



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear All,** On this second Sunday of Lent, God makes a covenant with Abraham, rewarding his faith. Throughout Lent, we are reminded of God's faithfulness, and the responsorial psalm reflects Abram's trust in God: The Lord is my light and my salvation. The biblical figure of Abraham, described in the Roman Canon as "our father in faith," was truly a man of constant faith and trust. Our faith today benefits from his revelation to steadfastness in the Lord. In fact, all the readings invite us to reflect on faith, transformation, and God's promises. These themes help us to grow closer to God during Lent.

The Transfiguration account gives us a glimpse of the heavenly glory. The "transfiguration" in the Mass is the source of our strength: In each Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become "transfigured" or transformed into the living Body and Blood, soul and Divinity of the crucified, risen, and glorified Jesus. Just as Jesus' Transfiguration was meant to strengthen the apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and for our Lenten renewal.

Take time this Lent to build up your own trust in the Lord. Make time for Him. Perhaps come to a weekday Mass, attend the Stations of the Cross, and make time for that real encounter with renewal in the sacrament of confession. The '24 Hours for the Lord' initiative is also a great opportunity to spend time with the Lord in prayer and adoration. It is a moment to experience the mercy of God, which gives the certainty that before the Lord no one will find a judge, but a father who welcomes us, consoles us and shows us the way to renewal. **Fr John**

## Liturgical Calendar March 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 2

Sat 15th	10.30am	1st Week of Lent	Sandy Elliott RIP
Sat 15th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 15th	6.00pm	2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	Corrigan Family
Sun 16th	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	The Parish
Sun 16th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	Socrate Bisconti RIP
Mon 17th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	ST PATRICK, PATRON OF IRELAND (FEAST)	Margaret Malone RIP Owen Roe O'Neill
Tue 18th	Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 19th	1.00pm	ST JOSEPH SPOUSE OF OUR LADY (SOLEMNITY)	Fr Artur Kozik
Thu 20th	9.30am	2nd Week of Lent	Patrick Hogan RIP Rita Finn RIP
Fri 21st	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Fri 21st	1.00pm	Passing of St Benedict	Patrick & Anne Hanley RIP
Sat 22nd	10.30am	2nd Week of Lent	Holy Souls
Sat 22nd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 22nd	6.00pm	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	Mom RIP
Sun 23rd	8.00am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	John, James Thomas McSherry
Sun 23rd	10.00am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	Wilfrid Fothergill RIP



### During Lent: Stations of the Cross Friday 12.30pm

All welcome, followed by Mass then ...



**Special Lent Lunches**, homemade soup and rolls etc every Friday after 1.00pm Mass. Suggested donation £3.50; proceeds to CAFOD.



Please place any CAFOD family fast day envelopes into the collection baskets this weekend. Thank you.



### Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting is on Thursday 27th March 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme will be "Childhood and Youth". Poems could either be about this theme or some favourite poems from your own childhood/school days. New members are always welcome.

We remember all who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

**Lately Dead** Vared Jose

**Anniversaries:**

Sheila Fawcett, John Keyte, William Kerr, Maureen Williams.



**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, Pauline and David Day, Bunimin, Mark Edmunds, Didit Buhain, Joyce Ingram, Margaret Davis.

### Dear Friends,

You may be aware that the community of St Gregory's, formerly at Downside Abbey, found a temporary home at Buckfast whilst they entered a process of discernment regarding their future. Following a lengthy period of discussion and fraternal exchange between our two communities, we have both voted and agreed that St Gregory's would come and live alongside us here at Belmont. Whilst formally we will remain separate communities, in practice we will live a common life together. St Gregory's have said: "Our shared hope is that we will be able to support and strengthen each other in faithfulness to our Benedictine vocation and that eventually we will form a single, united community at Belmont."

Strengthened by the arrival of St Gregory's we will continue to build on the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, retreat-giving, pastoral care and outreach. We look forward to opening our new guest facilities this summer. The foundation of our life will continue to be our liturgy and prayer. The tradition of our two houses, together with the rich history of English monasticism with its saints is there to inspire us. The Rule of St Benedict will unite us in this endeavour.

You already know that two members of St Gregory's, Fr James and Fr John, are looking after the parish here of St Francis Xavier. Likewise, Fr Richard, a monk of St Gregory's has been Novice Master at our foundation in Peru for a number of years. Abbot Nicholas is well known and loved by many given the years he spent at Belmont as Prior and Parish Priest. We know that the wider Belmont family, our friends, oblates and parishioners will make the Community of St Gregory's and in time the wider Gregorian family very welcome at Belmont. We look forward to this new and exciting chapter in the life of our communities. Every blessing, **Abbot Brendan**



**Special Collection next weeked** for the restoration and development of the national Marian shrine at Walsingham.

### 1. Annual Recommissioning service

for all current readers and eucharistic ministers, during all masses on weekend of:

**Readers**-Sunday 23rd March,

**Eucharistic Ministers**-Sunday 30th March

**2. 'We Dare to Hope'** After the 9.30am mass on Monday's in the hall, small group prayer session.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Ancy Shajan Vigeetha Joseph tbc	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	8am Tracey Buckley Lorraine L Williams
10am Lorena de L Auer, Thomas Kottuppattil Noel Elegado	10am Liz Symonds Gwenfair Gillick

**24 Hours for the Lord 28 – 29 March**, see poster in the Narthex. Pope Francis initiated a worldwide prayer initiative for Catholics, 24 hours for the Lord. Parishes are encouraged to offer extended periods of Eucharistic Adoration before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, as well as the Sacrament of Confession, to help people experience more fully the joy of Lent, and to encourage repentance in preparation for Easter. The deanery of St John Kemble will undertake this across the various churches. SFX will host the events on Fri 28th March 12 – 3pm & 9pm-midnight. Please sign up at the back of Church. Even if you can't commit to an hour, come and spend some time before the Lord.



### SFX Big Lent Walk On Sunday 16th March

there will be a Parish walk around Eastnor Deer Park, (Ledbury) following the same route that we did last year. Meet at the free car park by the Woodshed Cafe (HR8 1EN) near the entrance to Eastnor Castle, ready to start walking at 2pm. While there is usually no charge for Parish walks, on this walk you are invited to make a contribution to CAFOD.



### Sing to the Lord a new song. A Music Workshop in the Hall 22 March 2025, 11am-1pm

Dom Anselm, from the community of St Gregory, will join us for a morning looking at the importance of music in the liturgy. The session will include a brief presentation and practical singing of music for Mass.



### Parish 200 Club.

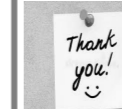
With most members now renewed, we have pleasure in announcing the first winners of 2025. **January Draw 2025.** 1st Sam Cassidy £30; 2nd Geoff Cole £20; 3rd Sylvia Cockroft £10.

**February Draw 2025.** 1st Vera McHale £30; 2nd Di Power £20; 3rd Jaroslav Liska £10.

Congratulations to the Winners who can collect their letters from the Sacristy. *Paul and Brenda*

### Welcome to new parishioners and visitors.

Do introduce yourselves to the welcomers and **come along after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake.**



### Collections 8/9th March

1st £558.16 The Parish

2nd £423.45 Renovation



### Parish Calendar- March 2025

Sunday 16th	2.00pm	'Big Lent Walk' Eastnor Park
Mon 17th	10.00am	Lent' We dare to hope' faith sharing group in Hall
Mon 17th	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
Fri 21st	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Fri 21st	Soup Lunch after 1.00pm Mass	