



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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4th Sunday of Easter –Vocations Sunday - year cycle B – 26 April 2015

Entrance: *The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia*

Responsorial psalm: *The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.*

Gospel: Alleluia, alleluia: *I am the good shepherd says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me alleluia*

Communion: *The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia,*

Vocations Sunday 2015

The number of women entering convents in England and Wales has hit a 25 year high. From a low point of 7 in 2004, the numbers have steadily increased to a high point of 45 in 2014. Religious life is an attractive choice for an increasing number of educated and dynamic young and older women.

Sr Cathy Jones – a Promoter at the National Office for Vocation explains why she thinks this is so: “A key reason for this increase is the growth of a culture of vocation in the Church. Young Catholics are asking themselves ‘What is God’s plan for my life?’ and they are availing themselves of opportunities to meet with experienced guides to consider their future in the context of prayer, discussion and scripture. It is also significant that in recent years many religious congregations have grown in confidence in proposing their way of life, both through offering taster weekends and by participating in youth festivals, enabling potential ‘discerners’ to easily encounter religious and take the first steps to find out more about religious life.” Fr Christopher Jamison, Director of the Vocations Office adds: “There is a gap in the market for meaning in our culture and one of the ways in which women may find that meaning is through religious life.”

Theodora Hawksley, 29, until recently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Edinburgh, joined the Congregation of Jesus a couple of months ago. She is now living in their house in North London and is taking the first steps towards making vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. She says: "Entering religious life was a decision born of love. It was an acknowledgement that my life has slowly and concretely rearranged itself around the love of God, and around that relationship as the one I prize above all else." The Congregation of Jesus is an apostolic order working outside the cloister in a wide variety of different fields - in education, healthcare, evangelisation and more besides. Both ‘enclosed’/‘contemplative’ and ‘apostolic’ orders are on the rise in terms of numbers – there has been a ninefold increase in the number of active religious sisters and a fourfold increase in the number of enclosed sisters in England and Wales.

The General Superior of the Congregation of Jesus, an Englishwoman, Sister Jane Livesey says about the rise and the role of women religious: “We have been delighted in the English province to have admitted a postulant at the start of this year and to have a further candidate actively discerning her vocation with us at the moment, both attracted in particular by our Ignatian charism and by our foundress the Venerable Mary Ward, the pioneer of women’s apostolic religious life, who as long ago as 1612, told her earliest members that ‘women in time to come will do much.’”

Mary Ward's vision of an active, apostolic role for women in the Church met with opposition during her lifetime, but it finds an echo now in Pope Francis’ call for women to play a more ‘incisive’ role in the Church. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, he writes, ‘The Church acknowledges the indispensable contribution which women make to society through the sensitivity, intuition and other distinctive skill sets which they, more than men, tend to possess.’

Sr Jane believes that religious life is one place where women can make just such an incisive contribution: “It is historically the case that it is religious life that has given women a clear and recognised place in the Church and an opportunity to contribute very fully to the Church’s mission to be at the service of the people of God – whether ‘churched’ or ‘unchurched’. In our case in this country our current ministries include university and seminary teaching, hospital chaplaincy, spiritual accompaniment of all kinds, child psychotherapy and others besides. And we are only one group – there are many other congregations making equally significant contributions who are as grateful to God as we are that he continues to call women and men to follow him in the consecrated life, which, at the invitation of Pope Francis, the Church is honouring and celebrating in particular during 2015, the ‘Year of Consecrated Life’.”

Taken from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Blogspot

Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

The numbers drawn week 30 were 49 36 1 40 12
No Winner
Prize money for week 31 is £450.00, and six numbers to be drawn

Second Collection for the Church and Hall redecoration amount collected so far is £4436.00

Tuesday devotions: Divine Mercy chaplet and Novena before Mass and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary afterward.

Jumble Sale Next sale in May we are in urgent need of bric-a-brac, shoes, handbags, toys, books, and clothes. We have storage space. We also need an army of helpers on Friday 8th May morning and Saturday 9th from 9 – 3 approx

Our condolences go out to Fr Andrew and his family on the death of his dear grandmother Marjory Berry. May her good soul rest in peace. Amen.

Religious items for the Missons We hope to send the items collected, in the next week or two, so please bring in any religious items broken or unwanted. Thank you

Hall Management There is to be a management team for the care and hire of the hall, if anyone is willing to assist your help will be greatly appreciate. See any member of the PAC for further information.

The Gift

Belmont Abbey Parish will be running a course between Easter and Pentecost called The Gift. Open to everyone from any parish, this is an inspiring and practical series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. The talks are on DVD and include a time for discussion in small groups. The teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible, the Catechism, Evagelii Gaudium and reflections on the Holy Spirit from Pope Francis.

They will be held on consecutive Wednesday evenings in Belmont Abbey Parish Hall from 7.00pm on April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13 and 20 concluding in time for the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday 24 May.

Archbishop Kevin McDonald said, "The speakers are offering witness to God's action in the world and in their own lives. I warmly commend this resource.' More information is available on www.thegiftofthespirit.org or from Chris Moore on 01432 358699

Hereford Catholic History Society Please note that the next meeting of the HCHS will be on Thursday 30th April 2015 in the Kemble Room at Belmont Abbey at 2.30 p.m. when Pat Lyne will speak on the establishment and work of the former Carmelite Community at Presteigne. Thursday 30th April at Belmont.

Belmont Abbey Parish will be running a Confirmation Course starting in September using the new resource 'Transformed in Christ'. This will require a commitment to 22 sessions during term time (with breaks for school holidays) plus a two-day retreat, involvement in participating at Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and some day trips to places of Catholic interest. It is open to any baptised Catholic teenager in Year 9 up to the age of 17. Please contact Fr Nicholas or Chris Moore (01432 358699) by the end of April if you wish to take part in this course. There will be a meeting arranged for all candidates and their parents where further information and a timetable will be prepared. This is additional not replacing parish preparation.

Quiz Night will be on Saturday 16th May. Please see posters for further details. Tickets are £2 with under 16s free and are available after Sunday Masses or by calling Lindsay on 07832 694284

Wednesaday May 13th is the date of the Belmont Torchlight May Procession in honour of Our Lady, beginning at 9.00pm, Vespers at 6.00pm. Food and drink available from Hedley Lodge from 6.30p

Sung Vespers at Tintern Abbey - Sunday 6th September 2015 - 3.00pm We are hoping to organise a coach from the Herefordshire Deanery joining other members of clergy and parishioners of the Archdiocese of Cardiff in attending this annual ecumenical service.

To give an indication of numbers of those who are interested please email tintern.herefordshire@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01989 563463 with your name, contact details and number of places required by Monday 18th May. Further details about this year's service may be found at www.ourladyoftintern.co.uk. Thank you.

It's interesting to note how all the Churches are celebrating Vocations Sunday today. That's because the Gospel for the 4th Sunday of Easter is taken from St John's Gospel, where Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd. It's also interesting to see how the other Churches in this land (apart from our Orthodox brethren, who have another tradition) now follow the Catholic Lectionary that resulted from the reforms stemming from the Second Vatican Council. When we speak of vocation we almost invariably think of the priesthood or religious life, but the fundamental vocation we all share is that of being a Christian, following Jesus as disciples and working together with him to bring about the salvation of the world. Having said that, the most important vocation in the Church and in society is that of marriage, being called to form a family. Marriage is a vocation, for which young people need to train and prepare. In the words of St Paul, it is an excellent mystery. Then there is the vocation to live a celibate life in society and of dedicating oneself to a particular career that demands our all. In the old days teachers and nurses were expected to be single. There is also the Order of Consecrated Virgins, the oldest form of consecration to Christ in the history of Christianity. Finally, there is the vocation to the priesthood (which includes the diaconate) or the religious life, or even to both, like some of the monks at Belmont. This is a particular service to the Church. Today we pray for vocations, that we may all serve Christ faithfully, no matter which of those vocations he has called us to follow.

God bless you all, Abbot Paul

3rd Sunday of Easter – World day of prayer for Vocations

Psalter week IV

<p><i>Today:</i> 9:30 am <i>Special Intention</i> 11:30 am 6:30 pm</p> <p>Monday 27 April 10.00 am Mass – <i>St Martin Pope & Martyr</i></p> <p>Tuesday 28 April 7.00pm Mass – <i>Feria</i></p> <p>Wednesday 29 April 10.00am Mass – <i>St Catherine of Siena</i></p> <p>Thursday, 30 April 10.00am Mass – <i>Feria</i></p> <p>Friday 1 May 7.00pm Mass - <i>Feria</i></p> <p>Saturday, 2 May 10.00am Confessions & Exposition <i>St Athanasius</i> 11.00am Mass – <i>Special Intention</i></p> <p>Sunday 3 May 4th <i>Sunday of Easter</i> 9:30 am 11:30 am 6.30pm <i>Father Nicholas</i></p>	<p>Rota Schedule for 27 April – 3 May 2015</p> <p>Flower Arrangers: Leigh</p> <p>Cleaners: J Wagner</p> <p>Ushers: 9:30am P Roberts C Sharland 11:30am D Lissaman D Scofield 6:30pm M Netting C Milsom</p> <p>Readers:</p> <p> 9:30am A Spanjers 11:30am M Brown 6.30pm R Maloney</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers:</p> <p> 9.30am H Fishlock C Sharland T Bray 11.30am K Davis J Meenaghan A Staton 6.30pm R Jones</p> <p>Altar Linen: L Briscoe</p> <p>Counting Celia Paul</p> <hr/> <p>Polish Information: Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 26 Kwietnia godz 16:00 Finance: Collection on Sunday 19th April - £388.69 + £156.47 for redecoration fund Thank you</p>
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Please pray for: The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O’Neil, Andrew Walker, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, Glyn Matthews, Anna Foggo, Katie Richardson, Agnes McGowan, Michael Morris Rita O’Leary Pat Cotterell, Pat Spence, Joshua Isada and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially, Aniela Nowosielska, William McGoldrick Marjorie Berry

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of April, including: Emily Rees, Margaret Cook, Thomas Slane, Hewitt Lane, Karol Sliwka, Sally Kaye, Alexander Taylor, Vera Ashcroft, Joyce Lynes, Norah Webb, Mary Bagley, Barbara McAtear, Raymond Preedy, Mary Logan, John Doyle, John Young, Amaryliss Davies, Jock Warzynski, Bernard Rourke, Anne Mead, Zofia Heathcock, Fernando Gianessi, Julie Powell, Thomas Reilly, Sharon Kostorz-Pinwell, Phyllis Lyons, Josef Priebe, Francis Meigh, Charles Bagley, John McEwan, Frederick Whalen and Edward da Silva Elsie Vlahos and Ellen Sloane

There was once a priest who used to bore and irritate his brother clergy in the parish by boasting that he could preach a sermon on any subject at a seconds notice, be it dull ordinary or unusual. Eventually they said to him, “now put up or shut up. We will write the subject for a sermon on a piece of paper and give it to you as you go into the pulpit and you will either preach the subject or stop bragging.” “Accepted” he said eagerly. The next day he was handed a piece as he climbed into the pulpit and on it was written one word *constipation*. “Dearly beloved brethren” he said as he faced his congregation, my mind goes back 3000 years, when Moses was given to tablets by the Lord and came running down the mountain.....!