



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All, This Sunday invites us to reflect on what it means to live our faith in ordinary, everyday ways. Jesus' words in the Gospel are simple and striking: "You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world." They invite us to reflect on how our faith is tangibly transmitted in our lives and to others. Salt and light do their work quietly. They don't draw attention to themselves, yet everything is changed by their presence. In the same way, our Christian witness can be most powerful, not in grand gestures, but in daily kindness, faithfulness, and care for one another—at home, at work, in school, and in our parish community. Saint Teresa of Calcutta taught that such acts of kindness should be offered generously, even when difficult, as living expressions of God's kindness. In her words: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving the better and happier." As we gather this weekend, we are reminded that the light we carry is not our own. It is Christ's light, received and shared, meant to shine for others so that God's goodness may be seen in the world around us. May this Sunday encourage us to let that light shine a little more brightly in the week ahead. **Fr John.**



Liturgical Calendar February 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 4

Sat 7th	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Stephen Brown RIP
Sat 7th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 7th	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Thanksgiving Joseph family
Sun 8th	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Tom & Kathleen Kinoulty RIP
Sun 8th	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Joe Schofield RIP
Mon 9th	9.30am <i>Rosary 9am</i>	Feria	The Parish
Tue 10th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 11th	1.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of Prayer for the Sick	Jimmy Lai and family
Thu 12th	9.30am	Feria	Stephen Booth RIP
Fri 13th	1.00pm	Feria	Souls in Purgatory
Sat 14th	10.30am	STS CYRIL & METHODIUS PATRONS OF EUROPE	Forgotten Souls
Sat 14th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 14th	6.00pm	6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Stephen Booth RIP
Sun 15th	8.00am	6TH SUNDAY	Bill & Kathleen Kennedy RIP
Sun 15th	10.00am	6TH SUNDAY	Majorie & Cyril Lawden RIP

Sunday 8 am Mass

All are warmly welcomed to coffee/tea and toast in the Kemble Parish Hall after the 8 am Mass this Sunday (8th February)

Thursday Social Club

It has been decided to put the Thursday Club on hold for the time being. It will be relaunched later in the year, with a programme of activities and visits. Watch this space!

Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting will be on Thursday 19th February 1030-1200 in the Kemble Parish Hall. The theme will be "Family and Friends". If you have difficulty finding poems on this specific theme, any poems inspired by people would be welcomed.



We welcome into God's family **Aseye Ama Adjabeng** who will be baptized this Sunday at 12 noon. A warm welcome to **Aseye** and all her family.

We remember all who have died:
Sue Forder-funeral at Belmont Abbey on Friday 13th February at 2pm

Anniversaries:

Ann Meaker, Patrick Hogan, Ena Keyt, Patricia Woodriffe, Maisie Anderson, Edward Cavanagh, Pauline Lane, Isabel Mundell.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Pray for the Sick: Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Sarah, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Ann Orchard, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Martin Feely, Valerie Vaughan Williams, Senan Stokes.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Many of you know that I recently spent a few days on retreat in a monastery in the north of Spain, Navarre, the Abbey of San Salvador at Leyre. The abbey was refounded in 1954 by the Abbey of Silos of the Solesmes Congregation.

Not far from Leyre is Javier, the birthplace of our Patron, Saint Francis Xavier. Francis Xavier was born on 7th April 1506 and was baptised on the same day. He came from a noble family of Navarre. He studied at the university of Paris where he came under the influence of Ignatius of Loyola. Initially he regarded Ignatius who came to share rooms with him and another young student as a joke; he was sarcastic about Ignatius' efforts to convert students.

In 1530, Francis was awarded the degree of Master of Arts and later taught philosophy at the University of Paris. On 15 August 1534, seven students met in a crypt beneath the Church of Saint Denis on the hill of Montmartre, overlooking Paris. They made private vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to the Pope, and also vowed to go to the Holy Land to convert infidels. He began his study of theology in 1534 and was ordained priest on 24 June 1537. In 1539 Ignatius drew up a formula for a new religious order, the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). Ignatius's plan for the order was approved by Pope Paul III in 1540.

Francis eagerly accepted a commission to preach the Gospel to the peoples of the East. He arrived at Portuguese Goa, India, and began his work catechising the natives. From India he travelled to Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Japan. Writing to Ignatius, he spoke of his missionary work, baptizing large numbers of children and teaching them the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary. The young opened their hearts to his words and put themselves at God's beck and call.

In 1552 he set out for China, a country that was closed to foreigners. He landed on the island of Shangchwan. While waiting to be put ashore secretly on the mainland, he was taken ill and died a fortnight later at the age of forty-six. His body was taken back to Goa. **Fr James**



Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Kathy Weston Angela Holmes	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Frances Hetterley Vera McHale	8am Tracey Buckley
10am Lorena D L Auer Gerald Okafor Noel Elegado	10am Andy Milne Audrey Fussell



SFX Parish Quiz

There will be a Parish Quiz on Saturday 14th February 7.15 pm in the Kemble Parish Hall. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day? The last few tickets will be available for sale after weekend Masses this weekend (7/8th February). This is the last chance to buy tickets. Tickets £5 per person to include tea/coffee and cake during the break. Bring your own snacks/drinks to share at the table. Teams of up to 5 people but individuals/smaller group are very welcome and teams can be made up on the night.

Safeguarding for all

Safeguarding and care for all members of our parish and community - young and not so young - concerns us all. With this in mind a training session from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team has been arranged for Saturday 21st March from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm to carry out updated safeguarding training for all volunteers. Training will take place at Our Lady's Church Hall on Belmont Road. We hope that all volunteer leaders will be able to attend and strengthen our ties within our parish and meet new friends and colleagues across the Deanery. Please email Kathy Weston who is our Parish Safeguarding Representative to book your place. Refreshments will be served and there should be ample parking at Our Lady's Church.

A Talent for Fundraising

SFX has recently commissioned a survey of the Church and presbytery. On the plus side the report confirms that SFX is in pretty good shape so thank you to all the many parishioners who have helped to keep it that way. However, important, historic and listed buildings like SFX will always need work doing to it and inevitably this will cost money. Luckily there are many organisations and private donors who are willing to help. So we are asking parishioners if there is anyone among us who has experience of applying to grant giving organisations. This is quite specialist work and we may need to call in outside help but if there is anyone in the parish who can help, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please speak to Father James or Stuart Fox at any time. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

1. **Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday**
2. **Friday 6th March 7.00pm at SFX the Deanery Station Mass with Archbishop Mark.**

Welcome to new parishioners and visitors.

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



Collections 25/1/2026

The Parish £735.64



What's on in February 2026

Sat 14th	7.15pm	Quiz Night, Kemble Hall
Mon 16th	10.00am	Lectio Divina
Sat 21st	10.00am	Talk at Belmont