



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear Friends,

During the last few days, we've celebrated the feast of St Joseph and Benedictine monasteries have kept the feast of St Benedict. On Tuesday we'll celebrate the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. It may seem strange to keep these feast days during this sacred time of Lent when the Church exhorts us to pray more intensely, to fast and to give alms. These three days can assist us in our Lenten journey as we seek to deepen our relationship with Christ and with our neighbour.

St Joseph teaches us humility, care and concern for others. His greatness was not in world success but in the simple performance of ordinariness of life, a selfless service towards others.

St Benedict teaches us the importance to listen. The opening words of his rule are "Listen my son to the words of the Master". He exhorts the monk to begin every good work with prayer.

In Our Lady we have the example of faith and humility. She responded to the angel's message with faith and love; 'let it be to me according to your word.'

During our Lenten journey we would do well to keep in mind the example of St Joseph, St Benedict and Our Lady, their faith, their humility, and their love. **Fr James**



Liturgical Calendar March 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 3

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
Mon 24th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	3rd Week of Lent	John Farren RIP Joseph Palaty RIP
Tue 25th	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 26th	1.00pm	3rd Week of Lent	Kathryn Morison
Thu 27th	9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	Thanksgiving
Fri 28th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Fri 28th	1.00pm	3rd Week of Lent	Cyril Laurence RIP Birthday Thanksgiving
Sat 29th	10.30am	3rd Week of Lent	Holy Souls
Sat 29th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 29th	6.00pm	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	Thanksgiving
Sun 30th	8.00am	4TH SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 30th	10.00am	4TH SUNDAY	David Warr 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.



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

Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

We are looking to have confirmations in the parish in a few months time. If you know anyone aged 13yrs plus who would like to be considered for Confirmation then please send details to the office.

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

**Lately Dead Joyce Ingram
Funeral 10th April 12Noon.
Monsignor Michael Lewis of Cardiff/Menevia
Anniversaries:**

Angela Bassi, Margaret Hossack, Joseph Doverman, Fritz Mannchen, Sean Podmore, Ita Godfrey, Maureen Bellamy, Patricia LLewellyn
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. Margaret Davis.



Walsingham "England's Nazareth"

At one time, the shrine of Walsingham was as famous as Rome, Jerusalem, and Compostella. It became a major centre of Marian devotion. So great was the nation's devotion to the Mother of God that England become known as "Our Lady's Dowry," a title reflecting England as the special possession of Mary and under her protective care.

The story of Walsingham begins way back in 1061, Our Lady appeared to Richeldis de Faverches, a devout Norman widow. In a vision she showed her the house where the Annunciation had taken place and where the Holy Family had lived. Richeldis was then requested to build a similar house at Walsingham and was promised: "All who are in any way distressed, or in need, let them seek me there in that little house you have made at Walsingham. To all that seek me there shall be given succour."

For hundreds of years "England's Nazareth" was a powerful place of prayer and intercession. Alas, Walsingham did not escape the destruction of the Protestant Reformation. In 1538, the priory was sold, and the statue of Our Lady Walsingham was burnt in a wanton act of vandalism. But all was not lost. At the end of the 19th century, Charlotte Boyd, an Anglican convert, managed to buy the disused 14th century Slipper Chapel, where formerly pilgrims had stopped to remove their shoes so they could walk the final mile to the Shrine barefoot. She restored the Slipper Chapel and donated it to the Benedictines of Downside Abbey. They eventually handed it over to the Diocese of Northampton, and on 19th August 1934, the Mass was celebrated there, once again, when the chapel was formally declared by Cardinal Francis Bourne as the National Catholic Shrine to Our Lady.

Today's special collection is dedicated to supporting the Jubilee initiatives and projects of the shrine. Find out more: walsingham.org.uk. Faith of our Fathers! Mary's prayers Shall win our country back to thee: And through the truth that comes from God England shall then indeed be free. **Fr John**

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

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Kathy Weston Wendy Winterburn Sarah Slancauskas	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	8am Tracey Buckley Lorraine L. Williams
10am Thomas Kottuppattil Lorena de Lima Auer Mary Cook	10am Iola Gillick Gabriel Gillick



A Special Welcome to the pupils and their families from our primary school who are joining with us at the 10.00am Mass today.



Many thanks to Dorothy and Stephen for organising a lovely parish walk at Eastnor last weekend. More walks in the summer for you to join.

24 Hours for the Lord 28 - 29 March, see poster in the Narthex. Pope Francis initiated a world-wide 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.

Gift Aid Envelopes 2025/2026

The new gift aid envelopes will be available in church this weekend. Please do not use before 6th April (new tax year). Anyone interested in joining the scheme, please contact Stephen Cleeve on 01432851632 or email scleeve1950@gmail.com



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.

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



Reminder- Clocks go forward 1hr next Sat 29th (British Summer time)



Collections 15/16th March

1st £471.37 The Parish
2nd £376.87 Renovation



Parish Calendar- March 2025

Mon 24th	10.00am	Lent' We dare to hope' faith sharing group in Hall
Wed 25th	6.30pm	ABC Bible Study. Hall
Fri 28th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Fri 28th	Soup Lunch after 1.00pm Mass	
Fri 28th	24hrs for the Lord-See Notice	