



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB,
19 Broad St. Hereford, HR4 9AP Tel: 01432 273485: www.sfxhereford.org.uk
Hospital Chaplain: Fr Patrick Lobo 07922323603



Parish Administrator: John Cook
Email: hereford2@rcadc.org
Office hours: 9am –1pm (not Tuesday)

SFX Parish School
Headteacher: Mrs Diana Pearce
Tel: 01432 273941

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Mrs Margaret Daron
Email: safeguardingsfx01@gmail.com

Dear all, The celebrations of the Ascension of the Lord and of Pentecost mark the end of the Easter season in our Liturgical cycle. We are reminded that the Ascension of the Lord does not mean a physical separation but indeed more presence in our life until the end of times. The humanity that was destroyed by sins has been redeemed by Christ and is now in heaven. The Holy Spirit will initiate the new journey with Mother Mary on the day of Pentecost. The life of the Church is the perfect life the Garden of Eden was supposed to have. The coming of the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of the synergy of the Holy Trinity in the History of salvation. We have many tools then to nourish our spiritual life. Since the Apostles received the Holy Spirit with Mary, let us embrace this Holy Mother and cling to her. Let us have a personal devotion to the Blessed Mother.



On the 15th May, we will have the torchlight procession around the grounds of Belmont Abbey. This is always a lovely occasion with hundreds of parishioners coming from many different parishes. It is the other way to walk with Mary as Saint Louis De Montfort says "Ad Iesum Per Mariam"- "To Christ through Mary." We walk with hope along with Mother Mary toward our Redeemer. Let us keep praying for one another, visiting the sick and the needy and may God bless us all. **Fr Gregory**

Liturgical Calendar May 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 3

Sat 11th	10.30am	6th Week of Easter	<i>Suffering Souls</i>
Sat 11th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 11th	6.00pm	7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	<i>Christian Hodges</i>
Sun 12th	8.00am	7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	<i>Louise Suares RIP</i>
Sun 12th	10.00am	7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	<i>The Parish</i>
Mon 13th	9.30am	Our Lady of Fatima	<i>Mary</i>
Tues 14th	No public Mass here. Mass at OL at 9.30am		
Wed 15th	1.00pm	7th Week of Easter	<i>Praying for one's son.</i>
Thu 16th	9.00am	7th Week of Easter	<i>Enesi Obanimoh</i>
Fri 17th	1.00pm	7th Week of Easter	<i>David Warr</i>
Sat 18th	10.30am	7th Week of Easter	<i>Rob Brodie RIP</i>
Sat 19th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 18th	6.00pm	VIGIL OF PENTECOST	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Sun 19th	8.00am	PENTECOST SUNDAY	<i>Michael Kennedy RIP</i>
Sun 19th	10.00am	PENTECOST SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>

Belmont Torchlight Procession

Come and join the Belmont community for one of the highlights of the church year. Belmont Abbey's Torchlight Procession always draws big crowds from around Herefordshire and Wales to what is a beautiful evening in honour of Our Lady in her month of May. **9pm, Wednesday 15th May.**



Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting is on Thursday 16th May 1030-1200 in the parish hall. The theme is the Romantic Poets (Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley and Keats) If you enjoy poetry, bring a few poems on this theme to share with the group. All are welcome.

We remember all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Emma Grobelny, Eileen Greene, Claire George, Margaret Faulkner, Shirley Maloney, Andrew Gutowski, Theresa Wilson, Fred Morgan.



Lately Dead

Eddie Rider –Funeral Arrangements TBA

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, Teresa Loftus, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, David Warr, James Spradbery.

Who is Our Lady of Fatima?



Our Lady of Fatima is title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary's in connection with the apparitions to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, during World War I. Each year we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13, which is the first day she appeared to Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto in 1917. Our Lady appeared to the three children once a month over the next six months, and she continued to appear to Lucia many more times. While the story of these apparitions has garnered attention for its secrets, prophecies and miracles, at its heart, the message of Our Lady of Fatima is a simple one: pray. In her apparitions, Mary asked the children to pray the rosary every day to bring peace to the world, which was at war; she instructed them in devotions, including asking them to add the Fatima prayer to the end of each decade of the Rosary; and she asked them to make sacrifices and offer their suffering for the salvation of sinners and for the world.

May 13th and Saint John Paul 2nd

On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II stepped into his vehicle to ride through St. Peter's Square. It was a special day spiritually: It was the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. The time on the clock, according to John Paul II biographer George Weigel, was 5:13pm. Thus, the numbers on the clock were in perfect harmony with the numbers on the calendar, which, again, was 5/13, feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. Pope John Paul was shot at point blank range. "One hand shot, and another guided the bullet," was how John Paul II put it. In everything that happened to me on that very day," said the Pope, "I felt that extraordinary motherly protection and care, which turned out to be stronger than the deadly bullet."



Retiring Collection This week there will be a second collection which is a mandatory collection for the Catholic Communications Network, an organisation dedicated to the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world by means of social communication. Thank You.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard, Ancy Shajan, Wendy Winterburn	6pm Fiona Stokes
8am Frances Hetterely, Vera McHale	8am Dorothy Kennedy
10am Mary Cook, Noel Elegado, Thomas Kottuppallil, Peter Cunningham.	10am Valerie V. Williams

St Francis Xavier's Church, Hereford is hosting a special **Filipino Mass on Sunday 26th May, Trinity Sunday, at 12 noon.**

The celebrant will be Fr Francisco Cruz. All Filipinos from the local parishes are welcome to attend. It will be followed by a shared lunch in the Parish Hall. Please bring food to share. Join us for this wonderful celebration!



Thanksgiving Collection for Fr Gregory

After 3 months at SFX, Fr Gregory will be leaving us on **Wednesday June 5th.** In appreciation for all his hard work and his great contribution to the parish over the past 3 months, an overnight trip to London is being planned for Tuesday 21st May. This will be Fr Gregory's first visit to London and we would like to make it really memorable with visits to some of the main attractions, including Westminster Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, a river cruise and of course, a football stadium tour! A collection basket for this farewell gift from the parish will be out at the back for all weekend Masses **17th/18th May.** Many Thanks.



Parish 200 Club Draw Winners

March Draw 2024 1st Roberto Bernabo £30; 2nd Honore Crowley £20; 3rd Jaroslav Liska £10.
April Draw 2024 1st Brigid Fresle £30; 2nd Richard and Angela Holmes £20; 3rd David Day £10. Congratulations to all winners who can collect their letters from the Sacristy. Thanks Paul and Brenda.



Is The Stranger Still Welcome?

A talk by Megan Knowles of the Jesuit Refugee Service Megan has spent over 7 years working alongside refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Her work with the Jesuit Refugee Service has focused on raising awareness and amplifying the voices & experiences of refugees, which can lead to a positive change in their lives. 7pm on Thursday 16th May at Hedley Lodge. Belmont Abbey.



A Cup of Tea/Coffee and Cake

Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass. A great way to make new friends and meet with Fr Gregory.



Collections 4/5th May
1st £ 498.59 The Parish
2nd £ 407.50 Renovation



Parish Calendar- May 2024

Wed 15th	6.30pm	ABC Scripture group
Wed 15th	9.00pm	Torchlight procession, Belmont
Thurs 16th	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure
Thurs 16th	7.00pm	Belmont Talk on Refugees