

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF
HEREFORD, WEOBLEY, HR4 8QS AND
ST.BEDE THE VEN. KINGTON, HR5 3DW

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME



Christ calling James and John. Edward Armitage 1869

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Lampitt, Sarah Nichols, Frank McNally, Charles de Rohan,
Tricia Carter. *Hon.Secretary*, Kerry Poole,
Finance Cttee: Joanna Helme, Pat Roberts, Peter Hereford.
Accounts: Keith White.

The Website:www.thomasandbede.com Go to the
website, and click on 'Contact'. Tricia Carter now manages
the website (01568.708723). triciacarter2691@gmail.com

COVID -& FLU: Please take all normal precautions,
Weobley Mass will continue to be Zoomed.
Zoom ID:768 558 1521 and Password:1rZ7LU

SECOND ORDINARY WEEK OF THE YEAR.

Sat.Jan.20 **Mass of Sunday, Kington 6.00**
Sun. 21 **3rd.ORD.SUNDAY Mass Weob. 10.30Z**
Mon. 22 **Mass, Weob. 10.00Z. St. Vincent. Rom.m.**
Tues. 23 **Mass, Weob. 10.00Z - feria**
Wed. 24 **Mass, K'ton.10.30 – St Francis de Sales**
Thur. 25 **Mass, Weob. 10.00Z Conv.of St.Paul.**
Mass for Christian Unity
Fri. 26 **NO Mass**
Sat. 27 **Mass of Sun. K'ton. 6.00pm.**
Sun. 28 **4th. SUNDAY IN ORDIN.TIME.**
Mass, Weob 10.30

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLES OF ISRAEL AND GAZA
Pray for lasting peace in the Ukraine and a change of the
Russian mind.
PLEASE PRAY for AFGHANISTAN and IRAN
struggling for humane government and basic rights for
women, especially Afghanis seeking sanctuary in Britain.
For Peace in the Arabian Gulf.
ALLBOAT MIGRANTS that they may have love, justice
and shelter according to their real needs.

For the recovery of those who are suffering from the
floods which have afflicted our country at this time.

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**We pray for those of our parish or known to us who**  
**are sick or in need of special prayers:** John and  
Vicky Tanner, Graham Vaughan, Melita Denaro,  
Vivian Brooke, Pat Walls, Ashleigh Harley, Louise  
Wright, Sheila Mundy, Catherine Williams, Claire  
Burrows, Betty Price, Sarah Murkin, Pat Buckley,  
Diane Howells.

**For any parishioners, relatives and friends recently**  
**dead:** Monica Mullett. Rev.Brian Gill

**We remember those of our parish whose**  
**anniversaries occur at this time:** Fr. Dyfrig Harris  
(T.2012) Monica Hillard (W.'96), George James  
(Sa. '58).

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For King Charles III, that he may always set the
highest standards of leadership for our country.**We**
also pray for our government, especially our Prime
Minister, Rishi Sunak. May they govern with integrity
following the religious beliefs of our country. And we
pray for the leaders of all the other countries of the
world, esp.President Zelenski of Ukraine **and for**
conversion of the Russian leadership.

For the people and leadership of Gaza and Israel.

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**DON'T YET HAVE A RED BOX? PLEASE ASK ANDY.**  
**THINK FOOD BANK, THINK CLOTHES (ESPECIALLY**  
**FOR PEOPLE LIVING ROUGH IN THE COLD)**

**THIS THURSDAY: "HORIZONS OF HOPE" (1)**  
**New Deanery Initiative.**

Herefordshire Deanery is organising a series of talks  
and workshops to deepen our understanding of the  
faith and to have a better grasp of of the wisdom of the  
Church on contemporary issues. Talks will alternate  
between Thursday evenings at SFX and Saturday  
mornings at Belmont Abbey to allow for maximum  
participation. Excellent speakers from all over the UK  
will be invited so we hope that the uptake will be great.  
**Thur.Jan.25<sup>th</sup>. 7.00 SFX, "Sources of our Hope"**  
**Prof. David McLoughlin, Senior Lecturer in**  
**Theology, Newman University, Birmingham.**  
**Sat.Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. 10.30-12.30, Belmont Abbey.**  
**"Good News in Dark Times". Fr. Brendan**  
**Thomas, with reflexions on Mark's gospel.**

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from**  
**18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**UNITY SERVICE AND SUPPER** at the  
**Simpson Hall, Burghill on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.**  
from 6 – 8 pm (Please bring a plate of food to  
share.) If you would like to be involved in a  
reading or providing music, please contact Joanna  
Helme on 01432.760816,  
or [joannahelme@gmail.com](mailto:joannahelme@gmail.com)

## SERMONETTE – 3rd ORDINARY SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### **FIRST READING from the Book of Jonah.** (*Ch.3, vv.1-10*)

Last week we had the story of the call of Samuel, the boy who was to become the last Judge of Israel. Today, we have a different kind of calling and one to which we may be able to relate more easily. It is that of the prophet Jonah. Unfortunately the composers of the lectionary have chosen to leave out the story of Jonah and the whale or ‘big fish’ which we probably learned in primary school and which is an important prelude to today’s story. The first is about a man who runs away from God’s call, a common response. So intense is the call that the only escape is by going overseas – or so he thinks. He did not reckon on his caller being also the master of seas and he and the sailors are caught up in a life-threatening storm for which Jonah is forced to own up as the guilty cause of God’s wrath. The sailors cast him overboard where he is gobbled up by a huge and hungry fish which then spews him up on a foreign shore. Perhaps he did not taste very nice! So much for the fish’s intervention for when he comes to, he continues to hear the voice of God sending him to the huge and sinful city of Niniveh, capital of the empire of Assyria. To Jonah’s surprise the people listen and repent so God relents, so Jonah becomes their earthly saviour, and all because God gave him a second chance.

### **SECOND READING from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians** (*Ch.7, vv.29-31*)

This is one of Paul’s more depressing passages but it has to be understood in context. Over all Paul has been very encouraging to the Corinthians and has preached to them many stories to help them conform to the person of Jesus Christ more closely. Here, however, he addresses Jesus’ teaching that He will return and how his members must all be ready for His coming. He obviously expects Christ’s return imminently so his theme is ‘readiness’. No good settling down for a long and comfortable future because there is no prospect of this. As in the gospels, the Son of Man will return ‘like a thief in the night’ or ‘when the servant is not expecting’. So, uncomfortable as it may seem, we have to face up to this truth and conform our lives to it in the hope of a glorious future.

### **GOSPEL according to Mark** (*Ch.1, vv.14-20*)

Jesus has arrived among the crowd at the River Jordan, He has been recognised and baptised by John the Baptist. He is now ready for His mission for His Father, the spreading of the ‘Good News’ from the Father. He starts in his home province of Galilee but He needs some disciples to help Him. Who better than local fishermen, to be made into “fishers of men”. Scripture scholars today, based on the gospel of John which we heard last week, suggest that Andrew and Peter and James and John were already disciples of John the Baptist, so they were ideally suited to help Jesus with the Father’s mission. Their readiness to follow Jesus is a sign of their divine calling and suitability.

### **MARRIAGE CARE have notified us that their next local sessions for those proposing to get married will**

**be:** Abergavenny – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of February

Caerphilly - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2024

Merthyr Tydfil - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2024

You may not be experiencing critical differences in your marriage but listen for the many who are. Marriage care, though, started by Catholics, is non-denominational in its outreach and is reported to be very positive, so why not suggest them.