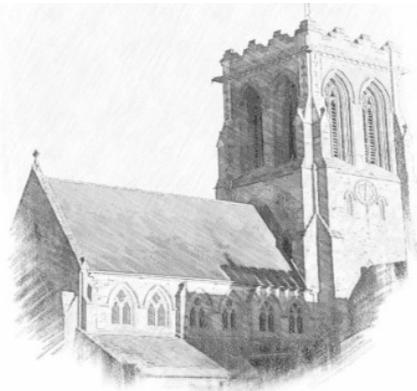


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**4 February 2018
5 Sunday in OT**

PARISH PRIEST

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Marriage Week UK celebrates the diversity and vibrancy of marriage as the basis for family life in the UK. It is timed to include Valentine's Day (7th – 14th Feb 2011) and has been held every year since 1997.

Marriage remains incredibly popular – over 90% of young people in the UK aspire to be married at some point in the future, and the large majority will achieve this. Although the popular view is that marriages don't last, two out of every three first marriages will last until one partner dies, and one in two second or subsequent marriages will also last a lifetime. The Divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1000 married couples) has remained virtually static since the early 1980's.

Let us support and build up the ties of family and marriage through our example, prayers and the help and support we offer to couples we know. The second collection today is for Marriage Care and their work to support married life especially since their government funding was slashed last year.

Sorry! No Wednesday Midday Mass again this week.

Fr Nicholas

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

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£243.27
	Standing Orders	£501.23
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£313.20
The 2 nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for: St Barnabas Society. Thank You!		



Parish Outreach

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project, SPUC, St Barnabas Society and the local Acorns Children's Hospice. Thank you. This month there will be the annual collections for Marriage Care (4 & 11 Feb), Mary's Meals (18 Feb) and Cafod (25 Feb).



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you have a relative or fellow parishioner in hospital and they would like to be visited by Fr Matthew, please contact him with the details on 01432 265177 or fr.matthew@live.co.uk.



EMMAUS YOUTH

The dates for the next few meetings of Emmaus Youth are 17 February and 17 March at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 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



Lenten Station Mass celebrated by Archbishop Stack at Our Lady's Church on Tuesday 13 March 7 pm.



Deanery Meeting at Our Lady's Hall to discuss our parishes' response to World Day of the Poor. Tuesday 20 February 6 pm.



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

6 February

Diamond Diners
Three Horseshoes
12:45 pm

9 February

Church Cleaning
9:00 am

17 February

Emmaus Youth
OLQM Parish Hall
2:30 pm

20 February

Tea & Chat
Parish Hall
2:30 pm

13 March

Station Mass
OLQM 6:00 pm



**Walsingham Pilgrimage 2018
Friday 18 May - Monday 21 May**

Three nights full board, en-suite room and all travel. Optional excursion to Castle Acre Priory. Leave Belmont at 10 am on Friday and return 6:30 pm on Monday. Cost:£245 per person.

For further details and booking contact: Menna MacBain, Kitten Gate, Marden, HR1 3EX. Tel: 01568 797077.



**Wales and the Marches Catholic
History Society**

Our next talk will be at St. David's RC Sixth Form College, Tygwyn Rd., Cardiff on Sunday February 4th at 3 pm. Dr. Robert Matthews: Roman Catholicism in South Wales at a time of persecution 1559 - 1679

Dr. Robert Matthews lectures in Early Modern History at the Open University, and specialises in 16th and 17th century religious history. His MA and PhD degrees were both on Roman Catholicism in Monmouthshire in the 17th century. Everyone is very welcome to attend. Further details from Tricia Coulthard: 029 2059 5899: triciacoulthard@outlook.com



OUR LADY'S PARISH LENT COURSE - *"Let It Be Done to Me According to Your Word."* A Lent course of 5 sessions, pondering how Mary helps us to be filled with God. Each session involving a video presentation, discussion, prayer and refreshments. Wednesdays of Lent beginning 21st

February in the parish room at 7pm, and the next 4 Wednesday evenings.



Homily

"Filmed around the world with well-known experts and down-to-earth testimonies about how the example and prayer of Mary can help us grow in our everyday faith. As part of the course you will get your own Let It Be Book which includes the main content of the film plus lots of useful follow-on info and optional daily prayer reflections." For more info see: www.faithcafe.org

"He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another."

Illustration

Are you an optimist or a pessimist? Do you tend to see a ray of light or a cloud of darkness? The French philosopher René Descartes wrote, "The optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?" It is easy to be overwhelmed by the misery in the world if every day we watch the news with its constant diet of war, violence and tragedy. We can be crushed by the sheer amount of suffering. Or it may be by our own personal sense of darkness.



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



CAFOD Lent Fast Day Briefing

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Hall
Monday 5 February 2018 - 10 am -
Please join us for coffee and learn more about Zimbabwe.

This is what happened to Blessed John Henry Newman. In 1833 he was becalmed at sea near Sardinia and felt worn down by sickness and depression. But there he prayed for light in what has become a well-known hymn: "Lead, kindly light, amidst th' encircling gloom, lead thou me on; the night is dark, and I am far from home, lead thou me on. Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step enough for me."



Gospel Teaching

Job, in today's first reading, does not seem able to pray like that, with hope. He is feeling the misery of the world. He is pessimistic about life. For most people it is sheer drudgery. In his sickness he lies on his bed and feels a terrible restlessness as he waits for morning and then frets till evening falls. And when we turn to the Gospel we see how the crowds who suffer like Job are drawn out of their despair by the healing touch of Jesus.

Here is a light in the gloom. Jesus has announced the kingdom and is now healing sick people and casting out devils from those who are possessed. This is exactly why he has come – to preach a message of hope to a suffering world. Jesus teaches but so often he has to reach out to touch the sick people who are pressing about him for healing. Much of Mark's Gospel is taken up with his miracles of healing because this is what a wounded world demands. Some are dramatic exorcisms but others, as we hear today, are small, more domestic cures. In Simon's house he goes to the disciple's mother-in-law, lying with fever on her bed. He takes her by the hand, helps her up and she is healed and given new hope. But Jesus does not want to be seen just as a wonder-worker. His healing goes deeper. He forgives sin and heals spiritual sickness. And then at the end

of his life he shares our suffering by identifying with those who are poor and outsiders. He undergoes their fate by being crucified between two criminals. It is only on the cross after he has suffered that Jesus will gain the full recognition of being both Messiah and Son of God.

Application

In a society which highly values those who are young, healthy and rich, the acknowledgement of sickness and even death is not always welcome. But the Bible has no qualms about facing these realities. It tells us outright that we are mortal and gives us permission to lament our suffering just as Job did. Jesus confronts the misery of the world head-on. He makes the healing of sick people central to his ministry. By entering fully into the misery of the world through his cross and resurrection Jesus becomes for us a source of healing. Optimism is a feeling that things will get better, but Christian hope is rooted in a person who has triumphed over death.

In the light of that hope we can pray to God for healing in many ways. God works through the skill of the doctors and nurses in modern hospitals. But the Lord works as well in our communities through his presence among us, especially through the sacraments of healing. In baptism we

are washed clean, in confirmation we are strengthened in the Spirit and in the sacrament of the sick Christ continues his healing work among us through the laying on of hands. And today, as we come to Mass, we are fed with the bread of life in Holy Communion. But we are also healed, as Peter's mother-in-law was, by care in our homes through the loving concern of our fellow Christians. Healing is not always dramatic but, as Newman discovered, we are called to walk slowly in hope: "one step enough for me".

† † † † †

*Be still
and know
that I am
God*
-PSALM 46:10

† † † † †

Pope Francis' Prayer for Countering Fake News

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgments.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds of goodness for the world.

Where there is shouting, let us practice listening;

Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;

Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;

Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;

Where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;

Where is superficiality, let us raise real questions;

Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;

Where there is hostility, let us bring respect;

Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

Amen

Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 11 February 2018 - 6 Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B Cycle 2

	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Anne Stapleton	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Julia Davey	Polly Maund-Powell	Pat Draper
2 nd Reading	Jacqui Ramage-S		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayers	Liz Norman		Jane Davies
Offertory	Parish Children	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Rob Corrigan & Jan Wyman

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach - Marriage Care

<p>Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.</p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	04-Feb	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	11-Feb	Pat Wood & Jan Wyman
	18-Feb	Andrew M & Pauline Gill
	25-Feb	Jackie King & Mary Wood
	04-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 4 Feb)

Deaths: Phillip Cook, Rebecca Dykes, Philomena Nicholas and Sister Mary Clare

Anniversaries: Emmalina Russell, Di Smith, Charles Bray, Ernest Mertz, Edith Rice-Jones, Mary Riddell, Josie Brown, Elizabeth Harbourne, Maria Mecina, Tom Supple, Florry Caine, Eileen Egan, Elizabeth Croton, Joe Schofield, Norah Gethen, Agnes Ward, Mary Carroll, Philip Davies and Dominic Sterckx.

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

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

<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<p>Entrance: O come let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men for he satisfies the thirsty soul and the hungry he fills with good things.</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	Hayes Family	Phyll Buckley	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacy
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Clare Nickerson	Sally Johns
2 nd Reading	Anne Jackson		Lucy Reed
Bidding Prayer	Richard Batho		Pat Wood
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Jacqui Ramage-S & Kath Parry		Chris Moore & Monica Russell
Mass Intention		<i>Pro Populo</i>	
Second Collection - Marriage Care			
Food Bank Collection: Kath Parry			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	St Agatha: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	St Paul Miki and Comp: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: NO Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	St Teilo: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 and Midday Mass
Sat	St Scholastica: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00