



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Parish Priest Dom James Hood. Assistant Priest Dom John George.
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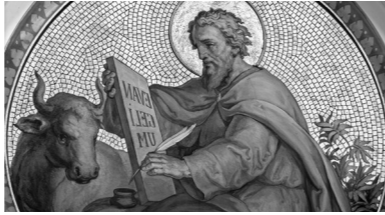
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Dear Friends,

You will have noticed that the Crib has been taken down and that we are wearing green vestments, and the altars have green frontals. This signals that we are in a different season of the Church's year -Ordinary Time. The name Ordinary Time can be a little off putting: we're not keeping a particular season like Christmas or Easter when our attention is drawn to Christ's birth or resurrection. During the Sundays of Ordinary Time, the Liturgy of the Word, focuses on Christ's earthly life. In the gospel we read of Christ's healing miracles; we encounter Jesus teaching his disciples and exercising compassion as he reaches out to the poor and marginalised of society despite the criticisms from the authorities. This year the gospel on many Sundays will be taken from St Luke, today is an exception. St Luke will take us on a journey to Jerusalem where Jesus will meet his passion, death and resurrection. In that journey he will stress the importance of prayer and will exhort us to a standard of self-denial. As disciples we're called to listen and to answer Jesus' call, just as his first disciples did, who left everything and followed him. At the end of his gospel St Luke records the story of the journey to Emmaus. The two disciples said to one another after Jesus had taken the bread, blessed and broken it, "Did not our hearts burn while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" May our hearts burn as we travel with Jesus during this Holy Year. **Fr James**



Liturgical Calendar January 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 2

Sat 18th	10.30am	Votive Memorial Our Lady	The Pope's Intention
Sat 18th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 18th	6.00 pm	2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Ram Kali RIP
Sun 19th	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY OT	Forgotten Souls
Sun 19th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY OT	The Parish
Mon 20th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	St Sebastian, Martyr	Angela (Illness)
Tue 21st	St. Agnes. Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 22nd	1.00pm	Feria. Day of Prayer for the legal protection of unborn children	Antony Philip Anniversary
Thu 23rd	9.30am	Feria	Nita Barry RIP
Fri 24th	1.00pm	St Francis de Sales Bishop and Doctor	Thanksgiving
Sat 25th	10.30am	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE (FEAST)	Forgotten Souls
Sat 25th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 25th	6.00pm	3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	The Pope's Intention
Sun 26th	8.00am	3RD SUNDAY OT	The Parish
Sun 26th	10.00am	3RD SUNDAY OT	Michael Ramsay

Baptism

We welcome into God's family Olivia Chidinma who will be baptised this Sunday at 12 noon. We warmly welcome Olivia and all her family to our parish.



CAN YOU HELP YOUR PARISH?

Our lovely parish works with the great help supplied by a small team of parishioners volunteering with some of the necessary jobs. We are in real need for 3 three people to take on one of the jobs below. These can be done anytime, once a fortnight and should only be 20 mins.

- 1.Sweep steps. 2. Clean entrance glass doors.
 3. Clean Holy water stoops in the Narthex
- If you can help, please message the office on hereford2@rcadc.org Many Thanks

We remember all who have died
Lately Dead
Kathleen Spradbery
and those whose anniversaries occur about this time:
Finian O'Driscoll, Violet Errington,
Queenie Franklin, Elizabelt Hankinson,
Vittorina Bord, Barbara O'Sullivan,
Nora King, Sean Niescior, Agnes Manteuffel,
Timothy O'Sullivan, Carmel Gwinnett.
**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon
them.
May they rest in peace. Amen**



Pray for the Sick: Fr Keith, Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Robbie Bell, Brian Symonds, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Sarah, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord Ann Marie Hughson, Paul Kingston, John Moroney, Eddie Gallagher, Pauline and David Day, Bunimin, Mark Edmunds.

Jubilee Year: Indulgences

Indulgences. The very word itself is enough to conjure up more misconceptions than perhaps any other Catholic teaching! Does the Church even believe in them anymore? Well, yes, actually. Yes, the Church still teaches the importance of indulgences as a concrete manifestation of God's mercy, which goes beyond and transforms the boundaries of human justice. This Jubilee Year allows all of us to free our hearts from the weight of sin in concrete ways.

So, what exactly are indulgences? Well, simply they are an action of the Church drawing on the infinite merits of Christ, and the merits of the saints, won in the eyes of the Father. The Catechism teaches that: "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven." Pope Francis helps to explain them further: "Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of sin remain ... sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes indulgence on the part of the Father Who, through the Bride of Christ, His Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him from every residue of sin, enabling him to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin."

To gain an indulgence it is necessary to have the right intention when performing the act assigned, to pray for the intentions of the Pope, to go to confession, and to receive Holy Communion.

During this Jubilee Year you will find various resources to help you explore the different the types of indulgences and other prayer materials. Indulgences, then, remind us that mercy is a gift from God. They are not something mechanical or superstitious. Instead, they should cultivate in us a spirit of prayer and penance, allowing us to more readily receive forgiveness. They remain a part of the life of the Church because they relate to the human condition, to the mercy of God and to the role of the Church in dispensing that mercy. **Fr John**

Visit from Abbot Brendan

Next Sunday 26th January we welcome Abbot Brendan who will be celebrating the 10.00am Mass with us and also to give a formal induction and blessing to our new priests and the Narthex and church front restoration.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Ancy Shajan Shaun Joseph	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Tracey Buckley Lorraine L Williams
10am Lorena de Lima Auer Moses Obanimoh Noel Elegado	10am Audrey Fussell Liz Symonds

Parish 200 Club. Renewals for 2025 due now

Thanks to all who have supported the 200 club and we hope you will continue your subscription for 2025. Please send a cheque for £12 per number (cheques payable to St Francis Xavier's 200 Club) to the church in an envelope with your name on it and stating 200 Club. (If you pay by standing order you do not need to do anything).The easiest way to pay is to make a direct transfer. Please use the following: **Sort Code:09-06-66. Acc No: 42516221. Acc Name: St Francis Xavier's Church.** To enable us to keep track of payments, **please let us know if you make a direct transfer** to pejwilliams@gmail.com Paul and Brenda will be available at the end of all Masses on 18th/19th January for collections and with further details. Profits go to pay for extras in the Church. Paul and Brenda.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham, England's Nazareth, for the Jubilee Year 2025

Places are available on a pilgrimage taking place from Monday 23rd June to Friday 27th June. The coach leaves from Belmont, picking up at Ledbury Catholic Church and then direct to Walsingham, in Norfolk. The price varies depending on the type of room required, but will include four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast with participation in all Masses etc. There is also an excursion to the late 15th Century Red Mount Chapel, (a wayside chapel for pilgrims on their way to Walsingham) and the Church of the Annunciation in Kings Lynn. For full details and how to book ring Audrey Fussell 07952 993687 or Menna MacBain 01432 359867.



Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006)

will be canonised by Pope Francis in April. A relic of Blessed Carlo will be on display at Belmont Abbey on Saturday 15 February and from 27 January the Abbey shop will have a display of items on Blessed Carlo to purchase. 2025 also marks the Year of Jubilee. Various souvenirs to mark the year will also be on sale in the shop. Please come for a look around.

Saturday 18th January, marks the beginning of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. At the heart of our reflections for this year is the question posed by Jesus to Martha: **Do you believe this?** (John 11:26) and followed by Martha's confession of faith.

Welcome to new parishioners and visitors. Do come and introduce yourselves to the newcomers and **come along after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake.**



Collections 11/12th Jan
1st £ 1197.64 The Parish
2nd £ 586.50 Renovation



Parish Calendar- January 2025

Mon 20th	7.00pm	SVP Group (New members welcome)
Wed 21st	6.30pm	ABC Bible study group