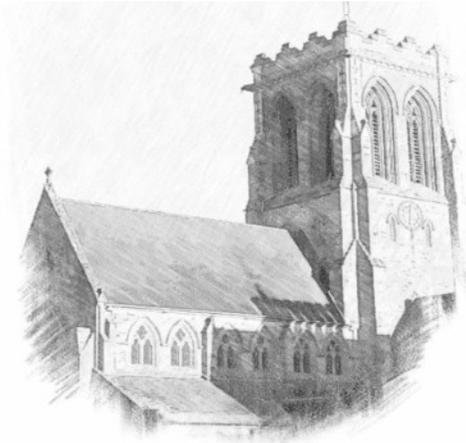


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER
<i>The Ascension of the Lord</i> 8 th May 2016 <i>(Cycle C)</i>
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Items for the Newsletter to admin@belmontparish.org.uk or The Parish Office

Today we celebrate the transferred solemnity of the Ascension. The Feast commemorates when Our Lord made his last appearance on earth, and ascended into heaven after completing his earthly mission. He commissioned the disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations. This is the day when Catholics are asked to reflect on the necessity of fulfilling the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. A key to communicating with "the whole world" is the world of the media and its demands for news relating to every aspect of the life of the Church and its people.

Today is also World Communications Day when we are asked to keep those who work in the media in our prayers and there will be a second collection for the Catholic Communications Network (CCN). CCN provides communications support for the bishops of England and Wales, the Holy See and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through the media on a variety of different levels. CCN works with the media (behind the scenes) on a daily basis to ensure the best possible coverage of current issues which have relevance for the Catholic faith.

The annual Devotion in honour of Our Lady at Belmont Abbey, takes place this Wednesday 11th May, 9 pm.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£374.94
	Standing Orders	£412.48

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

	2 nd Collection	£185.60
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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 ***Parish Outreach. Thank You.***



Torchlight Procession

The annual Devotion in honour of Our Lady at Belmont Abbey takes place this **Wednesday 11th May at 9 pm.**



Congratulations to Anthony Catlin & Rachael Layton who were married in the abbey church yesterday. We wish them every happiness in the years ahead.



Belmont Annual Garden Fete

Six weeks only until the Fete!! Once again we are asking for your help in presenting a wonderful Garden Fete, even better than last year.

It would be great if all the gardeners out there would start growing some plants for the flower stall and if you

need small pots for your seedlings - we have a lot of them to give away.

We also need clean and ironed "Nearly New" Clothes. And as always we need bric-a-brac and books, soft toys and children's toys so we can make a great success with these stalls.

If you have an idea for a different stall or have any questions or are willing to help run a stall, especially the games please contact Kath Parry on 01981 250304.

We also need items for the **Grand Tombola:** unwanted presents etc. This is a popular stall and at the moment we have very little for it.

As was mentioned last week, if every parishioner could bring in just one bottle or even two - we could hit the 400 bottles that the Bottle stall needs.

At the moment we have no jewellery or nice handbags for this stall. So if you have anything that you no longer need or use, please pass them on to us.

Please leave all items for the Fete in the Parish Porch not the Glass Porch.

Closer to the date we will ask you for help with items for the Tea Tent.

Many thanks for your help!





Pentecost Vigil Service

Our Lady's Church on Saturday 14th May. To include Exposition, music and readings, from 7.30 pm to 9 pm. All welcome.



Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

Sat 4th June Hugh Loughrey & Carley Yapp



Parking

Drivers are asked to respect the disabled parking areas – especially on a Sunday!

Parish Centre – unless you are dropping something off at the parish centre, please park in the car parks adjacent to the Parish House rather than on the road in front.



Tea & Chat

The next dates for Tea & Chat are: 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.



SFX “Film Nights”

Doors open 7 pm Friday 13th May with the multi Oscar-winning “A Man for all Seasons”

This remarkable film about the life of one of England’s greatest saints and martyrs was awarded six Oscars (including Best Actor; Best Director; Best Film). It tells the story of the last years of the life of St. Thomas More and his faithful witness to the end in his conflict with King Henry VIII.

Refreshments. Big Screen. FREE ADMISSION. Unmissable!



HEREFORD CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY

Please note that the next meeting of the HCHS will be on Wednesday 25th May in the Kemble Room at Belmont Abbey at 2:30 pm when we will have a talk by Gordon Amand on “Reginald Charles Schomberg (1880-1958), soldier, explorer, diplomat, priest and parishioner of St. Frances of Rome, Ross-on-Wye.” Visitors welcome. Further info from bmwarde@aol.com





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 11 May
9:00 pm
Torchlight Procession

Friday 13 May
9:00 am
Church Cleaning

Tuesday 17 May
2:30 pm
Tea & Chat

Sunday 22 May
Confirmation Mass
11:00 am

Queen’s Jubilee Picnic
12 June

Belmont Grand Fete
18 June

Tuesday 21 June
2:30 pm
Tea & Chat

16 July
Grandparents’ and
Grandchildren’s Day



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 27th May - Sunday 29th May
Poor Clare Monastery
See poster for details



**The Queen’s 90th Birthday Picnic
June 12th 2016**

It would be good if Belmont Parish could take part in the Picnics that are being organised to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday.

Perhaps we could have a shared table, with everyone attending bringing a plate of food, i.e. cold meat, sausage rolls, cheese, baguettes, ready-made sandwiches etc. If we all bring enough to feed ourselves, then share it with others this should not make too much work, especially as we have the Garden Fete the following Saturday. The food could be put on tables in the Parish Centre spilling out onto the Presbytery Front Garden if the weather is fine. This could take place at 12:30 pm ish, until we want to go home. The TV in the Parish Centre would be on to watch the festivities in London.



Prayer for Peace At Tintern Abbey

Saturday 14 May at 12 noon. All Welcome. Please bring a chair.



Hereford Food Bank Coffee Morning

At The Deanery, College Cloisters, Hereford, Tuesday 31st May 10.00 — 12.00. The Dean, Michael Tavinor, and the Hereford Food Bank cordially invite you to a coffee morning to be

held in the Deanery's lovely gardens. In the event of rain we will be relocating to College Hall. Come and enjoy: Coffee and cakes, lovely gardens, cake stall, Raffle. No entrance charge — donations welcome.



Homily

“As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.”

Illustration

Little Mandy accompanied her mother, Sally, to the supermarket, holding on to the shopping trolley as she pushed it up and down the aisles. Unfortunately, as Sally stopped to compare two packets of cereal, Mandy wandered off, forgetting her mother. A few seconds later, she realised she was alone and lost. Mandy's desperate cries of “Mummy!” rose above the ordinary sounds of the busy supermarket. Sally heard Mandy's voice but could not see her. When the equally distraught Sally saw her daughter, she ran towards her, picked her up and held her close. Mandy's sobs gradually subsided once she was safely in her mother's arms. She was no longer alone. She had been lost but now was found. The only person in the world

whom she wanted at that moment was her mother. For the rest of that supermarket visit, Mandy clung to Sally's side, holding onto her skirt and refusing to let go.

Mandy's distress at her separation from her mother resembles what happens when it suddenly seems that God has abandoned us. The toddler did not need to search for her mother because it was Sally who would not rest until she found Mandy. When Mandy was reunited with her mother, she would not let her go. We can forget that it is less a case of our making the effort to find God as it is of God tirelessly coming to meet us and satisfying our inner longing.

Gospel Teaching

When Jesus ascended into heaven, his apostles were suddenly left alone. The Acts of the Apostles tells us how they found it difficult to believe or understand what they had just witnessed. For some time after he was no longer visible, they stood staring up into the clouds, probably feeling confused, abandoned and, perhaps, very scared. What would the future hold for them? They had accompanied Jesus throughout his public ministry. They lost him when he was arrested and lost him again when he died on the cross and was buried. In the days between Jesus' death and resurrection, they were

probably overwhelmed with guilt at the realisation of their cowardice, when they abandoned him at the time of his greatest need.

When Jesus appeared to them on Easter Sunday, it was possibly an uncomfortable encounter; his forgiveness probably made them feel all the more guilty. At the same time, having those few days without him and then forty days once again in his presence led the apostles to realise just how much they had loved Jesus. Now he had gone again – and this time his absence would be permanent. He had just instructed them to go out into the whole world to proclaim the good news of God’s love, but had left them to do it on their own. Jesus had promised them the Holy Spirit, but they did not yet understand his words. Jesus’ ascension seemingly left them abandoned and lonely.

Application

There is a big difference between being alone and being lonely. Solitude can be very welcome: we all need space to think our own thoughts and to refresh our energies. Loneliness, on the other hand, is frightening. However much we might appreciate solitude, nobody wants to be lonely. Jesus told the apostles that the Holy Spirit would only come after his own departure. There would be a period of

waiting and soul-searching before Pentecost arrived. Acts tells us that the apostles returned to the upper room and stayed there, possibly making each other feel worse as they shared their fears, guilt and questions. They were lonely because they felt lost and abandoned. Their experience was not the peaceful solitude of a retreat or a few hours in a quiet beauty spot. Instead, theirs was the anxiety of the lost child, longing to be found and comforted, worried whether or not they would ever again feel the protection and loving presence of Jesus in their midst.

Jesus knew what he was doing: in leaving the apostles to their own devices, he recognised the depths of loneliness that they would experience. He also knew that the Holy Spirit would find them in their emptiness and would grace them with the courage they needed to face the future. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they would carry out the mission that Jesus had given them. However difficult it was for the apostles when Jesus ascended into heaven, it was a vital step on their journey and ours.



Ministers, etc. For next Sunday - The Feast of Pentecost - 15th May Year C

	08:30	09:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Marion Luscombe	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Jacqui R-Smith	Basil Nickerson	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Richard Batho		Liz Morawiecki
Bidding Prayers	Mary Hayes		Sally Johns
Offertory	Hayes Family	Margaret Campbell & Maria Large	
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Stephen Fisher

Next Sunday -Parish Outreach

<p>WHOSE FEET TO DO YOU WASH? May 13-15 (2 Days Reg Fee £26) Pentecost Weekend To grow spiritually St Benedict advised his monks to turn East. "Read St Basil" he said.... Dom Brendan Thomas</p>	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 am Children's Liturgy - 8 May	
	11.00 am Liturgy	
	08-May	Marje Hayes & Tba
	15- May	A Morawiecki & Pauline Gill
	22-May	Pat Wood & R Blackburn
05-Jun	Marje Hayes & Rachel Cowdrey	

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

Deaths: Bernard Clayton, Sue Ball, Mary Carroll, John Wallin and John Keeler

Anniversaries: Dom Gregory Buisseret OSB, Leslie Hawes, Peter Lightbound, John Malone, Thomas Regan, Brian Smith, Margaret Veale, John Lewis, Ann Rogers, James Sweeny, Thomas Kervin, Tony Lewis, Owen Connely, Moses Holmes, Josephine Curme, Peggy Hill, Marjory Reynolds, Leslie Twissel, Mary Blackmon and Milborough Plummer.

The Sick: Please pray for: David Kinsey, Polly Maund-Powell, Denise Ellis, Lillian Allsopp, Duncan Sykes, Margaret O'Connor, 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 Michael Cronin, Elaine Campbell, 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 May Readings: Sunday Cycle C; Weekdays: Cycle 2

<p><i>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</i></p>	<p>Entrance: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: When we eat this Bread ...</p> <p>Communion: Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.</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	Hayes Family	Anne Stapleton	Jennifer Hackman & Marnie Archer
Sacristan			Jeremy Hogan
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Clare Wichbold	Tony Archer
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Jacqui Corrigan
Bidding Prayer	Julia Davey		Gabrielle Stanley
Offertory	Childrens' Liturgy	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Fran Smallwood		Chris Moore
Mass Intention	Tom & Vera Dawson RIP	Pro Populo	Norman Dyke RIP

Second Collection - World Communication Day

Food Bank Delivery: Chris Moore

What's On for the week

Mon	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Abbots of Cluny: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in the Oratory - Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm: Torchlight Procession of Our Lady 9:00 pm
Thu	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am.
Fri	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition & Midday Mass in the Oratory
Sat	St Matthias: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am