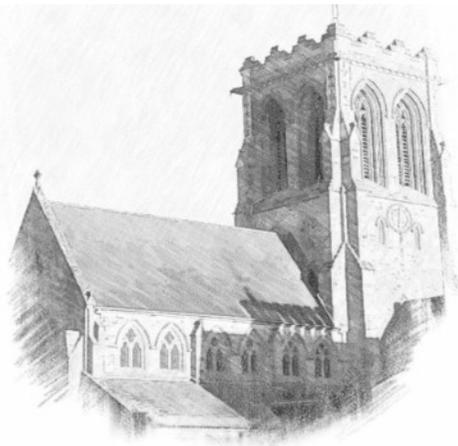


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

4th Sunday of Lent

6th March 2016
(Cycle C)

PARISH PRIEST

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Safeguarding Representative
Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

Items for the Newsletter to
admin@belmontparish.org.uk
or The Parish Office

This Thursday Archbishop Stack will be celebrating the deanery Lenten Station Mass at Belmont Abbey at 7 pm. The Mass will have special significance as the archbishop wishes to celebrate the Mass as part of the Holy Year of Mercy.

The fourth Sunday in Lent derives its Latin name from the first word of the Mass Entrance Antiphon, "*Laetare Jerusalem*" (Rejoice, O Jerusalem). It is a day of joy within the penitential season. The altars may be decorated with flowers, organ playing is permitted, and the priests may wear rose-coloured vestments instead of purple, all symbolizing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection. It's also Mothering Sunday, so we wish all mothers a very special and relaxing day.

Don't forget on Palm Sunday (20th March) there are only two Sunday Masses at Belmont Abbey - **8.30 & 10.00** am only. The Abbot will preside at the 10 am Pontifical High Mass, which, because of the long liturgy, replaces the 9.30 & 11 am Masses. Blessed Palms will of course be available at the 8.30 am Parish Mass

The organisers of the Parish Jumble sale, next Saturday 12th March, are looking for volunteers to help on the day. They are also looking for a few cakes to help stock the Tea Room. Thank you.

Fr Nicholas

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|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Last Sunday's | 1st Collection | £294.37 |
| | Standing Orders | £438.00 |

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

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|--|----------------|----------------|
| | 2nd Collection | £298.42 |
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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 **Hereford Food Bank**. Thank you.



TEA & CHAT

The next four dates for Tea and Chat are, Tuesday March 15th, Tuesday April 19th, Tuesday May 17th and Tuesday June 21st. Anyone who would like to meet others over a drink and slice of cake, and a good chat will be very welcome. These meetings are proving very popular so don't be shy come along, bring your knitting or anything else and enjoy the company of others. All meetings start at 2.30 pm and finish around 4.00 pm.

Margaret Rose



REFUGEE CRISIS

A huge thank you to all who supported our plea for help for the refugees; we have had a wonderful amount of items and last week we saw a minibus loaded up ready to go to Chepstow and then on to Syria in a container lorry; most of the items were from Belmont parishioners. We now have enough money to send a minibus to Calais/Dunkirk. We will keep collecting items and delivering them to Leominster for as long as donations are coming in, but please make sure that you label them, as items for the jumble sale are also being collected.

Jacqui & Rob Corrigan



JUMBLE SALE

The next Jumble Sale will be this Saturday, March 12 at OLQM Parish Hall. We would be grateful for volunteers to join us on Friday to help set up and on Saturday Morning to finish setting up and to help with the Jumble in the afternoon . Both times at 10 am at the Hall. Many thanks for the all the jumble we received. We hope to see

you on Friday and Saturday! Would those of you who make those delicious cakes - please make some for our cake table. Many thanks!



Lent Study Lunches at Ewyas Harold:

Migration & Movement

On five Thursdays beginning 18th February at 12 noon in the Ewyas Harold Baptist Hall (With soup lunch from 1 pm - donations)



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Items for Refugees

Please only bring these to the Parish Centre on a Sunday Morning!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 9 March
Lenten day of Recollection
10 am to 4 pm

Thursday 10th March 7 pm
Lenten Station Mass
celebrated by Archbishop Stack
at Belmont Abbey

Saturday 12 March 1:30 pm
Jumble Sale
OLQM

Tuesday 15 March
Tea & Chat
2:30 to 4:00

Friday 4 March
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

Sunday 22 May
Confirmation Mass
11:00 am

Queen's Jubilee Picnic
12 June

Belmont Grand Fete
18 June

Grandparents and
Grandchildren's Day
16 July





**Wednesdays
in Lent at
Belmont Abbey
St Paul and his Communities**

Throughout his lifetime Paul, the apostle to the gentiles, travelled widely across the then known world, founding churches and building up relationships with those that already existed. During Lent we examine Paul's relationship with five very different Christian communities.

*Wednesday 9th March: Ephesus:
Dom Andrew*

*Wednesday 16th March: Philippi:
Abbot Paul*

Morning Coffee 10.00, Talk 10.30, Mass at 12 noon. 1.00 Simple Bread & Soup Lunch. Talk 2.00. Afternoon Tea 3.30 pm. Suggested Offering £10.00. Includes Lunch.



Anne Thomas

Would like it to be known that she will be residing, until further notice, at Gwen Walford House, 48-50 Hampton Park Rd, Hereford HR1 1TH. Phone: 01432 272418. Anne would be

very pleased to receive visitors but please avoid lunch time (Noon to 1:30pm) and tea time (4:30 to 5:15pm)



PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Spaces still available on Our Lady's Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 12th-19th August, flying from Stanstead. Organised by Tangey Tours, led by Fr. Matthew. Cost £630, all inclusive. More info from Fr. Matthew 265177.



HOMILY

"Then he came to his senses."

Illustration

Ravensbrück was the only major Nazi concentration camp specifically for women. Between 1939 and 1945, over a hundred and thirty thousand women and children passed through the camp. Up to fifty thousand are estimated to have died in the camp itself, perhaps even more. It is thought that more women died because of disease, starvation and overwork than in the gas chambers themselves. An unknown prisoner wrote what has come to be known

as the Ravensbrück prayer, found scrawled on a piece of wrapping paper when the camp was liberated by Soviet troops. It runs:

“Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill, but all those of ill will. Do not only remember all the sufferings they have subjected us to. Instead, remember the fruits we brought forth thanks to this suffering – our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, our courage and generosity, the greatness of heart that all of this inspired. And when they come to judgement, let all those fruits we have borne be their forgiveness.”

The Ravensbrück prayer asks God to remember all people – good and bad alike. It does not ask for vengeance but that God remember not just their sufferings but also their humanity, which survived through it all – in their friendship, loyalty and courage. The prayer bravely asks that this sacred remembrance bear the fruit of forgiveness.

Gospel Teaching

Remembering is at the heart of today’s readings – the kind of

remembering that is healing, life-giving. In the first reading, the people of Israel have kept alive the memory of home amidst the long years of slavery in Egypt. They have arrived at the borders of the promised land, ready to come home. The Lord has remembered his ancient promise to Abraham to grant his descendants this land, and the people, too, have remembered their covenant with God. Their dignity as God’s people is restored.

We see the same dynamic at work in the Gospel story of the so-called prodigal son, though with a twist. The younger son is indeed prodigal – wasteful and dissolute. He has forgotten his father, his family and even his faith as he is reduced to working as a swineherd – something no faithful Jew would consider. It is there, at his lowest ebb, that he “comes to his senses”: he remembers, and the key thing he remembers is his father – his father’s house, his father’s goodness, his father’s love. It proves to be a saving memory for the boy as he returns home to seek his father’s forgiveness. But it is in fact the Father who proves to be prodigal – in the sense of extravagant – running out to meet

his son, embracing him and restoring his dignity in the symbols of the ring, the robe and the sandals.

The twist is that Jesus told this story to the scribes and Pharisees who were grumbling that Jesus was mixing with tax collectors and sinners and eating with them. They are represented in the figure of the elder son who cannot countenance forgiving the younger son. He can only remember the wrongs his brother has committed, and so he is unable to forgive.

Application

We are invited to bring resolution to this unfinished story. It is unfinished because we do not know what the elder son did next. The father stands outside the house pleading with him to enter and join the celebration. As the camera fades out, we are left wondering what the elder son will do, and more importantly: what will I do? Jesus poses this startling challenge to us: will you embrace the way of forgiveness in your own life, and so join the celebration of God's mercy, or do you prefer to stay outside, clinging to your memory of hurts, anger and offences?

This year is a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis invites us to come in and join the celebration of God's prodigal, extravagant mercy. The motto of this Jubilee Year is "Merciful like the Father", and we are invited "not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure". Pope Francis is fond of saying that God never tires of offering us mercy; it is we who tire of asking for it. God is indeed a prodigal Father who today pleads with each of us not to remember our hurts, but rather to remember God's love and join in the dance of God's mercy.



Mid-Lent, *mi-carême*, or *mediana*; and Mothering Sunday, in allusion to the Epistle, which indicates our right to be called the sons of God as the source of all our joy, and also because formerly the faithful used to make their offerings in the cathedral or mother-church on this day. This latter name is still kept up in some remote parts of England, though the reason for it has ceased to exist.



| Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 13 March: 5th Sunday of Lent Year C | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 8:30 am | 9:30 am | 11:00 am |
| Welcomer(s) | Hayes Family | Anne Stapleton | Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell |
| Sacristan | | | Rob Corrigan |
| 1st Reading | Julia Davey | Brenda Warde | Jacqui Corrigan |
| 2nd Reading | William Jackson | | Jane Davies |
| Bidding Prayer | Ann Jackson | | Peter Davies |
| Offertory | Children's Liturgy | Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit | |
| Extra-Ordinary Minister(s) | Frances Dees & Fran Smallwood | | Monica Tomlin |
| Next Sunday - Parish Outreach | | | |

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|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 10 am - 4 pm Day of Recollection with Mass Lenten Lunch Confessions 2.30 pm - 3:30 pm Wednesday 9 March | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | |
| | 8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 13 Mar | |
| | 11.00 am Liturgy | |
| | 06-Mar | Jacqui Corrigan & Mary Wood |
| | 13-Mar | Pat Wood & Rachel Cowdrey |
| | 20-Mar | Jacqui Moore & Jan Wyman |
| 27-Mar | Jackie King & Monica Russell | |

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

Deaths: Mary Carroll, John Wallin, Henry Worsley, Sheila Kinsey and John Keeler

Anniversaries: Ted Edwards, Catherine Ramlall, Molly Brooks, Mary Clay, Mgr Paul Hook, Bridget O'Toole, Michel Power, John Spolnik, Richard Young, Gertrude Crump, Margaret Elliman, Mabel Powell, Peter Warhurst, Christopher Haan, Donald Halliday, William Prosser, Valerie Skiba, Mary Jones, Harry Sargeant, Bernadette Doverman and Michael Veale.

The Sick: Please pray for Margaret O'Connor, Sue Ball, Kenny Hanna, Peter Lee, Fr Luke, Shirley Brymer, Valerie Blake, Sr Trish, Edward Medlicott, 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 6th March Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2

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| <p><i>LAETARE SUNDAY 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT</i></p> | <p>Entrance: Rejoice, Jerusalem and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.</p> |
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| Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc. | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 8:30 am | 9:30 am | 11:00 am |
| Celebrant | Fr Nicholas | | Fr Nicholas |
| Welcomer | Kath Parry | Desmond Keohane | Rita Chamberlain & Brenda Sherwood |
| Sacristan | | | Tony Archer |
| 1st Reading | Fran Smallwood | Polly Maund-Powell | Jennifer Hackman |
| 2nd Reading | Fran Grant | | Gabrielle Stanley |
| Bidding Prayer | Mary Hayes | | Margaret Rose |
| Offertory | Ramage-Hill Family | Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit | |
| Extra-Ordinary Minister(s) | Seamus Hayes & Kath Parry | | Chris Moore |
| Mass Intention | Brooks Family RIP | Pro Populo | Teresa Higgins RIP |
| Second Collection : <i>Parish Outreach</i> | | | |
| Food Bank Delivery: Kath Parry | | | |

| <i>What's On for the week</i> | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mon | Feria: Mass at 8:00 am |
| Tue | Feria: Mass at 8:00 am - |
| Wed | Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Abbey. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm. |
| Thu | Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Lenten Station Mass 7 pm |
| Fri | Feria: Mass at 8:00 am Exposition at 11-12 and Midday Mass in Oratory |
| Sat | Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 |