



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All,

This weekend and next over fifty children will make their First Holy Communion. It is a wonderful moment for them and for the parish, so keep them in your prayers at this important moment in their lives. Do you remember your first Holy Communion? I remember mine very well, smartly dressed in suit and tie, and the breakfast afterwards. We can all thank God for this gift of the Bread of Life, Jesus himself, that sustains us over the years.



I would like to thank Mrs Brenda Williams and the parish team as well as Mrs Thompson and all at SFX School for their care and dedication in preparing the children so well and helping parents share their Catholic faith with their children.

Next weekend is Pentecost, the climax of our Easter celebrations. It is also the last Sunday in May, so at the end of the 10am Mass we will have our Procession out to the garden to crown the statue of Our Lady.

On sale today are tickets for our concert to help fund the 6 youngsters Aby, Adrian, Jerry, Dom, Iola and Pete from this parish going on World Youth Day. Please show your support! **Fr Brendan**

**Liturgical Calendar May 2023 Year A Psalter week 3**


Sat 20th	<b>NB</b> 10.00am	SFX School First Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Sat 20th	<b>NB</b> 12 noon confessions		
Sat 20th	6.00pm	7th Sunday Easter	Stanley Howard
Sun 21st	8.00am	7th Sunday Easter	Susan Young RIP
Sun 21st	10.00am	7th Sunday Easter	Parish
Mon 22nd	9.30am	7th week of Eastertide	Private intention
Tue 23rd	No Mass here- 9.30 Mass OL parish		
Wed 24th	1.00pm	7th week Eastertide	Teresa Majka
Wed 24th	3.00pm	Requiem Mass - Stephanie West	
Thu 25th	9.30am	St Bede, Doctor of the Church	Thanksgiving for
Fri 26th	1.00pm	St Philip Neri	Patrick Hanley
Sat 27th	<b>NB</b> 10.00am	St Augustine of Canterbury Parish First	Holy Communion Children
Sat 27th	<b>NB</b> 12 noon confessions		
Sat 27th	6.00pm	VIGIL OF PENTECOST	Albert Gregg Anniv
Sun 28th	8.00am	PENTECOST	For family
Sun 28th	10.00am	PENTECOST May Procession	Parish

**Spotlight on SFX Parish SVP Society**  
**What is the SVP?** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is named after a French priest who had a special devotion to the poor and was the founder of the Vincentian Order. The SVP society was set up in his name by Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

**What does the SVP do?** They meet on the first and third Monday of the month. They pray and have a spiritual reading. They discuss visits made to the lonely and sick of the parish. They help with calls made on them for visits or financial help with items such as furniture or electrical goods. They are twinned with an SVP group in India.

**Remembrance**  
Shirley Maloney, Andrew Gutowski, Fred Morgan, Mary Lowe, Irene Pogson, Mary Doverman, Linda Smith, Marc de Jersey, Roy Bosworth, Eileen Brain, Margaret Harrison, Margaret Tennant, Irma Farr, Vera Morris, Albert Gregg, Patrick Hanley

**Recently Died**  
**John MacGregor** funeral held 19th May.  
**Stephanie West** Wed 24th May 3.00pm  
**Catherine Wales** Monday 5th June 10am.  
**Stanley Howard** Wed 31st May 11.00am




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

**Prayer for the Sick:**  
Ania Kuzba, Joan Colley, Fr Keith, Ausura Chukarov, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Midad Jasari, Jan Beavan, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Margaret Skelding, Christina James, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Ann Currie, Patricia Moroney, Mary Elizabeth, George Mecina, Ana Rudnicki.

**Coronations and Processions** This May has been the month for coronations and processions. Before a splendiferous procession, we were invited to a sacred place where we heard the magnificent rendition of Zadok the Priest at the anointing of King Charles, recalling the anointing of King Solomon by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet 3000 years ago. In ancient Israel with the coronation of the king came the elevation of the queen, not the king's wife but his mother; the woman of pre-eminence in the kingdom to whom petitions to the king were addressed as she was a most powerful advocate.

Next Sunday we crown Mary, the mother of the King. She is our great advocate to Jesus, her Son. In the book of Revelation we read that, *a great sign appeared in the sky... a woman clothed with the sun, with a crown of 12 stars...she gave birth to a son.* Faith and tradition give us the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven as we pray in the fifth glorious mystery of the holy rosary. May is her month, given to her as our mother and Marian apparitions encourage and teach us. "Am I not your mother?" she asks St Juan at Guadalupe. Have we not just celebrated her appearance at Fatima asking us to pray the Rosary every day? She requested of St Bernadette that we come in procession to Lourdes. Coronations and processions are meant to be uplifting events. The May Procession at Belmont Abbey last week was certainly that. Let us acknowledge and honour God's gift of His Mother.


Though the parish garden is not Westminster Abbey, the crown is not gold and our voices not as well trained as those others, still, our annual May procession with parishioners and First Communion children and our crowning of Mary with blossom, singing "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" is happy and glorious!




**World Communications Day**  
**Sunday 21st May 2023**  
On World Communications Day we are asked to keep those who work in the media in our prayers and **there will be a retiring collection.**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
<b>6pm</b> Jane Gennard Ancy Shajan Sarah Williams	<b>6pm</b> Philip Dixon
<b>8am</b> Francis Hetterley Vera McHale	<b>8am</b> Carola Morton
<b>10am</b> Mia Brennan, Peter Cunningham Dominic Smedley	<b>10am</b> Gabriel Gillick

**May Procession Sunday 28th May**  
Following on from the 10 o'clock Mass at approximately 11.15am we will process out of church and into the garden to crown Mary as Queen in this traditional and much-loved devotion in the month of May. First Holy Communion children are specially invited to come wearing their first communion clothes and to help carry the statue of Mary and to strew petals. Do come along to this lovely celebration to complete our May devotions.  
**Special Request Please bring in rose petals from your garden on the morning.**




**Novena Prayer for Pentecost begins on the day after The Ascension (from 19th May until 27th.)**  
**A Novena prayer is 9 days of prayer before an important feast of the Church.**



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,  
and you shall renew the face of the earth.

**A Date for Your Diaries**  
**Friday June 23 7.00pm**

**A special concert here in SFX Church by the Hereford Police Choir**



"The beautiful Saint Francis Xavier's church are hosting a very special event. An evening with the Hereford Police Choir. Come and join us for a two part concert of singing by Herefords most iconic male voice choir accompanied by refreshments. All charitably in aid of the pilgrims travelling to World Youth Day in Portugal." **Tickets on sale at the back of Church today after all Masses.**

**Tea, Coffee and Cake**  
Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass.



**Collections for 13th/14th May**  
**1st Collection £611.33**  
**2nd Collection £101.90**



**Parish Calendar**

20th May	10.00am	First Holy communions (School)
24th May	6.30pm	ABC Bible group
27th May	10.00am	First Holy Communions (Parish)
28th May	11.15am	May Procession
1st June	7.00pm	PAC meeting
5th June	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall (All Welcome)