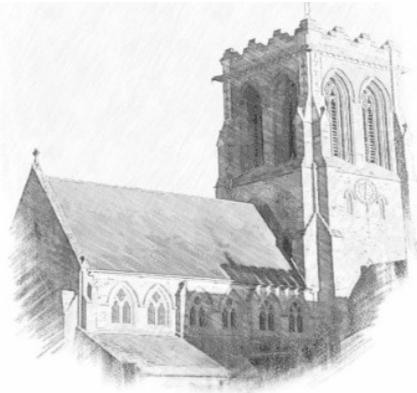


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

6 May 2018

6th Sunday of Easter

PARISH PRIEST

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The Gospel readings over the last few weeks have been taken from the so called 'Farewell Discourses' in St John's Gospel when Jesus talks to his closest disciples immediately after the Last Supper. The discourses look through and beyond the death of Jesus to his glorification with the Father and the release of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promises them the gift of the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit – "who will teach you everything". He reminds them all to follow his Way and his commandments but above all, to remain in his love.

The month of May is traditionally known as "*the month of Mary*" and is dedicated to honouring the most holy Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The annual Devotion in honour of Our Lady at Belmont Abbey, takes place this year on Wednesday 16th May at 9 pm

Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and a holy day of obligation and commemorates when Our Lord ascended into heaven after completing his earthly mission. The times of Masses are listed overleaf but please note the new revised time of the Vigil Mass at 7 pm.

Fr Nicholas

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

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Last | 1 st Collection | £270.57 |
| Sunday's | Standing Orders | £581.00 |

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

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| | 2 nd Collection | £284.39 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------|

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 **Syrian refugees. Thank You**



Please sponsor **Emily** Shortland-Hayes on her World Challenge Volunteering Expedition by going to the **Ladies & Children's Fashion Show** Friday 11 May at Madley Village Hall, 7 for 7:30 pm. £5 admittance with a drink at the door. Thank You.



Hereford Hospital Chaplaincy

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit from Fr Matthew, please let him know on 01432 265177 / fr.matthew@live.co.uk.



If you cannot get to Mass- remember that you can go to our website to find out what is going on in the parish.

Website address is on the first page.



The winners of the 150 Club Draw in April are:

- 1st Steve Gill
- 2nd Jim Donovan
- 3rd Jeanette Livermore



EMMAUS YOUTH - The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is Saturday 12th May, from 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



We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Clive Richards who was recently made a Papal Knight of the Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great for his services and support to the Catholic Church, especially in Herefordshire and the Archdiocese of Cardiff.



The parish library has been re-organised for the use of parishioners. It would be appreciated that books on

"long term" loan be returned for the benefit of other parishioners. Many tnx. Eddie Wyman



It will link in with the Archdiocesan Caritas group and also help to promote the annual "World day of the Poor." All welcome. Fr. Matthew - Our Lady's. (01432 265177.)

Red Boxes

Please hand your red boxes in as soon possible to your promoter or to me, Mandy, at the 8:30 Mass. Thank you.



Cafod invites parishioners to go along to Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs in Hereford for a brief presentation on **Share the Journey** on Tuesday 8 May at 6 pm. Share the Journey is a global campaign launched by Pope Francis because at the end of this year (in September and December) the UN will agree two new agreements (known as compacts) which will shape how countries respond to migrants and refugees for years to come.



Caritas Deanery Meeting

The next meeting of this Deanery group is on Tuesday 15th May at 6 pm in Our Lady's Parish room, Belmont Rd, Hereford, followed by mass at 7 pm This group is attempting to promote and co-ordinate the work done in the Deanery with those in need, in particular work done in local food banks, SVP groups and by parish visitors and Extraordinary ministers etc.



Dates for your diary

15 May

Tea & Chat
Parish Hall
2:30 pm

16 May

Torchlight Procession
9:00 pm

18 May

Church Cleaning
9:00 am

16 June

Garden Fete
2:00 pm



The Fete

We are now looking for bric-a-brac, books, good condition children's toys and only clean and in very good condition clothes. We can no longer take "rags" as we have no way of disposing of them. We also cannot take electrical goods for the fete, as customers cannot test them in the

tent. We also need items that can be used for the Grand Tombola, so if you have any gifts you cannot use, do give them to us for the Tombola. As always all bottles are gratefully accepted. The bottle stall is one of our best ones but it does take a lot of bottles to stock, so please be generous. If you have spare plants, please remember the Plant Stall. We will also need lots and lots of yummy cakes!

Many thanks for your help!



SPUC - Following Ealing Council's decision earlier this week to impose a Public Space Protection Order to ban pro-lifers from staging prayer vigils close to the clinic in the borough, a number of other local authorities are understood to be preparing to follow suit. SPUC has launched a major petition calling on the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, to oppose any moves to restrict peaceful pro-life citizens' freedom of expression and freedom to pray outside abortion centres. To sign the online petition, or for more information, visit www.spuc.org.uk or contact John Hargaden.



The **Feast of the Ascension** is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday, which commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, according to Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and Acts 1:2.

In the Eastern Church this feast was known as *analepsis*, "the taking up", and also as the *episozomene*, the salvation, denoting that by ascending into His glory, Christ completed the work of our redemption. The terms used in the West, *ascensio* and, occasionally, *ascensa*, signify that Christ was raised up by His own powers. Tradition designates Mount Olivet near Bethany as the place where Christ left the earth. The feast falls on Thursday. It is one of the Ecumenical feasts ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter and of Pentecost among the most solemn in the calendar. The feast has a vigil and, since the fifteenth century, an octave which is set apart for a novena of preparation for Pentecost, in accordance with the directions of Leo XIII.



Prayer in Preparation for Pentecost

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same

Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit on Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.



Homily

“What I command you is to love one another.”

Illustration

We will never know how many lives have been transformed by the action of the Holy Spirit, but remarkable

things have happened in the lives of many people down through the ages, starting with the disciples of Jesus at Pentecost. We can think of the experience of St Francis of Assisi and St Ignatius of Loyola, both wealthy young men who dreamed of glory on the field of battle. Instead the Holy Spirit was able to help them to discover their true vocation in the service of Christ, to rebuild and renew the Church. Their lives had been formed by the social expectations of their times to find happiness through the things that their money could buy. But God had other ideas for them.

Mother Teresa – St Teresa of Calcutta – had another experience. She thought that she could do God’s will as a teaching sister of Loreto until she experienced the poor people dying on the streets of the city outside the safe confines of the convent walls. Again God had other ideas for her as she left the security of her religious house to found the Missionaries of Charity, devoted to the care of the poorest of the poor.

Gospel Teaching

The disciples, too, were on a steep learning curve. Their expectations as followers of Jesus kept changing. Through the early days of basking in the glory of Jesus, the popular preacher and miracle worker, through the despair of the passion and death

of their Lord, they found themselves driven by the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation. But they had no plan, no instruction manual. They discovered that they were sent not just to announce the coming of the Messiah to the Jews. The message of the Gospel was for everyone. The Holy Spirit made it clear that faith in Jesus was possible for anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right. They came to understand that what Jesus wanted was a community of people who loved one another. This was the way they would experience God, rather than in the rituals of the Jewish law. They knew that the risen Lord was living among them as they reached out in love to one another, but especially to those most in need.

The beloved disciple, John, reflected for years on the life and teaching of Jesus and summed it up in his Gospel and letters: God is love and what God wants is for us to live in love just as Jesus has shown us, by loving one another. In this way we will share in the joy of God. The whole message of scripture is to be found here: love one another as I have loved you. This is the mission Jesus gives to his disciples: as his chosen friends, they are to go out and bear fruit that will last.

Application

In these weeks after Easter, we relive

with the disciples their growing awareness of how the risen Lord continued to be with them; how he shared his Holy Spirit with them to help them to understand all that Jesus had taught them. We discover with them that Jesus calls us in our turn to be his friends and to know his love for us. He wants us to continue his mission by bringing his love and peace to the people of our own day. We recall what an unlikely bunch of characters Jesus chose to carry on his work. They were transformed by the Holy Spirit. Their old ideas had to change. They had to let go of their prejudices and fears and allow God to use them to build the Church, a community of love and service for all people, especially the poor. So it is with us. We are ordinary people, struggling with our own lives, our fears, our weaknesses, but we believe. We believe that Jesus is risen from the dead. We believe that he continues to be present in the world in us. We believe that he uses us to bring his mercy and love to the world.

If the Holy Spirit could transform Peter and the rest into an effective tool for evangelisation, and continue this work of transformation through the saints of every generation, then we can believe that the same Holy Spirit can transform us and empower us to go out in joy and hope to bear fruit, the fruit of love that will last for ever.

Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 13 May 2018 7th Sunday of Easter Year B Cycle

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| | 08:30: | 9:30 | 11:00 |
| Celebrant | Fr Nicholas | | Fr Nicholas |
| Welcomers | Hayes Family | Anne Stapleton | Rita Chamberlain & Marnie Archer |
| Sacristan | | | Tony Archer |
| 1 st Reading | Jacqui Ramage-S | Lucy Zammit | Rob Corrigan |
| 2 nd Reading | Mary Hayes | | Margaret Rose |
| Bidding Prayers | Ann Jackson | | Jacqui Corrigan |
| Offertory | Hickey Family | Gillick Family | |
| Extraordinary Ministers | Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood | | Deacon Eddie & Monica Russell |
| Next Sunday - World Communications Day | | | |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is usually celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm. | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | |
| | 06-May | Jackie King & Mary Wood |
| | 13-May | Pat Wood & Monica Russell |
| | 20-May | Andrew M & Pauline Gill |
| | 27-May | Half Term |
| | 03-Jun | Half Term |

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 6 May)

Deaths: Gill Wiseman, William Padden, Elaine White and Sheila Langford

Anniversaries: Elizabeth Bray, Norman Dykes, Dom Damien Shipley osb, Vera Offler, James Sterckx, Dom Gregory Buisseret osb, Leslie Hawes, Peter Lightbound, John Malone, Brian Smith, Margaret Veale, Tony Lewis, Owen Connely and Moses Holmes.

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

6th
Sunday
of Easter

Entrance: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world ...

Communion: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you forever, alleluia.

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.

| | 08:30: | 09:30 | 11:00: |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Celebrant | Fr Nicholas | | Fr Nicholas |
| Welcomer | Annette Mansie | Clare Wichbold | Monica Russell & Brenda Sherwood |
| Sacristan | | | Chris Moore |
| 1 st Reading | Jacqui Ramage-S | Paul Nickhold | Pat Wood |
| 2 nd Reading | Adrian Eyre | | Monica Tomlin |
| Bidding Prayer | Fran Grant | | Sergio Pavia |
| Offertory | Parish Children | Teresa Harriss & Menna McBain | |
| Extra-Ordinary Minister(s) | Jacqui Ramage-S & Julia Davey | | Deacon Eddie & Jane Davies |
| Mass Intention | Tom & Vera Dawson | Pro Populo | Rebecca & Norman Dykes RIP |

Second Collection: Diocesan Priests Training

Food Bank Collection: Kath Parry

What's On for the week

| | |
|-----|--|
| Mon | Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am |
| Tue | Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am |
| Wed | Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory: 7 pm Vigil Mass of the Ascension. |
| Thu | Ascension - Holy day of Obligation: Masses at 8 am and 12 Noon (sung) in the Abbey |
| Fri | Holy Abbots of Cluny: Mass at 8 am: Exposition and Midday Mass in the Oratory |
| Sat | Easter Feria: Mass at 8 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10 am |