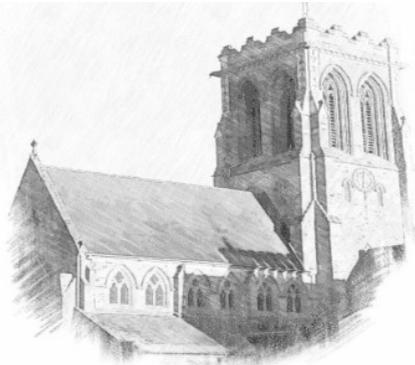


St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

9 December 2018

Advent 2

PARISH PRIEST

Abbot Paul Stonham OSB

Tel: 01432 - 374718

email: parish@belmontabbey.org.uk

www.belmontparish.org.uk

Parish Deacon

Rev Deacon Eddie Wyman

Tel: 01432 - 263575

Safeguarding Representative
Gabrielle Stanley 07939 472059

Articles for newsletter:

parish@belmontparish.org.uk

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to thank Peter Symonds for the talk he gave at Mass last week, encouraging volunteers to come forward to help make the parish vibrant and alive. We can't rely on others doing all the work. We should ask ourselves if we're really pulling our weight or just sitting back, expecting others to do the work. No matter what you offer to do for the parish, however small or insignificant, God will multiply it as only he can. Think of the little boy who had the five loaves and two fish. He was generous enough to come forward and give them to Jesus, who was then able to feed the five thousand.

What's your favourite season of the year? I've always liked Advent best of all, even when I was a little boy, and it wasn't the excitement of looking forward to Christmas. Even then, I was convinced there was more to it than that, and, of course, the wonderful Advent carols easily gave the game away. I still love those words and tunes. Think of, "Hills of the north, rejoice." Not the modernised version! I still long for Christ to come again. Do you?

God bless and keep you in his love,

Fr Paul

Welcome to Belmont Abbey. If you are a visitor here and would like to Gift Aid your offertory collection, please collect an envelope from the Porch. Thank you!

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£332.73
	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	£398.23
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 Christmas Flowers. Thank You!		

† † † † †

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.

† † † † †

If you know of anybody who is sick or homebound in the parish and they would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Parish office by phone or e-mail.

† † † † †

GDPR

Would all those who do a Ministry - Welcomer, Reader, Offertory and Extraordinary Minister - please sign the form in the porch so that I can send out new Telephone Lists. Many thanks.

† † † † †

Dates for your diary

9 December

Christmas Draw
After 11 am Mass
Parish Hall

12 December

Retired Persons'
Christmas Lunch
12:45 pm Hedley Lodge

14 December

Light up a life 7 pm

21 December

Penitential Service

† † † † †

Last Call

Retired Persons' Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 12th December at 12:45 pm. Booking forms are available in the porch. Please remember that places are limited and completed forms, with payment, must be received by **Sunday 9th December**. Please hand them to Ray Rose, Peter Symonds or Fran Grant.

† † † † †



EMMAUS YOUTH

The date for our next meeting is **Saturday** 15 December from 2.30 to 5.30 pm. We meet at Our Lady's Church Hall on Belmont Road. If you are of secondary school age or above come and join us for faith, food and fun! If you have any queries please contact emmausyouth@hotmail.com or call Jacqui & Rob on 01432 352241.



Tea & Chat

As the December Meeting is so close to Christmas it has been cancelled and due to the winter weather we will not resume until March 19th.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion classes will begin in early January 2019. The sessions are fortnightly and will be on Saturday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 pm. If your child is in Year 3 or above and would like to join us please contact Rob or Jacqui Corrigan on 01432 352241 or email: Jacqui.corrigan@btopenworld.com



Walk with Me available in the porch to help you keep a good Advent.



Poor Clares' Carol Service on Sunday, 16th December, at 3 pm with Refreshments to follow.



Diamond Diners

After our gathering this month we will recommence on the 19th February 2019.



For Christ is the Light that came into the world

Put Christ back into Christmas. Why not come along to a DVD presentation of "Amazed and Afraid" by renowned speaker Bishop Robert Barron? Come and light a candle for a loved one. Listen to or join in an informal chat over tea and mince pies. All Welcome. Friday 14th December at 7.15 in OLQM Parish Hall.



Parish Prayer Chain/ Practical Help Chain

I have suggested setting up a parish prayer chain, so that if anyone in our parish has a sudden severe health issue or problem they would like prayer for they could contact the prayer chain. I am imagining having a list of people who would each phone two others and so the

message would be passed on with no one person having to make loads of calls. If you would like to be part of a prayer chain please phone Jane Davies 01432 267089 or email jf58davies@gmail.com

I am also thinking of having another chain of people who would be willing/able to help a fellow parishioner with practical needs if they were suffering a sudden illness or they were in particular short term need. I imagine helping to provide the odd meal for a family where the main cook has broken his/her arm for example. If anyone would like to be part of such a chain, or would have ideas on how it could work, please contact Jane Davies 01432 267089 or email: jf58davies@gmail.com. Also if anyone can advise me on data protection issues please do!!

As a start I wonder if there are any parishioners who will be alone on Christmas Day? And if anyone would be able to invite such a lonely person to Christmas Lunch at their home?? If so please contact me as above and I will see if I can sort something out.

Jane Davies



HEREFORD FOOD BANK

Philip King, Trustee & Treasurer of the HFB, has written to thank the Belmont

Abbey Parish for the cheque for £525 towards the work of the Bank. You can find and read his interesting letter on the notice board in the porch.



Archdiocesan Year Books are now available for purchase in the Bookshop.



Homily

“Prepare a way for the Lord.”

Illustration

In many parts of the world, even to the present day, countries and cities would be happy to be surrounded by mountainous countryside. The mountains mean protection, which is one reason why northern Europe, which is all too flat, has been a place of wars, invasions and counter invasions for so many centuries. It’s also the reason why, throughout history, many cities have been built on mountains. Of course it doesn’t really matter whether you want there to be mountains or not, since they are there anyway.

Yet it is important to understand just how odd the biblical prophets were in using the image of the mountains being laid low as a sign of the

messianic age. It would seem like asking God to make the world more dangerous for Israel. Yet Baruch and Isaiah talk of the messianic age as a time when Israel would be wide open to the world. The Old Testament book of Judges speaks of a time when the people of Israel were forced into the mountains, but with the coming of the Messiah, the people will no longer need to be afraid. So the lowering of the mountains is really a call to overcome our fear of new things. Advent means arrival, and our God is an Advent God.

Gospel Teaching

Whatever you think of the strange figure of John the Baptist, this wild ascetic living in the terrible desert beyond the river Jordan, you could not deny his courage. To live in the desert is to depend utterly on God and to live without protection. This is, in fact, the appeal of the desert for the prophets of Israel. The books of Exodus and Deuteronomy tell of the testing of Israel in the desert. What was tested was their faith. In the desert, as the people of Israel made their escape from Egypt, they could not live without the direct protection of God, a fire by night and a cloud by day. Yet still they rebelled against the Lord and complained, even about the food he gave them.

So in New Testament times John lives in the desert to re-enact this testing. He is trying to restore Israel by returning to its roots, to the time when Israel was a desert people. Yet there is something more, as Luke shows, quoting Isaiah: this bold choice of John will be for all humanity, not just for Israel: "And all mankind shall see the salvation of God." To live in the desert is to be open to what is coming, yet not even John fully realised what the coming of Christ would mean. The world becomes completely open when Jesus the Messiah arrives. He is to be the saviour not just of one people, or one nation, but of the whole of humanity, and humanity must have no more barriers. Perhaps that doesn't sound like our world but, as Pope Francis has said, we are to build bridges, not walls. At the first coming of Christ the people were not willing to accept him, but we are called to undo their failure. The business of receiving Christ means trying to be constantly open to his coming into our lives.

Application

So how, today, do we make ourselves able to accept Christ into the world? We do so by considering how, though he has come among us, he is still on his way. Jesus is the great arrival, the messenger of the Father and the message. The message is more than words; it is God coming into the world

in God's own fullness. Anyone who welcomes any human being in the name of Christ, welcomes Christ himself. Prayer too is a form of welcome, a willingness to accept God.

So Advent can be for us the season of welcome, when we consider how we will allow new people into our lives, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world. We may go out to look for them, or they may come to us; either way we are called to accept them as Christ. It's something that Jesus himself calls us to do: "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome."



St John of the Cross

"Live in the world, as if God and our soul only were in it; so shall your heart never be led captive by any earthly things."

"They can be like the sun, words. They can do for the heart what light can for a field."

"Well and good if all things change, O Lord God, provided I am rooted in You."

"If a man wishes to be sure of the road he's travelling on, then he must close his eyes and travel in the dark."

"God has to work in the soul in secret and in darkness because if we fully knew what was happening, and what Mystery, transformation, God and Grace will eventually ask of us, we would either try to take charge or stop the whole process."



Week 2 Advent Peace

Dear Lord you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.



Ministries for next <u>Sunday 16 December 2018</u> 3 Advent Year C Cycle 1			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Paul		Fr Paul
Welcomers	Liz Norman	Nickerson Family	Morawiecki Family
Sacristan			Chris Moore
1 st Reading	Richard Batho	Clare Wichbold	Liz Morawiecki
2 nd Reading	Adrian Eyre		Pat Wood
Bidding Prayers	Mary Hayes		Sergio Pavia
Offertory	Hickey Boys	Menna Mcbain	
Extraordinary Ministers	Deacon Eddie & Seamus Hayes		Deacon Eddie & Margaret Evans
Next Sunday: Homeless at Christmas			

Low Mass in the Extraordinary Rite (Tridentine Mass) is usually celebrated here at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm.	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	09-Dec	Jacqui Moore & Monica Russell
	16-Dec	Andrew M & Mary Wood
	23-Dec	Jan Wyman & Monica Russell
	Christmas Break	

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

Deaths: *Petal O'Hay, Vincent Hanna and Fr Cadfan osb*

Anniversaries: *Hugh McLachlan, Frederick Clarke, Alice Cleaton, George Bond, Philomena Nicholas, Mary Alice Barlow, Thomas Corr and Basil Godwin*

The Sick: Please pray for: *Roy Lampard, Jennifer Hackman, David Grant, Kenny Hanna, Fr Aidan, Robin Hayward, Gil Savory, Chris & Sue Rogers, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medicott and Dame Catherine.*

Liturgy for Sunday 9 December 2018 *Cycle C; Weekdays: Year 1*

<h2>2nd Sunday of Advent</h2>	<p>Entrance: O People of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death ...</p> <p>Communion: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights and behold the joy which comes to you from God.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.			
	8:30	9:30 am	11 am
Celebrant	Fr Paul	Fr Jonathan	Fr Paul
Welcomer	Cooper Family	Anne Stapleton	Rita Chamberlain & Monica Russell
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Anthea Morton-S	Jane Davies
2 nd Reading	Ann Jackson		Pat Draper
Bidding Prayer	Bill Jackson		Margaret Rose
Offertory	Hayes Family	Nickerson Family	
Extraordinary Minister(s)	Kath Parry & Fran Smallwood		Deacon Eddie & Monica Russell
Mass Intention			
<i>Second Collection: Mary's Meals</i>			
Food Bank Collection: Chris Moore			

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
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; Extraordinary Rite at 7 pm
Thu	St Lucy: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	St John of the Cross: Mass at 8:00 am; Exposition at 11 & Mass at 12
Sat	Feria: Mass at 8:00 am; Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10 am