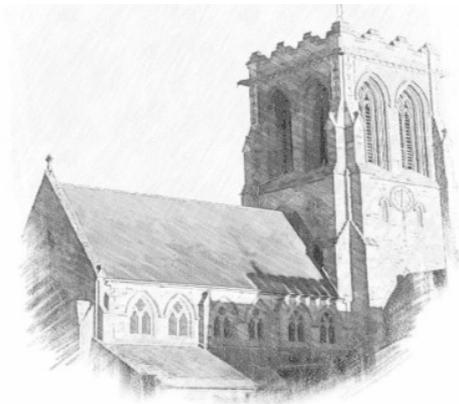


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th March

1st Sunday in Lent

PARISH PRIEST

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Items for the Newsletter to
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Welcome to Lent! The word itself means 'springtime'. So, it's a time for new life, for fresh beginnings and growth. Lent is a good time for us to consider how much we are doing to reflect Christ's presence in our world. There are plenty of different things going on during Lent in the Hereford Parishes. Visit the parish or deanery website for more information.

It's often said that Catholics aren't greatly familiar with the intricacies of their faith. We have "faith", we go to Church and we help out in the parish or community as best we can. If this is true, it's even truer of the familiarity or lack of it, which we have with our **Church's Social Teaching**. The Catholic Church has a wealth of teaching and documents covering a vast area of subjects and issues, and most of it is totally unknown by most of us! During Lent, I propose to highlight in the weekly newsletter a few areas of this social teaching which is so important to us and the gospel message which we live and proclaim. In so many ways it is our 'Faith in Action'.

This Friday is the Cafod Lenten Fast day and we're invited to share the abundance of God's creation with our brothers and sisters across the world.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£278.07
	Standing Orders	£412.50
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£368.64
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 Parish Outreach: Malawi - Thank You!		

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Second Collection – Parish Outreach

In February we supported the local Vennture charity in their religious based work looking after vulnerable young people in Hereford. There was also a collection for Marriage Care and one supporting aid projects in Malawi. In March there will be Second Collections for CAFOD (12th March), Aid to the Church in Need (19th March) and for the Poor & Homeless.

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Beloved Disciples

We will be offering a series of talks and discussions aimed at the over 60's and looking at faith and spirituality in "The Autumn of Life". These informal programmes will run over four weekly sessions during Lent and each will last approximately one and a half hours, with time for questions, discussion

and conversation over tea and biscuits. The first session will be on Wednesday, 8th March at 2:30 pm in Belmont Abbey Parish Centre. Do come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon. For more information please contact Jan Wyman on 01432 263575.

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As an experiment coffee and tea will be available in Hedley Lodge after both the 8.30 and 9.30 Masses. Coffee after the 11 am Mass will continue to be in the Parish Centre.

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The Wednesday Midday Masses during Lent will be in the Church to accommodate the larger number of people joining us for the Lenten Days of Recollection.

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Herefordshire & Belmont Abbey Walsingham Group

Pilgrimage to Walsingham - 5th to 8th May 2017. From £195 per person to include all travel and half-board accommodation. There are still a few places available. For further information contact Menna MacBain on 01568 797077.

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Lent Study Lunches at Ewyas Harold:
Living an Authentic Life

On five Thursdays beginning 9th March at 12.30 in the Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall. (With soup lunch first)

through exploring the rich spirituality of the Carmelite tradition.

Morning Coffee 10.00, Talk 10.30, Mass 12.00, 1.00 Simple Bread and Soup lunch; Talk 2.00; Finishes with Tea 3.30pm. Suggested Offering £10, including soup lunch.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 March
First Holy Communion Class
10:30 am

21 March
Tea & Chat
2:30 pm Parish Hall

30 March
Station Mass
OLQM at 7:00 pm

1 April
Jumble Sale At OLQM
12:00

8 March

The Springs of Mount Carmel
Dom David

15 March

The Passion of St Thérèse
Dom Brendan

22 March

John of the Cross:
Living Flame of Love
Abbot Paul

29 March

Teresa of Avila,
Daughter of the Church
Dom Bernard

5 April

Edith Stein:
The Science of the Cross
Dom Andrew



The Fires of Mount Carmel

Since the time of Elijah, Jews and Christians on Mount Carmel have lived praiseworthy lives in holy penitence, a spirit which has been spread throughout the world. During Lent we deepen our devotions

**Our Lady's Parish -
Hot Meals for the Needy**

Our Lady's parish is planning to join other local churches in providing hot meals to those in need. We plan to do this starting after Easter, every Saturday lunchtime from noon till 1.00 pm, beginning with soup, sandwiches and hot drinks. We will need lots of volun-

teers to do this, each one committed to one Saturday session per month. If interested please contact Fr. Matthew on 265177, or come to the next meeting about this on Monday 6th March at 7.00pm in the parish room at Our Lady's.



What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Catholic Social Teaching is a collection of teachings that are designed to reflect the Church's social mission in response to the challenges of the day. The teachings are founded in scripture and includes statements and letters written by popes and bishops and reflections on Christian tradition. This tradition calls all members of the Church, rich and poor alike, to work to eliminate the occurrence and effect of poverty, to speak out against injustice, and to shape a more caring society and a more peaceful world.

The work for social justice is first and foremost a work of faith, a profoundly religious task. It is Jesus who calls us to this mission, not any political or ideological agenda. We as Catholics are called to bring the healing hand of Christ to those in need.

Catholic Social Teaching is based on the belief that God has a plan for creation, a plan to build his kingdom of peace, love and justice. It holds that God has a special place in this story for each of us, whoever we are.

Our part in this plan isn't just limited to things 'spiritual', or things we might do on Sundays, but that it involves every aspect of our lives, from the things we pray about, to how we live as a responsible global citizens. Our part in this story is a kind-of vocation for the common good, a call to treat everyone as our brothers and sisters and is something that we all share. Catholic Social Teaching is the tradition of papal reflection about how we live this vocation for the common good in our world.

Catholic Social Teaching touches upon many different aspects of life, from the family to international development, how we think of those who are homeless to how we care for the environment, and from how we shop and consume to the rights of workers and the dignity of work. All the different areas that Catholic Social Teaching touches upon have developed from practical reflection on the realities of modern life in the light of the principles and themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

The Church has always had social teaching and the most fundamental source is the Bible. There was also the tradition of the Church Fathers in such areas as ownership of property, the just war and the charging of interest. In its modern form, however, Catholic Social Teaching first emerged at the

end of the nineteenth century with Pope Leo XIII's encyclical letter, *Rerum Novarum*, a response to the injustices of the Industrial Revolution and the threat of Communism. Since then, a wealth of teaching continues to give new life to the Scriptures and shape the Church's response to our modern world.

Catholic Social Teaching shows how Catholic faith can guide our responses to modern day issues. Indeed, our world so often seems ruled by greed and corruption. But Catholic Social Teaching undermines self-interest. *Gaudium et Spes* (the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) states that "*God intended the earth with everything contained in it for the use of all human beings and peoples... goods should be in abundance for all in like manner*" [#69]. We have a clear duty actively to share resources and strive for justice for our brothers and sisters. Since we believe each person is made in the image and likeness of God and has inherent dignity, we should all seek to work with those living in poverty to have access to food, water, housing and other basic amenities which many of us can often take for granted.

Catholic social teaching is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world and the principles include **dignity, solidarity, common good, option for the poor,**

peace, creation and environment, the dignity of work and participation.

Next week, we will begin to look at these principles of Church teaching and how we can respond to the gospel in our modern times.



HOMILY

"Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall."

Illustration

Lent, invites to focus on our spiritual lives and keep track of the spiritual well-being of our heart. We can become more aware of the ways in which we are selfish, stubborn and concerned about ourselves rather than others. It is a time when we can learn how we are tempted and recognise that we sometimes feel unhappy and ashamed as a result of those petty, sinful ways that we tend to return to again and again.

Gospel Teaching

The story of the Fall, which we heard in today's first reading, endlessly fascinates us because it is also the story of Everyman and Everywoman, of each one of us. At some points in our life we all face the possibility of a fall when we are tempted to "be like gods". It may occur though the betrayal of a person we love, through a lie that has serious effects, or a business practice that destroys other people for the advancement of our

own career or for the sake of profit. Then we are like our first parents, Adam and Eve, who chose to go against God and to be satisfied by eating fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The story tells us that the serpent tempts Eve, who then tempts Adam. Both wish to be like gods and choose for themselves. The effects of sin bring about the downfall of others. The results are disastrous; the relationship with God is broken, their own relationship is damaged and they feel shame. They find it hard to look at each other. They will be expelled from the Garden of Eden, and will need to work for their living and experience the suffering of hard labour and toil.

Remarkably God does not forget them and is abundantly merciful to them, because God wants them to find a way back into God's love. In an ancient legend, Adam and Eve's third son, Seth, later returns to the gates of the garden and asks God's angel to help them. The angel gives Seth some seeds, one of which he places in the mouth of Adam as he lies dying. From this seed God will bring about the new Adam, Christ, who will be born of the Virgin Mary. He will be tempted but will conquer the devil. We receive the hope that we can do the same with God's grace. God is always planting new seeds in our hearts. The

Lord forgives us when we return to him in the sacrament of reconciliation and our hearts are cleansed.

Application

Lent is about the expansion of the heart so that it becomes more loving and generous. Just as the heart muscle benefits from exercise, so our spiritual heart benefits from Lenten observances and practices.

First, prayer opens the heart and helps us to listen to God's word. When we allow the word to echo in our hearts and to penetrate down into its depths, it will help us to grow in knowledge of God's mercy and love. Second, the invitation to fast expands our hearts so that we become more aware of the ways that we so often focus on satisfying our own needs and desires rather than being willing to open our hearts to our neighbour. Fasting can make us more grateful for what we have received and more generous to others in their need. Third, we can develop our Lenten exercises by giving to others, especially through almsgiving and charitable works. This exercise helps us to focus on the needs of our neighbour. By the end of Lent, with plenty of exercise, our spiritual heart will be in better shape and more ready to resist temptation and place its trust in God.



Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 12 March- 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A - Cycle 1

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Anne Stapleton	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Julia Dave	Basil Nickerson	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Lucy Reed
Bidding Prayers	Adrian Eyre		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Hayes Family	Maria Large & Teresa Harriss	
Extraordinary Ministers	Frances Dees & Fran Smallwood		Margaret Rose & David Wood

Next Sunday - Cafod

<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	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	05-Mar	Jacqui Moore & Mary Wood
	12-Mar	Pat Wood & Rachel Cowdrey
	19-Mar	Andrew M & Rob Blackburn
	26-Mar	Jackie King & Monica Russell
02-Apr	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 5 Mar)

Deaths: Tom Supple, Gordon Wilson, Bridgid Smith, and Cornelius Linehan.

Anniversaries: Monica Devlin, Anna Panniers, Dom Bruno Reynolds, Ted Edwards, Catherine Ramlall, Molly Brooks, Mary Clay, Bridget O'Toole, Michel Power, John Spolnik, Gertrude Crump, Mabel Powell, Peter Warhurst, Sue Ball, Christopher Haan, Donald Halliday, Valerie Skiba, Harry Sargeant and Mary Jones

The Sick: Please pray for: Jennifer Hackman, Betty Murray, Maureen Toner, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, 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 5th March 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p>1st Sunday</p> <p>In</p> <p>Lent</p>	<p>Entrance: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death</p> <p>Communion: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.

	08:30 am	09:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Liz Norman	Desmond Keohane	Hackman Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Clare Wichbold	Gabrielle Stanley
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Niamh Coyle
Bidding Prayer	Jacqui R-Smith		Sally Johns
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Julia Davey		Chris Moore & Jan Wyman
Mass Intention	Monica Mundell RIP	Pro Populo	Teresa Higgins RIP

Second Collection - Parish Outreach

Food Bank Delivery: John Goodall-Copestake

What's On for the week

Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass Church: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition 11:00 Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am