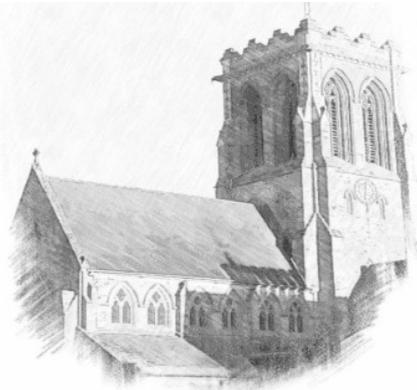


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

8 April 2018

Low Sunday

PARISH PRIEST

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All week we have been celebrating Easter Day and today is our Octave day. The eight days of the Easter Octave are a special time to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection and more deeply contemplate its mysteries. The Church punctuates the special importance of this feast by assigning it the highest liturgical ranking, that is, as a Privileged Octave of the First Order. This means each of the eight days is counted as a solemnity, the highest-ranking feast day, in which no other feast can be celebrated (hence why the Solemnity of the Annunciation is moved to tomorrow.) The Catechism calls Easter the "Feast of feasts" and the "Solemnity of solemnities." We now continue through the wonderful season of Eastertide celebrating with joy the great gift of life won for us by the Lord's death & resurrection.

Thank you for your kind and generous offering last Sunday and to all who helped the Easter celebrations go so well this year. Thank you also to all those who exercised ministries of one sort or another during Holy Week and indeed those who helped clean and prepare the flowers for the Abbey Church.

Fr Nicholas

Welcome to Belmont Abbey. If you are a 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	£1,949.58
	Standing Orders	£581.00
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£360.59
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 Easter Clergy and Holy Places. Thank You		



Second Collections – During April, our parish outreach second collections will be going to support Catholic Education (April 8), Hereford Close House (April 15), the Survive Miva Charity appeal (April 22) and the Syrian Refugees (April 29)



Gift Aid

There are still some Gift Aid envelopes waiting for their new home. Please pick them up as you leave Mass today! Don't forget, Gift Aiding costs you nothing but allows the parish to reclaim the tax paid.



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.



New Rota of Ministries

Is due for the period 22 April to and including 29 July. Please let me know your **non-available** dates by 18 April. Frangrant235@btinternet.com or on 01432 266307. Many thanks for your help.

Fran Grant



<p>Dates for your Diary</p> <p>14 April Jumble Sale OLQM 1:30 pm</p> <p>17 April Tea & Chat Parish Hall 2:30</p>



Jumble Sale

Our next jumble sale is this coming Saturday, 14 April at OLQM parish hall. As always we could do with clean clothing, books, bric-a-brac and children's toys. Please leave all items in the Parish Porch not in the Church porch. If you can help on Friday to set up and on Saturday, we will start both days at 10 am. We are very short of helpers this time so all help would be appreciated. Thank you.





Important request

Would the parishioner whose gift aid number is 12, please contact Fr Nick as soon as possible. Many Thanks.



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 next **Taizé Prayer** will be at 8.00 on Friday 13 April in Dore Abbey. Hope to see you there for an hour of reflection, prayer, silence and simple musical chants. After that the next one will be on 13 July, also at Dore Abbey.



EMMAUS YOUTH - The date for the next meeting of Emmaus Youth is Saturday 12th May, from 2.30-5.30 pm. A group are also attending the Celebrate Conference in Cardiff on 21st-22nd April. 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



**CELEBRATE WALES:
21-22 APRIL 2018**

Celebrate Wales, the Catholic Family Charismatic Conference, is in its 7 year and will be held at Mary Immaculate High School, Wenvoe, Cardiff, CF5 5QZ. There are groups for all ages with amazing young leaders and inspirational speakers. The theme is 'See I am doing a new thing' Come and hear some inspired teachings along with adoration, reconciliation, prayer ministry and workshops. wwcelebrateconference.org/wales or ring Michael Coyle on 01952 417223. Bursaries are available for those in need. Alternatively, you can ring Rob or Jacqui Corrigan on H. 352241 if you would like more information.



**Wales and the Marches Catholic
History Society**

Re-arranged talk: Sunday April 15 at 3pm at St. David's Catholic 6th Form College Tygwyn Rd., Cardiff. For Sat. Nav. please use CF23 5JB. Mary Sullivan and the Newtown Association "Little Ireland" – the Story of Newtown and the Newtown Association. All are most welcome to this free talk. For further information: Phone - Tricia Coulthard 029 2059 5899 or on triciacoulthard@outlook.com



Gift Aid & Committed Offertory Contributors

The 2017-18 Tax Year has just ended. Please use the new envelopes from this Sunday. If you are a Standing Order contributor and would like a set of second collection envelopes, please let me know. In due time the Gift Aid returns will be calculated; please let us know if you would like a receipt of monies paid to Belmont Abbey Parish in this last tax year. They will only be provided on request. May I also ask all 'Gift Aid' contributors to check and let the Finance Office know if they ceased to be tax payers in the last year.

Fr Nicholas



A Parking Prayer - Peter was driving down the street in considerable agitation because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up the booze." Miraculously, just then a parking place appeared. Peter looked up again and said, "Never mind, Lord, I found one!"



Divine Mercy Sunday

On Sunday April 30th 2000, Pope St John Paul II canonised St. Faustina

Kowalska and decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter be also known as "Divine Mercy Sunday.

"Divine Mercy Sunday" concentrates on the mercy poured forth in Christ's death and resurrection, fount of the Holy Spirit who forgives sins and restores joy at having been redeemed. The message of mercy is that God loves us -- all of us, no matter how great our sins. And He wants us to turn to Him so He can bless us. He wants us to recognize His mercy and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share in His joy



Homily

"Doubt no longer but believe."

Illustration

In London, at a day of reflection for a Catholic school, a rather sullen teenager rolled her eyes when she heard, for the umpteenth time in her life, the priest say that God loved her. She was bored and didn't want to know. But perhaps she had a point. Why should these words mean anything to her? Why should she believe that God loved her? Why should she care if God loved her? Why should God be interested in her anyway? There are many people who ask the same questions of themselves.

If we ask people in prayer groups why they think so many of us do not believe that God loves us, we mostly get the same answer. They lack self-esteem, they feel unworthy. They have not lived up to what they think God asks of them. People are often convinced that God does not love them, because they have not done what God told them to do. That's how the world works. If you ignore someone, they ignore you. If you oppose someone, they oppose you. If you reject someone, they reject you. Mercy is not natural to human beings. It is "an attribute to God himself", as Portia says in Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice*. It is this mercy that Thomas the apostle will find in today's Gospel, and this mercy that we are called to offer to the world on God's behalf.

Gospel Teaching

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Yet the Gospel reading about the appearance of Our Lord to St Thomas can lead us to focus more on the apostle's doubt. "Doubting Thomas", we often call him. We tend to think of Thomas as a rationalist, who carefully weighs evidence. But is this the real basis of his doubt? Perhaps Thomas doesn't in fact doubt that Christ could rise from the dead; but he can't believe that he would. He had seen miracles aplenty carried out by this man. Most specifically, he had seen Lazarus

raised from the dead, as we are told in this same Gospel. Thomas also seems to be the one who recognises that Jesus is truly God. In all the ambiguous, twisty, winding ways that the divinity of Christ is hinted at in the Gospels, there is this one resounding proclamation – "My Lord and my God!" – and it's made by none other than St Thomas.

Some think that Thomas attains to this belief because he has met the risen Christ. His belief certainly is strengthened by this encounter, but perhaps Thomas' problem with Christ rising from the dead is precisely because he believes that he is God. Why would Jesus return to them? Why would he come back to people who have let him down? Why would he return to a world that not only rejected him but put him to death? To believe that Jesus is risen is to believe that he has forgiven us. Thomas doubts the resurrection, because he doubts God's mercy. To accept mercy requires trust, which is why it is so hard to forgive by human powers. So often in families it is this lack of trust that forgiveness is real that prevents reconciliation. Thomas finally understands that God is too great to be merciless, and that God is the measure of God's own mercy.

Application

How do you convince someone that

they are forgiven, when you are not sure yourself that you have really forgiven them? It's very easy for old hurts and grievances to lurk under the surface, even after many years. Old wounds suddenly come to mind, as fresh as the day we received them. Jesus prays to the Father, "that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them". That is the way. We are called to love with the love of the Father which is within us. We are called to forgive with the mercy which God has shown us, and which is within us.

Such love and such mercy is always more than can be generated by human power. Mercy is a divine presence, a divine power that can be found in prayer. So to truly forgive and to truly accept forgiveness requires prayer. Praying for our enemies is not an aspect of forgiveness; it is the fundamental way to forgive.



Low Sunday

The first Sunday after Easter. The origin of the name is uncertain, but it is apparently intended to indicate the contrast between it and the great Easter festival immediately preceding, and also, perhaps, to signify that, being the Octave Day of Easter, it was considered part of that feast, though in a lower degree. Its liturgical name is *Dominica in albis depositis*, derived

from the fact that on it the neophytes, who had been baptized on Easter Eve, then for the first time laid aside their white baptismal robes. Low Sunday is also called by some liturgical writers *Pascha clausum*, signifying the close of the Easter Octave, and "Quasimodo Sunday", from the Introit at Mass — "*Quasi modo geniti infantes, rationabile, sine dolo lac concupiscite*", — (see Entrance antiphon) which words are used by the Church with special reference to the newly baptized neophytes, as well as in general allusion to man's renovation through the Resurrection.

In 2000 Pope St John Paul II declared Low Sunday to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

The mystic, Faustina Kowalska, was given a powerful answer "ever ancient, ever new" to the turmoil and sufferings of humanity. Jesus appeared to her in her moments of prayer and shared with her the proclamation of Divine Mercy. For a desert, it would have been an ocean. For shadows, it would have been the sun. For humanity, the Divine Mercy was (and is) a declaration of love and a hope.

As Pope St. John Paul II taught: "It is this love which must inspire humanity today, if it is to face the crisis of the meaning of life, the challenges of the most diverse needs and, especially, the duty to defend the dignity of every human person."

Ministers, etc. for next Sunday 15 April 2018 3rd Sunday of Easter Year B Cycle

	08:30:	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Brenda Warde	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Ann Jackson	Clare Wichbold	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayers	Richard Batho		Liz Morawiecki
Offertory	Parish Children	Frances Riddle & Menna McBain	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Julia Davey		Monica Tomlin & Deacon Eddie

Next Sunday - Hereford close House

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.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 8 April)

Deaths: William Padden, Elaine White, Sheila Langford and Phillip Cook

Anniversaries: Dom Cuthbert Formby osb, Teresa Hartry, Hubert Holley, Lousia Phillipson, Bernard Stewart, Dom Dermot Furlong osb, Edith Froggatt, Fernando Gianessi, Winifred Roebuck, Stephen Beeby, Rt Rev Joseph Brown osb, Kathleen Capes, Henry Johnson, Abbot Maurice Martin osb, Ellen Gittoes, Francis Richard Rayner and Beatrice Hagreen.

The Sick: Please pray for: Gill Wiseman, 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, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsop, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Joanne Savory, Dame Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

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

LOW SUNDAY

Entrance: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...
Communion: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	08:30:	09:30	11:00:
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Hayes Family	Anne Stapleton	Monica Russell & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Julia Davey	Patrick Walesby	Pat Wood
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Bill Jackson		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	Anthea Morton-S & Maria Large	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Frances Dees & Jacqui Ramage-S		Andre Pavia & Deacon Eddie
Mass Intention	Donald Parry RIP	Pro Populo	Mary Jo Donnelly RIP
Second Collection: Supporting Catholic Education			
Food Bank Collection: Ray and Margaret Rose			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Annunciation of the Lord (Transferred) : Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Stanislaus: Mass at 8 am & Midday Mass in the Oratory
Thu	St Guthlac: Mass 8 am :
Fri	Easter Feria: Mass 8 am: Exposition and Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	Easter Feria: Mass 8 am: Reconciliation: 10 am