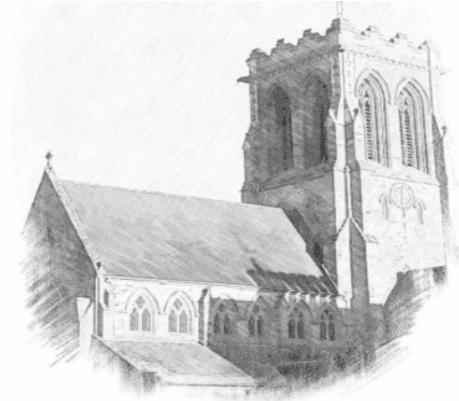


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

8th January 2017

Feast of the Epiphany

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nicholas Wetz OSB

Tel: 01432 - 277319

email:pp.belmontparish@gmail.com

www.belmontparish.org.uk

Parish Deacon

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

Tel: 01432 - 263575

Safeguarding Representative

Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

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

Today we celebrate the great solemnity of the Epiphany. On this feast the young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. It is so much more than the belated arrival of three 'Magi' bearing odd gifts. "Today, the *Child born in the night of Bethlehem is manifested to the world as the light of salvation for all peoples.*" The Christ child, revealed first to the Jewish shepherds, is now revealed to the world. The message of salvation is shared with the whole of humanity. To this episode, the Fathers of the Church associated two others in which Jesus manifested his glory: his *Baptism* in the River Jordan, and the *Wedding at Cana*. We rejoice in Christ's coming and the beginning of our salvation. Let us treasure this wondrous news and share this wonderful event with all those we meet in this New Year

Today during the 11 am Mass we welcome into the Church of Christ, through the sacrament of Baptism, Oliver Janeczek. Please pray for him and his family.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£229.18
	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	£119.11
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 St Joseph (Makeni) . Thank You!		



Second Collections

Last month our Parish Outreach collections went towards helping the refugees and children made homeless in Syria and we were able to send over £750 for their relief. Thank you.

In January, our Parish Outreach collections will go towards supporting the St Joseph's School, Makeni project (1st & 8th Jan); the annual White Flower collection (15th Jan) and the local Acorns Children's Hospice (22nd Jan).



New Rota of Ministries

The new rota runs from 29 January to and including 14 May 2017. This period includes Easter. Please let me



know your NON-AVAILABLE dates as soon as possible. You can contact me on frangrant235@btinternet.com or on 01432 266307. Many thanks for your help.

Fran Grant



At the beginning of a new year, I wish to express my gratitude to those many people whose help, in so many different ways, makes my task as Parish Priest all the easier. Thank you to all who help with the Liturgy, the music, the extraordinary Ministers and Servers, Counters, Collectors, Cleaners and Welcomers and those who run the Children's Liturgy, and not forgetting those who most importantly help with visiting the sick. Many thanks too for your kind Christmas cards and gifts. God bless you all. Thank you!



With sadness we report the death of Brian Hayes who died in Exeter last week. May he rest in peace.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13 January
Church Cleaning
9 am

17 January
Tea & Chat
2:30 Parish Hall

29 January
Pay & Collect
Tesco Vouchers



Tea and Chat

will be resuming on January 17th 2017, then 21st Feb, 21st March, and 18th of April. It is always on the 3rd Tuesday in the month. For any newcomers to the Parish this is a very friendly group that meets for a cup of tea and a piece of cake or a biscuit and a good chat. We meet in the Parish Center at 2.30pm until 4.00pm. There is no charge, but a donation is very welcome for us to buy coffee, tea and milk and help to pay for heating the hall. Everyone is welcome, so don't be shy just come along and join us.



The **parish First Holy Communion programme** will be beginning in the New Year. The children are prepared

by parishioners who have a great love for the Eucharist and who wish to pass on their love and understanding to the next generation of Catholics. The family, the school and the priest also have an important role to play in preparing the children. The children will make their First Holy Communion in early summer 2017 and there will be a series of preparatory classes which take place usually on Saturday mornings. Parents who would like their children (Year 3 and above) to be considered for First Holy Communion next Summer should speak to Fr Nicholas or Jacqui & Rob Corrigan.



Sick and Housebound Parishioners

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners please let the Parish Office know. We can then make arrangements for Fr Nicholas or an extraordinary minister to bring them Holy Communion or for a priest to come and hear confession if that is required. This also applies to parishioners who move into a care or nursing home. Please remember that hospitals no longer advise us of Catholics in hospital!



Emmaus Youth are next meeting at Our Lady's Parish Hall, 2-5 pm on Saturday 28th January. You are

invited to share in some Praise and Worship, Liturgy and then some 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



Our Lady's Roman Catholic

Primary School have places in Y1, Y2 and Y4. Contact the school at admin@our-ladys.hereford.sch.uk for more information



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer provides a wonderful opportunity for discussion and prayer with other Christians. The theme is about Crossing Barriers and is prepared by the churches in Germany. There will be daytime prayers and discussion from Wednesday 18 January to Wednesday 25 January (except for Sunday) at the Acres, Pontrilas Road HR2 0EN (Pam Wright's house) from 11.30 am to 12.15 pm. On Sunday 22 January at 3.00pm there will be a special service (followed by refreshments) at the Baptist Chapel.



HOMILY

"We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage"

Illustration

Vast areas of land and mountains covered in ice and snow, at times spell-binding in their grandeur and beauty, with a deep tranquillity that seems to foretell eternity; at other times hidden in blinding blizzards, with a pervading bitter cold that eats away relentlessly – these are some of the images that come to mind when we think of Antarctica and the South Pole. Not many venture beyond the images into the harsh reality itself, but one man who did was Henry Worsley. From childhood he had been captivated by the adventures of the Antarctic explorers – Captain Scott, Roald Amundsen and Sir Ernest Shackleton – and he wanted to follow where they had gone, particularly Shackleton, his special hero and inspiration.

After serving in the British Army for thirty-six years, he retired in October 2015. Having already made two expeditions into the Antarctic, he lost no time in making his third. With the support of his wife and family, he began the first ever solo unsupported crossing of Antarctica, with the

purpose of raising money for the Endeavour Fund, set up to help wounded service people in their rehabilitation. This was the central focus of his expedition. It also marked the hundredth anniversary of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition.

Alone and unaided, he pulled a sledge with food and equipment across the Antarctic landmass in excessively bad weather and at unimaginably low temperatures. He went beyond the South Pole, but exhaustion and dehydration made it impossible to continue. He was airlifted to Chile, where, after surgery, it was found that he was infected with bacterial peritonitis. He died on 24 January 2016, aged fifty-five. He had covered 913 miles across the Antarctic in seventy-one days and was only thirty miles from his destination. The expedition had raised well over £100,000 for the Endeavour Fund.

Gospel Teaching

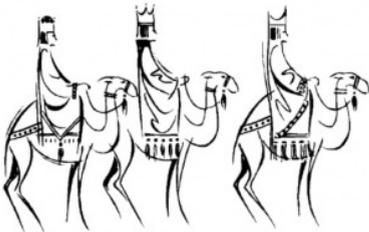
An account of another journey, one undertaken over two thousand years ago, is given in today's Gospel. The story of the wise men who followed the guidance of a star to Bethlehem is recorded only in Matthew's Gospel, but the event has been celebrated in the Eastern Church since the third century in honour of Christ's baptism and in the Western Church since the fourth century where it became

associated with the first manifestation ("epiphany") of Christ to the Gentiles or non-Jewish people, represented by the wise men or magi, which can also mean astrologers. That they had come from the east indicates Mesopotamia, the centre of astrology, and therefore a long journey that could have taken many months. Over the centuries Matthew's account was embellished in Christian tradition: they were named kings; their number became three (probably because of their three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh); and they were given the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They were venerated as saints from the Middle Ages, and their relics are enshrined in Cologne Cathedral. In all the images of the adoration of the magi is the central message: Jesus is the saviour of all people; none is excluded from his love.

Although separated by centuries, these two journeys were both expeditions into unknown and harsh environments. T.S. Eliot begins his poem *The Journey of the Magi* by quoting from a sermon preached by Bishop Lancelot Andrewes of Winchester in 1622: "A cold coming we had of it, / Just the worst time of the year / For a journey, and such a long journey: / The ways deep and the weather sharp, / The very dead of winter... / A hard time we had of it."

Application

Henry Worsley's crossing of Antarctica was likewise a "hard time", even more so. It was a heroic gift of self for the sake of others and in his last message he described it as "a way of giving back to those far less fortunate than me". He reported with sadness that the "gradual grinding down" of his physical endurance had taken its toll: "it is journey's end – so close to my goal". Yet, in another sense he had reached his goal. The wise men had followed the star and he had followed the light given him by God to serve others. Each one had found the way to God. May that same light illumine our journey.



Christ has appeared among us.
Come, let us adore Him.

The precious gifts which the Magi brought to the Lord this day are threefold,
and they are signs of divine mysteries.
By gold the power of the King is

signified,
by frankincense His great priesthood,
by myrrh the burial of the Lord.

The Magi worshipped the Author of our salvation in the crib,
and of their treasures they brought to Him gifts of mystic nature.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

Let us pray:

O God, by the leading of a star Thou didst manifest Thine only begotten Son to the Gentiles on this day;
mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith,
may be brought to contemplate the beauty of Thy majesty.
Through the same Jesus Christ Thy Son.



Ministers, etc. For next Sunday 15th January- 2nd Sunday in OT Year A - Cycle 1

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Patrick Walesby	Rita Chamberlain & Marnie Archer
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Adrian Eyre	Basil Nickerson	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Fran Grant		Margaret Rose
Bidding Prayers	Jacqui Ramage-S		Tony Archer
Offertory	Hayes Family	Frances Riddell & Teresa Harriss	
Extraordinary Ministers	Seamus Hayes & Gabrielle Stanley		Chris Moore & Rob Corrigan

Next Sunday - Parish Outreach (White Flower - SPUC)

<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	
	08-Jan	Jacqui Moore & Rob Blackburn
	15-Jan	Andrew Morawiecki & R Cowdrey
	22-Jan	Jacqui Corrigan & Monica Russell
	29-Jan	Pat Wood & Jan Wyman
5 Feb	Jackie King & Mary Wood	

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

Deaths: Brian Hayes, Wendy Lyle Cameron, Brian Holbery, and John McComish .

Anniversaries: George Baker, William Rankin, Mary Sharp, Mildred Evans, Bro Antony Lacey OSB, Frederick Meredith, Michael Podmore, James Snead, Cecilia Methven, Catherine Williams, John Teighe, Dom Dominic Blaney OSB and Minnie Mc Loughlin.

The Sick: Please pray for: Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Marnie Archer, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Fr Michael Cronin, Sheila Langford, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Stephen Fisher, Gordon Wilson, 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.

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

Liturgy for Sunday 8th January 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1 (Wk 1)*

<p>The Feast of the Epiphany</p>	<p>Entrance: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: We have seen his star in the East and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.</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	Ann Stapleton	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Brenda Warde	Jane Davies
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		Niamh Coyle
Offertory	Parish Children	Nickerson Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Monica Tomlin & Monica Russell
Mass Intention	Anne Kuhn	Benefactors & Parishioners	
Second Collection - Parish Outreach (St Joseph)			
Food Bank Delivery: John Goodall-Copestake			

What's On for the week	
Mon	Baptism of the Lord: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	St Gregory of Nyssa: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	St Aelred: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory: Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	St Benet Biscop: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11 and Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	BVM: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am