

September is an "Awareness Month" for the St Vincent de Paul Society. The aim is to raise the profile of the Society and its work. Although, sadly, our own SVP group no longer officially exists, we should, as a parish, continue to pray and support the work of the SVP throughout the country. There will be a second collection today for their continued support.

Parish Outreach - During September, our second collections will be for the SVP (4th & 24th) and the mandatory ones for the Catholic Education Service (10th) and Home Mission Sunday (17th).

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£359.78
	Standing Orders	£412.50

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

	2 nd Collection	£161.07
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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: **Marriage Care. Thank You!**



Fatima Pilgrimage – Final preparation meeting for all pilgrims on Tuesday 12 September at 6.30pm at Our Lady's Church.



Jumble Sale

We need all the usual things but please only clean clothing - no rags. We need books and bric-a-brac. Sale takes place on 30 Sept at 12:00 noon at OLQM parish Hall.



EMMAUS Youth are next meeting at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 2.30-5.30 pm on Saturday 23rd September. 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.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 September
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

Saturday 30 Sept
Jumble Sale
OLQM Parish Hall
12:00 pm

17 November
Quiz Night
Hedley Lodge
7:00 pm

23 November
Rise Theatre
Hedley Lodge
7:30 pm



Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

Sat 16th September
Chelsie Jones & David Shutt

Sat 30th September
Arabella Anderson & Chris Haughian



Please remember in your prayers Chris & Sue Rogers who are both in hospital.





PARISH FINANCES

Join the **Ride and Stride** this year to help fund repairs badly needed in many of Herefordshire's churches. This national event takes place on Saturday 9 September. Cycle or walk between the churches in your area. Half of the sponsorship raised goes to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, half to the church of your choice. For more information go to www.herefordhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/ride.php.



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

Fr. Matthew who is a member of the Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy team and who acts as Catholic Chaplain no longer has access to the lists of catholic patients; hopefully this will be resolved soon. So if you have a friend/relative or fellow parishioner in hospital and you know they would like to be visited by Fr. Matthew then please contact him with the details of the person concerned-265177 or fr.matthew@live.co.uk. For the time being Fr. Matthew is absolutely dependant on receiving this information from relations and friends, it is not available via the hospital.



Last Sunday, our parish treasurer, Peter Symonds, spoke about our finances and the importance of trying to balance the books in these difficult times. A short summary of his points is printed below and the blue leaflet distributed last week is available in the porch after Mass for any who were away last weekend.

Peter spoke of the misunderstanding that some often have as to our financial obligation to the monastery which itself struggles to financially 'break even'. Our Sunday first collections are not enough to support the parish, the deficit usually being met by our Gift Aid rebate and our fundraising. However, from September we are expecting increases to our rent, the different diocesan levies and the general cost of running the parish. The death of some of our very generous parishioners has also reduced our income.

Peter asked that every parishioner think about whether they could increase their weekly (or monthly) contribution to the Parish First Collection. If this is difficult, perhaps more parishioners would consider Gift Aiding their offering to allow the charity to reclaim the tax paid. Another way would be to strengthen the financial planning of the parish

through a standing order whether you are a tax payer or not.

If you would like Standing Order or Gift Aid forms, or would like more information about our other revenue projects (Tesco Vouchers, 150 Club etc) please speak to Fr Nicholas or put your name on the information request sheet in the porch.

Three small and easy ways to increase Parish Finances

The 150+ Club

Each number costs £12.00 a year, which equates to £1.00 a month, paid annually. Half the income goes into parish funds and half the income is given as prize money in the monthly draw, which takes place in the parish centre after 11 o'clock Sunday Mass once a month. All numbers issued go into a bag and 3 are drawn out to cover the 3 prizes each month of £50, £25 & £10. You can hold as many or as few numbers as you like, each costing £12.00 a year. It is a fairly painless way of giving with the chance of getting something in return, also the monthly draw in the parish centre is a social occasion.

Co-ordinator: Chris Moore

Tesco Gift Card

The Tesco Gift Card Scheme has been running in the parish for 15 years. In this time the number of regular members has always been between

25 and 29 with a few more members buying on an 'ad hoc' basis to suit their needs. The regular members buy between £40.00 and £300.00 pounds worth of Gift Cards each month. Some members do all their shopping at Tesco, others only buy petrol but between them they have contributed over £25,000.00 to church funds and it hasn't cost them one single penny. So how did they achieve this? The parish buys the Gift Card at a discount and sells it on to the members at face value and it is this discount which adds up to £25,000.00.

How does the scheme work? When you pay for anything at a Tesco Store or Filling Station you offer the Gift Card in payment. The Gift Card is scanned by the till operator and the value of the purchase deducted from the face value of the Gift Card. The balance is shown on the till receipt. You continue to do this until there is nothing left on the Gift Card.

Easyfundraising

There is also a website (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) which donates money to the Belmont Abbey Parish each time you buy goods on line through them! Most of the top internet shops (including Amazon, M&S, John Lewis) participate in this scheme. Why not join up today?





Herefordshire & Belmont Abbey Walsingham Group

The next meeting will be at the Abbey on Wednesday 27 Sept, commencing with Vespers in Church at 5:55 pm. All welcome. The dates for the 2018 pilgrimage to Walsingham are 18-21 May. Full details available soon.



Homily

“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him... take up his cross and follow me.”

Illustration

Thinking people have always wondered what a truly good person would be like and how everyone else would interact with such a person. Usually the prognosis is not a good one. In one famous example from the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, the future for a truly moral person is said to hold: “flogging, torture on the rack, imprisonment in chains, having his eyes burnt out, and every ordeal in the book, up to and including being impaled on a stake. Then at last he’ll realise that one’s goal should be not actual morality, but the appearance of morality.” So even the religious thinkers before the time of Jesus

thought that a truly good person would be turned upon by the rest of humanity. The Old Testament echoes this thinking. In the Wisdom of Solomon, when considering the life of a righteous man, the unjust say about him: “the very sight of him is a burden to us... let us test him with insult and torture... let us condemn him to a shameful death”.

So, far from being an escapist view of the world, or a sort of emotional security blanket, the religious concept of living always had a realistic, unflinching view of fallen humanity. The pride, dislocation and envy described is a true portrait of people at their worst. However, we also believe that, despite the Fall, humanity is still basically good. We also believe that God still loves us and thinks our humanity worth redeeming. Even if we have given up on humanity, God has not.

Gospel Teaching

Jesus is that righteous and truly good man dreamed of by Plato and foretold by the Old Testament. Joined to his divinity, his humanity is entirely untouched by defect or evil. It was his goal in life to heal and restore our fallen humanity. This, he knew, would cost him his life. It was through his priestly offering of himself that this would be accomplished. Jesus is saviour, priest and victim. All the

sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed towards the one definitive sacrifice of Calvary. The priesthood of the Old Testament was a foreshadowing of the high priesthood of Christ when at last he came. John the Baptist spoke for them all when he said of Jesus: "He must increase, I must decrease."

Pride and its consequences, dislocation and violence, are at the heart of humanity's rebellion against God. Pride, dislocation and violence have become the inherited spiritual traits of the human race. Only God has the power to heal such a disaster, and only someone fully human could do it meaningfully. It was to heal us from the inside, as it were, that Jesus took on our humanity and suffered such a terrible death. God could have restored and healed everything by a simple act of will, but out of love for us, what can be termed solidarity, God became one of us and lived out the consequences to the full.

Application

We might hesitate to consider the application of all this to our own lives. However, Jesus makes it clear in his teaching what the application is: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." Left to ourselves, this would be a daunting, even impossible, task. However, through the help of grace

we can respond generously to this challenge. The sacrament of baptism conforms us spiritually to the cross and death of Christ, so we already have a disposition to follow him. The Eucharist makes present his sacrificial death on Calvary, so that we can be strengthened by the power of Christ himself. Through his victory over suffering and death, we are given the strength to bear our own cross. When we fail in this calling, the sacrament of reconciliation is there to heal us and restore us.

Does this mean we should seek out suffering and sorrow? Surely not. We are here to flourish, but in doing so suffering will inevitably come our way. It is how we react to it that is crucial. We can accept and integrate it as part of our vocation to be fully human, or we can try to avoid it and resent it. In trying to become a fully good person we will come up against many difficulties. Some will be rooted in our own sins, others will be external temptations and difficulties. However, it is to this great vocation that Jesus is summoning us today.



Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 10 September - 23 Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Cycle 1

	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Anne Stapleton	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Liz Norman	Phyll Buckley	Pat Draper
2 nd Reading	Bill Jackson		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayers	Ann Jackson		Sally Johns
Offertory	Parish Children	Gillick Family	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Margaret Evans & Joao Pavia

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach (Catholic Education)

<p>Anniversaries</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>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	3-Sep	Jacqui Moore &
	10- Sept	
	17- Sept	
	24 -Sept	
	1-Oct	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 3 Sept)

Deaths: R D Anthony osb, Jo Berry, Kevin Hanna and Sr Phillipa.

Anniversaries: Anthony Davies, John Edward Hickman, Frederick Ward, Cecil Wegg-Prosser, Sebastian Michael Wood, Henry Llewellyn, Anthony Smith, Dom Brendan Minney osb, Katrina Zdancyuk, Yasuko Mori, Bro Robert Brace-Hall osb and Petrina Morris.

The Sick: Please pray for: Sam Evans, Jennifer Hackman, Denise Ellis, Seamus Hayes, Carol Baines, Michael Kennedy, Chris & Sue Rogers, Peter Draper, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, Elaine White, 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 3 September 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 22)*

<p>22nd Week In Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Entrance: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.</p>
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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	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Clare Wichbold	Rob Corrigan
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		Pat Wood
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Jacqui Ramage-S		Andre Pavia & David Wood
Mass Intention	<i>Vera Dawson RIP</i>	<i>Pro Populo</i>	<i>Seb Wood RIP</i>
Second Collection - Parish Outreach (SVP)			
Food Bank Collection: John Goodall-Copestake			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Dedication of Abbey Church: <u>Mass at 8:00 am in Oratory</u> ; Profession Mass of Br Alistair 11:30 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	8:00 am Mass in the Oratory ; Funeral Mass of Fr Antony RIP 2:30 pm
Fri	Nativity of the BVM : Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 am & Midday Mass at 12 noon in Oratory
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am: