

**Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Belmont Abbey**  
**Parish Priest's AGM Report - 2025**

Parish Statistics for 2023					
Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communions	Marriages	Deaths and/or Burials	Average Weekly Attendance
18	8 (5 were parishioners)	6	7	19	180

Parish Statistics for 2024					
Baptisms	Confirmations	First Holy Communions	Marriages	Deaths and/or Burials	Average Weekly Attendance
10	0	4	2	22	206

I was appointed Parish Priest of the Belmont Parish in September 2023 and therefore have been in the post for two years. The transition to Parish Priest was made relatively easy since I was acting as assistant priest under Abbot Paul, so I got to know a lot of the parishioners and became familiar with the general running of the parish during this time. I am most grateful to Abbot Paul for his guidance during this time and for allowing me to serve the parishioners of the Abbey Church in this important role.

Considering our age demographic, which leans to the older end, we have a good number of requests for Baptisms. We also run a First Holy Communion programme for those who do not attend Catholic Schools. Confirmations are generally held every two years for the parishes in Hereford. We are looking to organise a Confirmation programme in collaboration with the other two Hereford parishes in the new year, with the Confirmation Mass taking place in late May or June. We currently have two individuals who are receiving instruction to be received into the Church; they will hopefully make their reception in the next few months.

The number of marriages in the parish can fluctuate since a lot of couples come from outside the parish seeking a Catholic Church to be married in, as they have been attracted to Herefordshire by the various wedding reception venues available. We are on track to have 7 marriages in the Abbey Church this year.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession takes place on Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 10.30am. Fr Joseph has looked after this ministry since before my appointment and enjoys assisting the parish in this role. The other priests of the monastery and I are available to hear confessions on request.

I am grateful to all those who assist with the different ministries for Holy Mass. The Welcomers; Readers; Organists; Musicians; Singers; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Money Collectors; Flower Arrangers and Sacristans who assist with tidying up after Mass. All these ministries help to make Belmont Abbey the warm and welcoming House of God which is essential for the celebration of Holy Mass.

I regularly make visits to those who are housebound and ask for the Sacraments. I am always happy to make home visits, for whatever reason. I have recently been assisted by Fr Patrick

since his return to the monastery, as he wishes to continue his pastoral ministry as well as his hospital chaplain work. I am also appreciative of the help provided by Deacon Eddie before he retired from active ministry earlier this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the times of Holy Mass here at Belmont, since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The daily Conventual Mass is at 8.00am, Monday to Saturday, although regarded as the monastic Mass, all are welcome to attend. The Parish has two weekly celebrations of Holy Mass on both Tuesday and Friday at 10.15am. On Tuesday, Holy Mass is followed by a period of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament until 11.30am. I am grateful to Fathers Alex, Jonathan and Patrick, who have been able to cover the parish Masses when I have been away or engaged in other business.

I regularly attend the Christians Together in Ewyas Harold & District meetings, which is the group which Belmont Abbey is affiliated with for Churches Together in Herefordshire. Along with ourselves, the main denominations involved are the Anglicans and Baptists. We recently learned about the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way, a walkable circular pilgrimage route along stunning ancient paths, beginning and ending at Hereford Cathedral. The route links the Wye Valley with the Golden Valley and the flower meadows and foothills of the Black Mountains. It has recently increased in popularity and has even been covered in the national press.

I am a Foundation Governor at St Mary's High School in Lugwardine. This allows me to not only be engaged with the spiritual life of the Catholic teenagers in Herefordshire and in the governance of the school but also in assisting the chaplain, Fr Andrew (Parish Priest of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs), with School Masses, Confessions and other pastoral requests.

The Parish has many different events and groups which is why it is great to be able to come here today and see what goes on in the parish by examining the different stations around the room. I am particularly grateful to Louise and the Fetes and Events Committee, who put on so many wonderful events throughout the year which not only raise money for the parish but also are great fun. We have had Christmas concerts, Quiz suppers, the Doggie Fun Day, the Summer Garden Fete, Parish BBQ and Jumble Sales, to name but a few. These events also help us to 'build our community' as they give a chance for parishioners to meet and spend time with each other.

A big thank you also needs to go to Jonathon Nicholls, our resident Parish and Monastic organist. He gives a lot of his time to running the parish website, contributing to the Parish Facebook page, organising the booking of the Parish Centre, as well as starting up the new youth choir, which we hope will make its debut in October at one of the 11am Parish Masses.

Finally, I am grateful for the advice and support which the Parish Council has provided me and for their sterling work in turning what was learnt at our 'Ears to Hear' sessions into a tangible mission moving forward, one of the fruits of which is today's AGM. I am indebted to those who have given up so much of their time in this ministry, both past and present and I look forward to seeing where our new Parish Pastoral Council will take us, walking together in the Faith of Christ.

Rev. Dom Augustine Primavesi  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2025