

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Ordinary Time Week 3

*31st January 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

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 firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to "buy him back" on the 40th 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").

Tuesday 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 David who will make his solemn (final) Profession on Tuesday.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	£282.17
	Standing Orders	£438.00
	2nd Collection	£123.82
<i>Parish Outreach - Thank you.</i>		

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

It is with great sadness that we report the death of John Keeler who died last Sunday. His funeral will be on Friday 5th February at 2.30 pm. May he rest in peace.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Don't forget, the nave of the Church has a loop system. If you use a hearing aid, simply adjust your aid to the 'T' setting

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

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.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

THE ANGEL

Sadly, there was insufficient material to warrant going to press this time around. I will discuss with the editors as to our alternatives or the best way forward.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

**Hereford & Belmont Abbey
Walsingham Association
Year of Mercy
Pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of England now designated by the Vatican as the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham
6 - 9 May 2016**

Come and pray at the Holy Door at the Slipper Chapel. We still have some vacancies left. Three nights' half board and all transport £187. Please Telephone Menna McBain on 01568 797077 for more information.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Archdiocese of Cardiff Family Life Commission in co-operation with Care for the Family will be running a day's course in the Pastoral Resource Centre on Saturday 6th February at 9.30. This course is aimed at anyone who would like to become part of an existing Bereavement Support Group or who is thinking of starting a group within their Parish. The cost of course is £30 to include a light lunch. Parishes will usually pay for this. Previously trained people are also welcome to join us. Places are limited so if you wish to reserve a place please e mail anstic2002@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07799704970.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

A day of Recollection for Extraordinary Ministers, First Holy Communion Catechists and all involved in Celebrating, Sharing, Receiving, and Building up the Body of Christ in the Parish. With Tom O'Loughlin (Professor of Historical Theology, Nottingham University), and Workshops on Home Ministry,

Hospital Ministry, Catechesis, and Prayer. At Saint Illtyd's School, Rumney, CF3 1XQ, on Saturday 27th February, 10.30 – 3.30. For further details of the day and a booking form, please contact Fr Nicholas.



CAFOD MEETING

To find out about the stories behind the Lenten appeal, how to support our Fast Day in our parish, as well as a chance to go through the free Lenten parish resources, a CAFOD supporters' meeting will take place on Thursday 4th February, 14:00 – 16:00 at Our Lady Queen of the Martyrs, Hereford. All are welcome!



FOOD BANK

Thank you to everyone who supports the local Food Bank, your donations are very much appreciated. At present they are in desperate need of UHT Milk and SMASH. Also on their list are tins of meat (hot or cold), vegetables, fruit and rice pudding. Dry goods: custard powder, dried milk, instant coffee, sugar and rice. Hygiene products: shampoo, toothpaste, soap, washing up liquid, detergent. General items: Pasta sauce, jam, marmalade, ready meals (microwave type).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 2 February
Candlemas & Profession
11:30
Abbey Church

Friday 5 February
Church Cleaning
9:00

Friday 5 February
Exposition and Mass in
Abbey Church
11:00

Wednesday 10 February
Ash Wednesday
Masses at 8 am and 12 noon



HOMILY

"No prophet is ever accepted in his own country."

Illustration

Great concern has been expressed of late about a supposed lack of moral understanding in young people. Blame is apportioned to schools, parents and anyone else who has an educative role. There have been

various surveys that attempt to discover why this may be. Apparently when questioned about moral dilemmas, the tendency of the majority of young people is to plump for decisions based on self-interest or what the peer group proclaims to be the right option. Some say this indicates they have little understanding of the nature of what is right in itself or how we determine what choices are the correct ones in life. This can make some young people more vulnerable to the mixture of security and adventure offered by terrorist groups and their ilk. Both schools and parents of such youngsters express bewilderment that their children, often intelligent, should succumb to the lure of extremism. They have brought them up in a world of tolerance and respect. What has gone wrong?

First of all, it is not clear that things have changed as much as it seems. A hundred years ago, many young men merrily marched off to the Great War with little idea of the rights and wrongs involved, overcome as they were by patriotism and the appeal of military triumph. Anyone who objected was treated as a traitor. Secondly, true learning in morality takes time to become part of our lives. Such reactions among young people reflect the gradual stages in moral awareness that are a natural part of human

development. Growth comes with experience and discovering that life does not confirm to one's personal hopes and desires. The question remains: what can we do to help the growth of moral understanding and an ability to learn from life's experiences?

Gospel Teaching

Jesus has a disconcerting habit of turning his listeners' expectations upside down. Immediately Peter has recognised him as being the Christ, Jesus switches the discussion to speaking about his coming sufferings and death. When Peter protests, Jesus rebukes him. In today's Gospel we are still at the start of Luke's account of the public life of Jesus. Jesus has quoted the words of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah and God's kingdom and applied them to himself. The first reaction of his audience is one of approval. However, they have a problem. They know his home background. He is one of them, Joseph's son.

Jesus does not explain. Rather he confronts them with their limitations. He does this by using the scriptures to show how prophets in the past were rejected by their own people and did their miracles for foreigners. This same pattern will happen with him. It is a stark message to express at the beginning of his preaching, and their reaction is one of violence and

rejection. Narrowness of mind will always react with a mixture of anger and fear in the attempt to eliminate the truth being offered. Feeling rejected by Jesus, they will reject him. This time Jesus slips away to safety. That will not always be the case.

Application

There is an assumption made by most of us that if we provide clear instructions, nothing can go wrong. Whether we are telling someone how to get to our house or how to assemble flat-pack furniture, all that is needed is to follow the advice, whether spoken or written. However, often this doesn't work. It doesn't work in our daily chores, and it doesn't work in our spiritual life or the world of moral decisions. We try to take short cuts. We don't listen clearly. We make mistakes. Jesus has no problem with this basic human behaviour. The real problem is when we insist we are still right, when we assume our limited viewpoint is correct and refuse to move on to see things more clearly.

There is not a problem usually with the basic information that we are given or hand on in turn. We do have difficulty moving from a self-centred perspective to a wider understanding, and we have difficulty moving out of our comfort zones to getting to grips with what is really right and true. We spend a lot of time dreaming up

arguments for why our initial view remains the correct one. The wider teaching of the Church can help us to be open to change, but we need the personal inspiration and grace that come from Christ as well as a willingness to learn from the lessons of life.



St Blaise

In accord with various traditions, St. Blaise was born to rich and noble parents, and received a Christian education. He was a physician before being consecrated a bishop at a young age. Although such a statement seems terse, keep in mind that at that time the local community usually nominated a man to be a bishop based on his outstanding holiness and leadership qualities; he in turn was then examined and consecrated by other bishops with the approval of the Holy Father. Therefore, St. Blaise must have been a great witness of our Faith, to say the least.

During the persecution of Licinius, St. Blaise lived as a hermit in a cave. Wild animals visited, and he healed any that were sick and wounded. One day, a group of hunters gathering wild beasts for the game in the amphitheatre discovered St. Blaise and seized him.

While in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Eventually, Agricolaus condemned St. Blaise for upholding his Christian faith rather than apostatising. He was tortured with the iron comb (an instrument designed for

combing wool but was used here for shredding the skin) and finally beheaded. By the sixth century, St. Blaise's intercession was invoked for diseases of the throat in the East.

One reason for St. Blaise's popularity arose from the fact he was a physician who cured, even performing miraculous cures. Thereby, those who were sick, especially with throat ailments, invoked his intercession.

Eventually the custom of the blessing of throats arose. In our present Roman Ritual, the priest prays, "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This practice continues in many parishes on St. Blaise's feast day.

While we invoke St. Blaise for his protection against any physical ailment of the throat, we should also ask his protection against any spiritual ailment - profanity, cursing, unkind remarks, detraction or gossip. St. James reminds us, "If a man who does not control his tongue imagines that he is devout, he is self-deceived; his worship is pointless" (1:26) and later, "We use [the tongue] to say, ' Praised be the Lord and Father'; then we use it to curse men, though they are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This ought not to be, my brothers!" (3:9-10). Therefore, may St. Blaise protect us from all evil, physical and spiritual, which may attack the throat.

Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 7th February Week 5 in Ordinary Time Year C			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Welcomer(s)	Cooper Family	Patrick Walesby	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1st Reading	Fran Smallwood	Clare Wichbold	Margaret Rose
2nd Reading	Richard Batho		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Fran Grant		Deacon Eddie
Offertory	Ramage-Hill Family	Frances Wood & Anthea Morton-Saner	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Julia Davey		Monica Russell
Next Sunday - Parish Outreach			

<p><i>The Pathway of the Psalms</i> <i>The Lent Retreat</i> <i>February Monday 8 - Thurs 11</i> <i>3 days Reg fee £28</i> <i>Dom Brendan and Dom David</i></p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 31 Jan	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	31-Jan	Pat Wood & Mary Wood
	07-Feb	Jackie King & Rachel Cowdrey
	14-Feb	Marje Hayes & Monica Russell
21-Feb	A Morawiecki & R Blackburn	

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

Deaths: John Keeler and Lil Green

Anniversaries: Margarita Doverman, Mary Jenkins, James Rosser, James Smith, Clotilde Woods, Henry Maddison, Kevin Hickman, Basil Lyon, Dom Paulinus Lyon osb, Doris Spencer, Timothy Desmond, Ethel Holtom, Hannah Holtom, Susan Lewis, John Smith, Elizabeth Snead, Ethel Spalding. Frank Evans, Emmalina Russell, Di Smith, Charles Bray, Ernest Mertz, Edith Rice- Jones, Mary Riddell, Josie Brown, Elizabeth Harbourne, Frank McEntegart and Maria Mecina.

The Sick: Please pray for Kenny Hanna, John Wallin, Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Mary Carroll, 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.

Belmont Abbey Parish is part of Belmont Abbey Mission Trust (Registered Charity - 226277)

Liturgy for Sunday 31st January

Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 2 (OT Wk 4)

<p><i>ORDINARY TIME Week 4</i></p>	<p>Entrance: Save us, O 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>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: 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>
---	---

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Annette Mansie	Nickerson Family	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Stephen Fisher
1st Reading	Adrian Eyre	Paul Nickhold	Jane Davies
2nd Reading	Julia Davey		Peter Davies
Bidding Prayer	Liz Norman		Tony Archer
Offertory	Childrens' Liturgy	Margaret Campbell & Teresa Harriss	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes		Gabrielle Stanley
Mass Intention	Jennifer Snell RIP	Pro Populo	
Second Collection : <i>Parish Outreach</i>			
Collect Tesco Vouchers this week.			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Presentation of the Lord : No Mass at 8:00 am; Profession Mass at 11:30 am.
Wed	St Blaise: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	St Agatha: Mass at 8:00 am - Exposition & Midday Mass in Abbey Church
Sat	St Paul Miki & Comp: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00