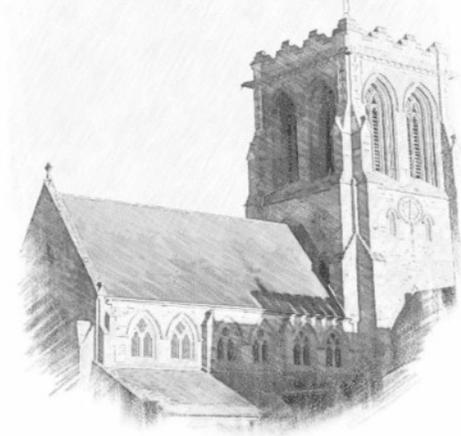


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Ordinary Time Week 5

*7th February 2016
(Cycle C)*

PARISH PRIEST

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Items for the Newsletter to
admin@belmontparish.org.uk
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Ash Wednesday is upon us this week and begins our Holy Season of preparation for the great feast of Easter. Lent is never particularly welcome because its themes of fasting and penance are often given a bad press – plus it coincides with what is usually the most miserable and gloomy weather of the year! But actually Spring is not far off – and Lent gives way to the most joyful of all events, our annual celebration of the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation but is a day of **fasting and abstinence**. Blessing and distribution of Ashes will be at both Masses on Wednesday at 8 am and 12 noon (sung) in the abbey. There is also an evening Mass at Our Lady's at 7 pm.

This weekend the Archdiocese is celebrating its Centenary of foundation. On February 7th 1916 Pope Benedict XV issued a decree creating the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Province of Wales. Special Services will be held this weekend at Belmont Abbey and Cardiff Cathedral. Please pray for the Archbishop, the clergy and the church in Hereford and Wales.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1st Collection	£501.35
	Standing Orders	£438.00
	2nd Collection	£174.22
<i>Parish Outreach - Thank you.</i>		

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It is with great sadness that we report the death of John Wallin who died on Tuesday. His funeral will be on Friday 12th February at 1.00 pm. May he rest in peace.

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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 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.

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ORDER OF MALTA

Reunion of Lourdes Pilgrims with Mass at 11:00 am and the Sacrament

of the Anointing of Sick on Saturday 27 February at the Church of the Oratory, Hagley Road, Birmingham. For more information, please contact Father Nicholas.

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.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.

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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

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

Wednesday 17 February
Lenten day of Recollection
10 am to 4 pm

Friday 19 February
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

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



Hi my name is Nathan Morawiecki and I am going with a group of young people from the diocese to the World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland in 2016. World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide encounter with the Pope which is typically celebrated every three years in a different country. WYD is open to all young people and

is a unique way to deepen your faith and grow closer to Christ, by means of prayer and the sacraments, together with thousands of other young people.

Preparing for WYD is as much a part of the pilgrimage as the event itself. In our Spiritual Preparation we will look to significant figures like St. Jon Paul II, St. Faustina of the Divine Mercy, and the martyr, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the important things they have to teach us. Once in Krakow, we will hopefully have the opportunity to visit places associated with these important Polish saints.

As part of the journey to WYD, I will be organising various fundraising activities to help fund my trip to Krakow. Fundraising for ourselves in our own parish and communities means that we develop a sense of ownership and commitment to our pilgrimage.

I will be doing some fundraising events to help raise money for the trip in July 2016, here are some of the things that I plan to be do:

- A sponsored litter pick once a month in Breinton
- Coffee mornings
- DIY jobs
- I might do a sky dive to raise money (but I don't know yet!)
- Sponsored bike ride (20 miles)
- Small functions at a donation per head/course

If you would like to support me in my fundraising, please contact me on : 07731886952. Thank you!



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



‘Walk With Me’, the pocket-size booklets of prayers and reflections for Lent 2016, are now available. Archbishop George Stack, Bishop Tom Burns and Bishop Peter Brignall have written a forward to the booklet and recommend it as an aid to prayer. This year, ‘Walk With Me’ is entitled ‘Lent – A Pilgrimage of Mercy’. In the introduction we read, ‘The Lord says he wants mercy not sacrifice.

Mercy always requires right conduct towards another person. In the book of Hosea, the same word in Hebrew for mercy is also used for love (6:4 and 6:6).’ The booklet includes daily reflections, which are rooted in the Gospel, tips for living a happy and peaceful life by Pope Francis, the teachings of the Church and the writings of the Saints.



BELMONT

AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF

With the reestablishment of the hierarchy in 1850 and the setting up of dioceses and parishes, the English Benedictines took a major role in building up the Catholic Church. South Wales and the border counties of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire became the Diocese of Newport and Menevia and the Benedictine Thomas Joseph Brown was appointed its first bishop.

Belmont came into existence through the generosity of Francis Richard Wegg-Prosser, who with his friend Edward Pugin, son of Augustus Welby Pugin, planned to build a medieval monastery on his estate near Hereford. After much negotiation, it was agreed that the church at Belmont should become Bishop Brown’s cathedral, that the English Benedictine Congregation would set up a common novitiate and house of studies in the monastery and the monks would form the cathedral chapter as in medieval times. This was to continue for 60 years, Belmont being the only cathedral in the world where the whole of the Divine Office was sung each day using only Gregorian chant. In 1880 John Cuthbert Hedley, another Benedictine, was appointed bishop to

succeed Bishop Brown. Between them they served the Church in South Wales and the border counties for 75 years and built the diocese up from practically nothing into a viable and thriving local Church, so much so that on 7th February 1916 the Archdiocese of Cardiff was created and James Bilsborrow, again a Benedictine, named its first Archbishop.

In 1916 St David's church, Cardiff, became the cathedral of the new Archdiocese, while St Michael and All Angels at Belmont was designated the co-cathedral and there were two chapters. In 1920, Belmont became an abbey and ceased to be the co-cathedral of the Archdiocese. However, diocesan clergy continued to be trained at Belmont and ordinations held there until 1948.



HOMILY

"Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

Illustration

Built in 1599, the Globe Theatre in London was the building that housed William Shakespeare's company of players. It was destroyed by fire, rebuilt in 1614, then closed down in 1642 by the Puritans, whose views on life were rather strict. Today a fine reconstruction of the Globe sees the

Bard's plays regularly performed with the audience all gathered round. The actors and the audience almost merge into one body, so well designed is the place.

Theatre is a powerful form of human entertainment and education. "The play's the thing," said Hamlet, knowing how powerfully we are affected by what we see and hear. Drama gathers us in, compelling our attention, as we follow the story being enacted before our eyes. In our modern age, we also have television and cinema to impress their images upon our mind, and the dark auditorium of cinema helps transport us to another world. But there is something special about the theatre, about live performance, that demands our attention like nothing else. And the reason is because it is "live". Here and now this live performance is being given to me for my attention.

Gospel Teaching

Today we see Jesus make his own theatre from the natural surrounds of lake and shore and boat. As the crowd is large, and viewing and hearing somewhat restricted, Jesus decides to make a boat into a stage, and as he sits out from the shore, with the people on the strand and on the bank, a true theatre is made and Jesus can reach everyone with his stories. The local fishermen got a ringside seat,

perhaps even a balcony view of proceedings, and were no doubt impressed by the young preacher. But then he impressed them more. He gave them a sign of who he really was, because he wanted to recruit them into his band of wandering players. He gave them a miraculous draft of fish. They were the expert fishermen. He was only a carpenter/preacher. Now they were utterly amazed; so much so that Simon Peter felt out of his depth to be in the company of this holy man. And he said so. He fell to his knees and asked to be left alone.

But Jesus gave him new courage and had a new career for him. Now he was about to enter into a great drama, a drama that would lead Peter through joy, and deep sorrow and pain. His growing faith and hope in Jesus would be almost annihilated by the crucifixion of the Lord, and then, amazingly, he would see the resurrection and, together with other disciples, he would be a witness to the risen Christ and would go out to preach that Gospel to the world. That Gospel story, which Peter and Paul and so many others personally witnessed, has been handed on to us in every generation of the Church.

Application

Today we hear St Paul being emphatic about what the Gospel really is, about the truth of Jesus' life and death and

resurrection, and about the witnesses who could testify to this truth. Paul's own part in that witness came as a result of a personal revelation given on the road to Damascus. Because Paul had been so violently opposed to the followers of Jesus, he felt compelled to work even harder to preach his newfound faith in the Lord. But the faith is the same: Jesus died for sinful people.

Peter is conscious of being such a sinful person. To find himself associated with this holy man, Jesus, is too much for him. He asks to be left alone. But we hear the Lord, not for the first time, telling someone not to be afraid. Do not allow fear to halt your life. Follow the Lord and all will be well. And so, leaving their nets behind them, these simple fishermen set off on a journey that has never ended.

We too find ourselves in this company of Jesus, and invited to be preachers of the Gospel. We, too, know only too well how feeble and frail we can be. But we are not asked to rely on our own strength but to follow the Lord. His grace is enough for us. We are only earthen vessels that carry this treasure, but what a treasure it is! This world of ours, this globe, sees the drama of everyday life, and we are part of it. Let us be a Gospel part of it.

Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 14th February First Sunday of Lent Year C

	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Welcomer(s)	Hayes Family	Anne Stapleton	Monica Russell & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1st Reading	Fran Grant	Menna McBain	Jennifer Hackman
2nd Reading	Jacqui Ramage-Smith		Marje Hayes
Bidding Prayer	Ann Jackson		Deacon Eddie
Offertory	Children's Liturgy	Maria Large & Frances Riddell	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Seamus Hayes		Tony Archer

Next Sunday - Marriage Care

<p>WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 10 am - 4 pm Day of Recollection with Mass Lenten Lunch Confessions 2.30 pm - 3:30 pm Wednesday 17 February</p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 14 Feb	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	07-Feb	Jackie King & Rachel Cowdrey
	14-Feb	Marje Hayes & Monica Russell
	21-Feb	A Morawiecki & R Blackburn
	28-Feb	Jacqui Moore & Pauline Gill

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

Deaths: John Wallin, Sheila Kinsey, John Keeler and Lil Green

Anniversaries: Florry Caine and Eileen Ega. Francis Bray, Elizabeth Croton, Mary Hill, Joe Schofield, Mary Carroll, Norah Gethen, Agnes Ward, Philip Davies, Dominic Sterckx, Denise Homfray, Geoffrey Shimmin, Margaret Thomas, Catherine Connelly, Agnes Holtom, Sarah Slattery, Lena Whitlock, Mary Anderson, Mary Jillow, Rhoda Linehan and William Tyler

The Sick: Please pray for Henry Werzley, Kenny Hanna, 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.

Liturgy for Sunday 7th February

Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1 (OT Wk 5)

<p><i>ORDINARY TIME Week 5</i></p>	<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: We proclaim your Death.....</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.			
	8:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Patrick Walesby	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1st Reading	Fran Smallwood	Clare Wichbold	Jane Davies
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
Mass Intention	John Wallin RIP	Pro Populo	John Keeler RIP
Second Collection : <i>Parish Outreach</i>			
Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	St Teilo : Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Ash Wednesday: Mass at 8:00 am: Sung Midday Mass in the Abbey. Tridentine Mass at 7 pm. Today is a day fasting and abstinence.
Thu	St Benedict of Aniane: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am - No Midday Mass. Exposition at 11:00. Requiem Mass for John Wallin at 1:00
Sat	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00