



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Over the last days our prayers and thoughts have been for Pope Francis. Let us continue to keep him in our prayers. We pray for him, for the Church and all who are caring for him. May he find the strength and courage to cope with this illness.

Let us pray.

O merciful Father, You have called Your servant Pope Francis to shepherd Your Church with faith and love. In his time of need, we turn to You, the Divine Physician, and humbly ask that You extend Your healing hand upon him. Grant him strength in body, mind, and spirit, so that he may continue to lead Your people with steadfast devotion. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the

Church, we place him under Your loving care, trusting in Your divine will. We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen. **Fr James**

Liturgical Calendar March 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 4

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
Mon 3rd	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	Feria	John Farren RIP Nora Mills RIP
Tue 4th	Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 5th	1.00pm 6.00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY	Janice de Santos
Thu 6th	9.30am	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	Michael Baldrey RIP
Fri 7th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Fri 7th	1.00pm	Commemoration of Sts Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs	Defeat of assisted suicide Bill.
Sat 8th	10.30am	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	Tom McCourt Peter Millin
Sat 8th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 8th	6.00pm	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	Joginder Singh RIP
Sun 9th	8.00am	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	The Parish
Sun 9th	10.00am	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	Holy Souls



Lent Begins Next Week! Ash Wednesday Mass at 1.00PM & 6.00pm

To help you in Lent there are some special prayer books 'Walk with me' at the back of church £1 donation. **Also Special lent Lunches**, homemade soup and rolls etc every Friday after 1.00pm mass. Suggested donation £3.50 proceeds to CAFOD. **Stations of the Cross Fri 12.30am**

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 6th March.**

Thursday Social Club

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th March 1.30-3.00pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and have a cup of tea and chat. The more the merrier!

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

Anniversaries:

Anthony Bunclark, Pam Portman, Peggy Hall, Sheila Williams, Monica Devlin Moira Michael, Ronald Morgan, Cyril Lawrence, Ruby King, Mary Bray. **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.

Lent: spiritual bootcamp



It is upon us. **Next week, Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. It is a time of preparation and the exercise of spiritual works as we remember Christ's death.

The Collect for the Mass describes it as the "campaign of Christian service," recalling how the season is not meant to pass us by unnoticed or unaffected. A campaign, of course, requires effort if it is to reap any reward. Our reward will find its completion at Easter, but, before that, we pray for "a spirit of compunction," so that we may merit the rewards promised to us. We can understand Ash Wednesday, therefore, as the doorway into renewal and reengagement of our faith.

Christmas seems a long time ago now and those New Year's resolutions might now seem a distant memory as 2025 chugs along. Pope Francis reminds us that "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." The ashes we use on Ash Wednesday signify the mortality of our human bodies: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Lent is a moment of reorientation in our lives, telling us that our desire for God requires conversion as we set our sights on the drama that will unfold in Jerusalem.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence for those aged 18-59 and in reasonable health. On this day, we refrain from eating meat and eat only one full meal and two smaller ones. It's got nothing to do with starving but is about self-discipline and a desire to turn our hearts to God in a concrete way. We also do this by coming to Mass and spending time in prayer during this day. During Lent we practice: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving as tangible ways to turn our focus to God.

The 'Walk with Me' booklets, found at the back of Church, will help you on your journey. Look out for other activities in Church to make your Lent as fruitful as it can be this Holy Year. **Fr John**

Please keep in your prayers, **Veronica Pryce, Owen Jenkins and Joe Dexter**, who will be in Cardiff Cathedral next Saturday to be enrolled as part of their journey to be received into the Church at Easter.



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Sarah Williams Ancy Shajan Kathy Weston	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Vera Mchale Cecilia Balestra	8am Tracy Buckley Lorraine L Williams
10am Mary Cook Noel Elegado Gerald Okafor	10am Gwenfair Gillick Valerie V Williams

Saint Francis Xavier Parish Map Do come and have a look.



So far the Pin count is:

England and Wales 109
India 40
Poland 10
Nigeria 14
Ireland 14
Portugal 5, Italy 3, Scotland 3, Brazil 2.
Also from Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Oman, South Africa and many more.

If your reading this and haven't put your pin in ...Please come through to the hall and help support your parish.

SFX Big Lent Walk On Sunday 16th March

there will be a Parish walk around Eastnor Deer Park, 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. The route follows a 2.5 mile track (mainly tarmac) around the park. For those who would like an extra challenge, there is an extension route up to the Obelix. The path adds an extra mile to the walk and is quite steep, but you are rewarded with fabulous views from the top. This route is chosen to be as weather proof and accessible as possible, with no stiles to negotiate. While there is normally no charge for Parish walks, on this walk you are invited to make a contribution to CAFOD. **Please note: the Woodshed cafe accepts card only payment.**

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 welcomers and **come along after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake.**



Collections 22/23rd Feb

**1st 407.80 The Parish
2nd 328.09 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
Thurs 6th	1.30pm	Thursday social club
Friday 7th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross