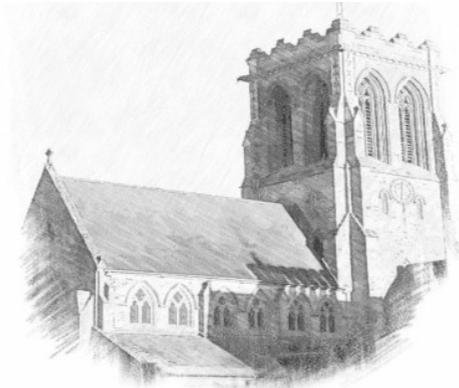


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

9th April 2017
PALM SUNDAY

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

Today, we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This week, this **Holy Week**, draws us in to the whole meaning and mystery of our Christian faith and the liturgies of Holy Week lead us through those final days of Christ's earthly ministry. The Triduum is the name given to the three days leading up to the celebration of the season of Easter beginning on Saturday night. There is no concluding rite at the close of the first two services - emphasising the continuity of the three days.

The Easter Triduum begins with Mass on **Holy Thursday** evening, when Jesus sacramentally anticipated the gift he would make of himself on the cross. His command to serve others is dramatically recalled this night in the ceremony of the washing of the feet. The evening concludes with a symbolic sharing in Christ's agony in the garden of Gethsemane by our spending some time in prayer at the Altar of Repose.

The **Good Friday** rites focus on the reading of the Passion. With simple dignity that story is retold, followed by prayers for the entire world, and according to ancient tradition, the cross is venerated this day, and the sacrament of Christ's love for his church is received. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

The **Easter Vigil**, which opens with a service of light, is the high point of the Easter Triduum celebrating the passion and resurrection of Jesus. With a rich display of symbols, rites and readings, the church in worship expresses her faith in the mystery that brings her into being.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£282.80
	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	£363.05
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: - East Africa Famine Appeal. Thank You!		



Many thanks to Jan Wyman for organising the Beloved Disciples meetings during Lent. It is hoped to organise similar sessions during the year ahead.



<p>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</p> <p>18 April Tea & Chat Parish Hall 2:30</p> <p>22 April First Holy Communion Class 10:30</p> <p>2 May Diamond Diners The Three Horseshoes 12:45 for 1:00</p>



Wales Celebrate Weekend 2017

Saturday 29 April 9 am - 9 pm and Sunday 30 April 9 am - 4.00 pm at St David's Catholic College, Cardiff.

Celebrate Wales is a non-residential weekend for the whole family, full of teaching, workshops, lively praise and worship, Mass, opportunities for Confession and prayer ministry. The conferences welcome thousands of people. Young and old alike join together in a vibrant and faith-filled atmosphere to celebrate the love of God. We have a fantastic weekend planned for you, including inspiring talks and worship, workshops, drama from Rise Theatre, and an opportunity to find inspiration and encounter God.



Thank you to all who supported our Jumble Sale last week. I appreciate all the really hard work and preparation that goes into these events and a special thank you to all the volunteers and helpers on the day. We raised just under £1000. Thank you



Don't forget next Sunday – Easter Sunday, the two parish Masses are 8.30 and 9.30 with the Community Mass moving to 11 am.



Next Sunday, Easter Day, there is only one collection which is the traditional offering to the Parish Priest and the Belmont Community.



Ewyas Harold Churches Together

There will be a silent **Walk of Witness on Good Friday**, starting at St Michael’s Church at 11.40 am, continuing to the Baptist Church and finishing at the Methodist Church.



Foot Washing

The foot washing on Holy Thursday may seem somewhat anachronistic. The church has kept it in the liturgy for good reason. As Christ washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, emphasizing for them the connection between Eucharist and service to others, this ritual remains in our liturgy for the same reason. It is to emphasize that Eucharist is not separate from service, but that they are inextricably bound together. Part of the nature of receiving Holy Communion is acknowledging that we are intimately connected to one another and responsible for one another’s well-being. The essential nature of Holy Communion is unity, not only with God, but also with one another. This is to be demonstrated through service.

Receiving Holy Oils

During the Holy Thursday liturgy, the holy oils that were blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass are processed into the parish church. They are presented to the community with a prayer by the celebrant for each one. The oil of the sick for the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, the oil of catechumens for those preparing to celebrate baptism, and the sacred chrism used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy orders are each presented and reverently placed in a visible location.

Concluding Good Friday

How does the Good Friday liturgy end? Or does it? There is no final blessing or recessional, because this is not the end. This is just the second instalment of the three-part liturgy called “Triduum.” So the end is silent, the ministers walk silently back to the sacristy. The people are free to leave, also in silence, or to remain longer in prayer. The conclusion comes with great flourish on the next night at the Easter Vigil, when this three-day liturgical celebration finally concludes with an Easter celebration

Easter Vigil Liturgy of the Word

The readings on this night give a strong sense of vigiling. Instead of one Old Testament reading, there are seven. Each has its own sung psalm and prayer. During these readings we hear

important parts of salvation history, the events that have brought us as a people to where we are today. Listening to them reminds us of how God has worked in the lives of our ancestors to form them into a people that are God's own. Following the Gloria, there are the usual readings from the New Testament and the Easter gospel. For pastoral reasons, the number of Old Testament readings can be reduced, but they must always include the reading of the Exodus. If possible, the full readings of the Old Testament story should be experienced. The Easter Vigil readings are a fundamental part of this liturgy which brings us to the initiation of the elect.



HOMILY

"They led him away to crucify him."

Illustration

Ever since the earliest days, the idea of pilgrimage has had an important place in the life of the Christian Church. One reason may be that the cross, central to Christian life and faith, is a sort of journey, a difficult journey, but one filled with grace. The idea of a difficult journey as worthwhile in itself has found its way into the heart of Christian life. All through her history the Church has made pilgrimage, finding ways to make visible the nature of the Church's life as a journey.

The ancient holy sites of Europe and

the Middle East are places of pilgrimage. Santiago in Spain, the endpoint of the great pilgrimage called simply *El Camino*, "The Way", is the site that perhaps shows this most of all; since medieval times, pilgrims have walked hundreds of miles to the shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela. In Britain there is the "Student Cross", where, during Holy Week, large crosses are carried to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham from various starting points. There are also similar pilgrimages to Lindisfarne, off the north-east coast of England, and to Iona in Scotland. The difficulties of these journeys do not have any value in themselves. It is the presence of the cross, and of the grace won for humanity by Jesus, which makes the pilgrimage valuable. They are, in essence, ways of sharing in that last journey of Christ to his death and, through death, to his resurrection. Lent is itself a journey to the resurrection and it shapes our lives. It is a Passover through the desert of the world to the heaven we cannot imagine.

Gospel Teaching

The different Gospels describe the passion of Christ in different ways, to emphasise different aspects of the event. For Mark, one of the central factors is the refusal of the Christ to be the kind of Messiah the crowd thought he should be. For Luke, the emphasis is on the mercy of Christ; we

have the women who weep for Christ, and the good thief who repents on the cross. For John it is the unbroken love between the Father and the Son, which is not obscured but revealed by his passion.

Matthew, whose depiction of Jesus' passion we read today, is more difficult. One reason for this is that the whole Gospel of Matthew is written as a continuous sequence, with Jesus preaching to the Jews first at the Sermon of the Mount and, after his own people have rejected his mission, leading to the resounding command at the end of the Gospel to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." Of all the Gospels, Matthew is the one that most needs to be read from beginning to end, to be properly understood. Yet Matthew is also good at breaking out of the sequence with hints of what is to come. So the magi in the infancy narrative show that ultimately the mission of Christ is for all the world, not just the Jews. The mockery of the soldiers shows what will happen in reality, as Christ returns as king. The holy ones rise from their tombs to show the resurrection of all the dead, and this connects the death

of Christ with the past and the future.

Application

Matthew is the most orderly of the Gospels, yet it is also a Gospel of interruptions. The magi at the beginning, and the holy ones who rise at the end, show that life cannot be kept sealed in a box. Eternity itself interrupts life. When we experience the cross, we also experience the resurrection. Life on earth is never far from heaven, yet heaven appears in some most unheavenly places. Matthew himself is an example of someone whose orderly life as a tax collector was interrupted by the call of Jesus. Matthew teaches us not to be so orderly as to set up barriers to the incoming grace of God.

In this Holy Week we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and through the cross to eternal life. And we can reflect that whatever difficulties we may face in our journey through this life, he is with us always, and our ultimate destination is the same.

Holy Week & Easter 2017

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week

Mass	8.00 am
Wednesday Mass in Oratory	12.00 pm

Holy Thursday 13th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.00 pm
Compline	9.00 pm

Good Friday 14th April

Stations of the Cross	11.00 am
Liturgy of the Passion	3.00 pm
Compline	8.00 pm

Holy Saturday 15th April

Morning Prayer	9.00 am
Vespers	6.00 pm
The Easter Vigil	9.00 pm

Easter Sunday 16th April

Parish Mass	8.30 am
Parish Sung Mass	9.30 am
Monastic Conventual Mass	11.00 am
Vespers & Benediction	6.00 pm

Easter Monday 17th April

Sung Mass	9.00 am
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Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 16 April</u> <u>Easter Sunday Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas	Fr Nicholas	
Welcomers	Annette Mansie	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey	Ann Stapleton
Sacristan		Tony Archer	
1 st Reading	Julia Davey	Jacqui Corrigan	Patrick Walesby
2 nd Reading	Jacqui R-S	Margaret Rose	
Bidding Prayers	Adrian Eyre	Pat Wood	
Offertory	Parish Children		
Extraordinary Ministers	Kath Parry & Seamus Hayes	Monica Tomlin & Margaret Evans	
Next Sunday - Only one collection - Easter Clergy Offering			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	<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>	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled
09-Apr		No Children's Liturgy
HOLY WEEK		
16-Apr		No Children's Liturgy
23-Apr		A Morawiecki & Rachel Cowdrey
30-Apr		Jacqui Moore & Mary Wood

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 9 April)

Deaths: *Mary Jo Donnelly, Eduards Sardiko, Tom Supple and Gordon Wilson.*

Anniversaries: *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, Beatrice Hagreen, Horlando Salinas-Castillo and Sylvia Phillips.*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Peter Draper, Fr Simon, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, Sylvia Hayes, David Kinsey, Maureen Toner, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott, 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 9th April 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p>PALM SUNDAY</p>	<p>Entrance: Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.</p> <p>THIS IS REPEATED AFTER THE BLESSING OF PALMS</p> <p>Acclamation: Save us Saviour of the world ...</p> <p>Communion: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, you will be done.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.		
	08:30 am	10:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas	Father Abbot
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Clare Wichbold
Sacristan		
1 st Reading	Adrian Eyre	Polly Maund-Powell
2 nd Reading	Liz Norman	
Bidding Prayer	Richard Batho	
Offertory	Ramage-H Family	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Jacqui Ramage-Smith & Monica Russell	
Mass Intention	Donald Parry	The Parish
Second Collection - Easter Flowers		
Food Bank Delivery: Eddie & Jan Wyman		

What's On for the week	
Mon	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am; Midday Mass in Oratory; Tridentine Mass at 7:00 pm
Thu	Holy Thursday: No 8 am Mass; Mass of the Lord's Supper 7 pm
Fri	Good Friday: A day of fasting & abstinence. No Mass. Solemn Stations of the Cross 11 am; Liturgy of the Passion 3 pm.
Sat	Holy Saturday: Reconciliation at 10:00 am; Easter Vigil at 9 pm