



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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The Baptism of the Lord. Dear All, As we enter and leave Church, it is the custom to bless ourselves with holy water in remembrance of our baptism. When visiting the sick and housebound, the priest or deacon may sprinkle holy water on those present, whilst saying: "Let this water call to mind our baptism in Christ, who by his death and resurrection has redeemed us."

So, what exactly is holy water? It is what the Church calls a sacramental. Sacramentals are sacred signs instituted by the Church that resemble sacraments and signify spiritual effects. Sacramentals (like blessed candles, blessed medals, etc) remind us of the grace received through sacraments and dispose us to receive actual graces from the Holy Spirit. We don't put on holy water, we instead bless ourselves with it, reminding us that by the sanctifying grace of baptism we are children of God, using the occasion to ask God for forgiveness for our sins while reflecting on the purifying effects of water, and asking for God's protection from the devil.

Today's feast is a great invitation to give thanks for the gift of our own baptism, which we can only too easily take for granted. The Catechism teaches that those baptised are "configured to Christ" through an indelible spiritual mark. We are called to profess the faith we have received and participate in the apostolic and missionary work of the Church. Baptism is a gift, one that we should willingly share with others with joy. In fact, it is a gift that keeps on giving. The Catechism reminds us that "the baptized person also enjoys rights within the Church: to receive the sacraments, to be nourished with the Word of God and to be sustained by the other spiritual helps of the Church." A happy and joyous feast day to you all! **Fr John**

Liturgical Calendar January 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 1

Sat 11th	10.30am	Saturday after the Epiphany	Private Intention
Sat 11th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 11th	6.00pm	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	The Parish
Sun 12th	8.00am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Kingston Family
Sun 12th	10.00am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Holy Souls
Mon 13th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Liza Michael Safe Journey
Tue 14th	No Mass here. Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 15th	1pm	Feria	Rory Schofield RIP
Thu 16th	9.30am	Feria	Christopher Knight Good health
Fri 17th	1.00pm	St Antony, Abbot	Holy Souls
Sat 18th	10.30am	Votive Memorial Our Lady	The Pope's Intention
Sat 18th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 18th	6.00 pm	2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Ram Kali RIP
Sun 19th	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY OT	Forgotten Souls
Sun 19th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY OT	The Parish

Baptism We welcome into God's family Gabriel and Oliver Morawiec who will be baptised this Sunday at 12 noon. We warmly welcome Gabriel and Oliver and their family to our parish.



PARISH LIBRARY Even though the Christmas season is at an end, it is the time to choose a book or two from the Parish Library in the presbytery for a renewal of faith. There are titles ranging from biographies to prayers and meditations. The library is open most days but usually Mon, Wed and Friday mornings from 09:30 to 1.00pm.

For the Baptism of the Lord you will find some Holy water in the narthex for you to use at home.

We remember all who have died **Lately Dead**
Kathleen Spradbery

and those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Christina Withyman, Frank Philips, Frank O'Driscoll, Michael Elliot Smith, Brigid Gore, Patrick O'Neill, Patricia Franklin, Jacqueline Ann Roe, Caroline Gough, Zygryd Czymionka, Elaine Jennings.



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, Eddie Gallagher, Pauline and David Day, Bunimin.

VISIT FROM THE MANQUEHUE APOSTOLIC MOVEMENT

It was a pleasure to welcome to the parish six female Oblates of Manquehue Apostolic Movement from Santiago, Chile. Manquehue was founded in 1977 as an Association of Lay Faithful from the Archdiocese of Santiago de Chile. The main inspiration for the lives of the members, who are all lay people, is the prayerful reading of Holy Scripture, called Lectio Divina - and the teaching and spirituality of St Benedict. Manquehue runs three schools in Santiago, Chile, for over 4000 pupils, as well as 150 weekly Lectio Divina groups and a hostel for homeless women. There is also a community and retreat centre in Patagonia, in the south of Chile. Manquehue had its statues approved and granted juridical personality to Cannon Law in 1994.

The Manquehue Movement has been connected with Ampleforth Abbey and College from the early 1980s. This friendship has since spread to other schools and monasteries from the English Benedictine Congregation (EBC). In 2009, the EBC and the Manquehue Apostolic Movement established a spiritual communion and juridical Consociation. In January 2015 Manquehue set up a community to live and work at Downside, Somerset, at the invitation of the monastic and school communities there. A similar community was established at Ampleforth from January 2016 to December 2017.

What is truly special about the contribution of the Manquehue team is the way in which they communicate Gospel values to young people with a sense of energy, friendliness, and joy. The Oblates spoke to us about lectio divina, the prayerful and meditative reading of the scriptures and invited us all to take part in shared lectio. It was a prayerful experience as we all listened to the Word of God with the ear of our hearts. It was as one spiritual writer has written a way of renewing our baptismal immersion and strengthening ourselves in our Christian calling. **Fr James**



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Sarah Williams TBC	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Frances Hetterley Vera McHale	8am Stephen Cleeve Dorothy Kennedy
10am Lorena de Lima Auer Mary Cook Gerald Okafor	10am Andrew Milne Bruno Alves

Poetry for Pleasure
The next meeting will be on Thursday 16th January 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme is "A moment in time: Poems about occasions" If you ever struggle to find poems on the given theme, just bring a few of your favourite poems to share. Thank you and Happy New Year! Dorothy

Parish 200 Club. Renewals for 2025 due now
Thanks to all who have supported the 200 club and we hope you will continue your subscription for 2025. Please send a cheque for £12 per number (cheques payable to St Francis Xavier's 200 Club) to the church in an envelope with your name on it and stating 200 Club. (If you pay by standing order you do not need to do anything). The easiest way to pay is to make a direct transfer. Please use the following: **Sort Code:09-06-66. Acc No: 42516221. Acc Name: St Francis Xavier's Church.** To enable us to keep track of payments, **please let us know if you make a direct transfer to pejwilliams@gmail.com** Paul and Brenda will be available at the end of all Masses on 18th/19th January for collections and with further details. Profits go to pay for extras in the Church.

The 3 year Synod on Synodality ended in October. One of the experts at the assembly Austen Ivereigh will lead a day at Belmont Abbey on 18th January from 10am to 4pm, to consider how to implement the synod in parishes. All welcome. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee available.



Lost Property—We have a box of articles left in the church which have been classed as lost property. These can be found in the Annex in a red box. Please take a look to see if they might belong to you. The box will be kept in the Annex for the month of January, anything that remains will be taken to the charity shop or thrown away. Thanks



Congratulations to our former parish priest Fr Michael and previous Abbot Fr Paul who celebrated their Golden anniversary of their ordinations this Saturday 11th Jan. Ad Multos Annos!

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



Collections 4th/5th Jan
1st £ 290.23 The Parish
2nd £ 257.01 Renovation



Parish Calendar- January 2025		
Thurs 16th	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure
Sat 18th	10.00am 4.00pm	Implementing the Synod Belmont Abbey
Mon 20th	7.00pm	SVP Group (New members welcome)