



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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## Dear Friends,

Last Saturday I was privileged to attend The Visitation of the Relics of Blessed Acutis at Belmont Abbey. It was a truly moving and uplifting occasion. The day began with the formal reception of the relics; this was followed by Mass. In the afternoon there was a moving talk on Blessed Carlo. Later there was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the opportunity for confession.

Blessed Carlo was an ordinary teenager with an extraordinary love for God. He excelled at computers and used his skills to build a website on Eucharistic Miracles in the world. He was born in 1991 but at the age of 15 he died within 10 days of being diagnosed with Leukaemia in October 2006. He was beatified by Pope Francis on 10th October 2020 and is the first millennial to be declared 'Blessed'. Pope Francis referred to Carlo as a model of holiness in a digital age. He will be canonised by Pope Francis in Rome on 27th April 2025.

Let us keep in mind Carlo's five simple practices.

Frequent Reception of the Eucharist; Eucharistic Adoration; Spiritual Guide & Regular Confession; Devotion to Our Blessed Mother & the Saints; and Charity. **Fr James**



## Liturgical Calendar February/March 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 3

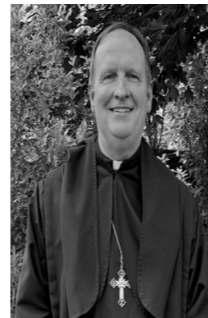
Sat 22nd	10.30am	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE (FEAST)	English Benedictine Congregation
Sat 22nd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 22nd	6.00pm	7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Deceased members of the Corrigan family
Sun 23rd	8.00am	7TH SUNDAY	Doreen Giles
Sun 23rd	10.00am	7TH SUNDAY	The Parish
Mon 24th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	Feria	Jean/Cyril Green RIP
Tue 25th	Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 26th	1.00pm	Feria	David Warr RIP
Thu 27th	9.30am	St Gregory Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	Michael Baldrey RIP
Fri 28th	1.00pm	Feria	Forgotten Souls
Sat 1st	10.30am	St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales	Obanimoh Wedding Anniversary
Sat 1st	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 1st	6.00pm	8TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Agnes & Thomas Harper RIP
Sun 2nd	8.00am	8TH SUNDAY	Brian Daw RIP
Sun 2nd	10.00am	8TH SUNDAY	The Parish



We welcome into God's family Rowan Ashforth who will be baptised this Saturday at 4.00pm. We warmly welcome Rowan and all her family to our parish.

## The Gospel of Luke: A talk to start your Lent Joy, Mercy and Human Drama led by Abbot Brendan Thomas.

This introduction to St Luke will offer some keys to reading and understanding the Gospel in this liturgical year. St Luke gives us great parables and stories of encounter, joy and mercy, loss and gain, together with the radical challenge of the Gospel. Do join us at St Francis Xavier's Church at **7pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March.**



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

### Anniversaries:

Veronica King, Judith Lewis, Gladys Bradshaw, Sheila Mills, Anne Hanley, Elizabeth Petry, Michael Knap, Jeremy Wetherell.



**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

**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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

St Benedict devotes eleven chapters of his rule to the ordering of the Divine Office. We have a detailed picture of what psalms are said at the different hours, when the Alleluia is to be said, how the celebration of the Office of Vigils is to be said on feast days, and of the variation during the summer and winter months.

The Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office are the official set of prayers said at different times of the day, so these times are sanctified with prayer. The General Instruction of the Liturgy of Hours in the Roman Rite states: "The public and communal prayer of the people of God is rightly considered among the first duties of the Church. From the very beginning the baptized 'remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers' (Acts 2 :42). Many times, the Acts of the Apostles testifies that the Christian community prayed together. The testimony of the early Church shows that individual faithful also devoted themselves to prayer at certain hours.

Early Christians were in fact continuing the Jewish practice of reciting prayers at certain hours of the day or night. In the Psalms are found expressions like "in the morning I offer you my prayer"; "At midnight I will rise and thank you"; "Evening, morning and at noon I will cry and lament"; "Seven times a day I praise you". The Apostles observed the Jewish custom of praying at the third, sixth, and ninth hours, and at midnight. Hence the practice of seven fixed prayer times has been taught from the time of the early Church; in Apostolic Tradition, Hippolytus instructed Christians to pray seven times a day "on rising, at the lighting of the evening lamp, at bedtime, at midnight" and "the third, sixth and ninth hours of the day, being hours associated with Christ's Passion." The Christian prayer of that time consisted of almost the same elements as the Jewish: recital or chanting of psalms and reading of the Old Testament, to which were soon added readings of the Gospels, Acts, and epistles. Other elements were added later over the centuries.

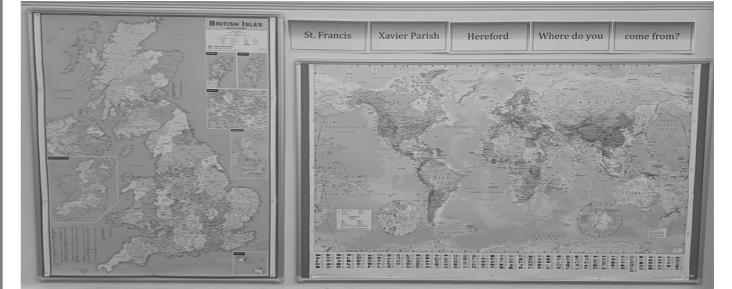
The Church encourages us all to pray, to raise our hearts and minds up to God, to sanctify different parts of the day. Many of you will be familiar with the app of the Catholic Calendar – Universalis. With this app you have all the offices of the day: Office of Readings, Morning Prayer -Lauds, Mid-Morning-Terce, Midday Prayer – Sext, Afternoon Prayer -None, Evening Prayer – Vespers and Night Prayer – Compline. You also have the readings for Mass, something about the Saint of the Day. Carry this with you, stop to pray, raising your heart and mind up to God, using the official prayer of the Church. **Fr James**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Kathy Weston Wendy Winterburn Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Stephen Cleeve Dorothy Kennedy
10am Thomas Kottuppattil Lorena de lima Auer Mary Cook	10am Gabriel Gillick Iola Gillick

## Have you put your pin in ? Saint Francis Xavier Parish Map

SFX parish has a wonderful diversity. Fr James and Fr John are keen to have an overview of where we all come from. In the parish hall you will now see these world and UK maps. Every parishioner is invited to come in and place their own location pin to show where they are from. When we have finished it will be great to see the spread and diversity of all our parishioners.

For this to be successful it does need everyone to come in and stick their pins in! The hall is open after every mass and at most times during the day.



**Do come and have a look.**

**Calling All Parents of Young Children.** If your child is unsettled during Mass and you go into the Narthex at the back of the Church, you will find a box of toys and some books under the statue of St Peter. You are welcome to use these with your child during Mass. Please return them to the box after use.



**200 Club letters for collection from the Sacristy.** Philip Dixon, Audrey Fussell, Andy Milne, Francis Britto, Moses Adeiza.

## ST DAVID'S DAY CONCERT

**Fri 7th March 7.00pm**

**Hereford Police Male Voice Choir**

**With Guests-Caldicot Male Voice Choir**

Tickets £12 Adults -children free. Can pay on the night or advance tickets see poster in the Narthex



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



**Collections 15/16th Feb**  
1st 434.50 The Parish  
2nd 331.00 Renovation



## Parish Calendar– March 2025

Sunday 2nd	10.00am	Formal blessing and Induction of Fr James & Fr John by Abbot Brendan
Ash Wed 5th	Lent begins today- 40 days Mass/Ashes at 1.00pm and 6.00pm	
Thurs 6th	7.00pm	Abbot Brendan talk The Gospel of St Luke
Friday 7th	7.00pm	St David's day Concert