



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB,
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GOING FOR GOLD! Athletes from all over the world, and supporters, have gathered in France this weekend to celebrate the Olympic Games. We will support our own national team, of course, and have high hopes of winning medals in numerous sporting disciplines. The athletes have had to follow a training regime for years to qualify to participate. May they receive the just reward for their labours.

Our lives as Catholics reflects the training of athletes. St Paul refers to winning the crown of victory, and running the race to the end. The 'training' we undertake by living according to the Lord's teaching, the Commandments, the Sacraments, is our preparation and gets us to the podium, thanks to God's grace.

This week we celebrate the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola who sent saint Francis Xavier on his mission. We pray for the peoples to whom he preached the Gospel in word and deed, and we should resolve to do the same. What a victorious crown awaits those who run such a race: Lord, strengthen us to run the race to the finish, and to receive the crown of eternal life in Paradise!

ANOINTING OF THE SICK the athletes of ancient times trained well, and the practice was to rub oil into their muscles and limbs to strengthen their quest for victory. The Scriptures refer to this. The early Church took this image, of athletes in training, and used Holy Oil to anoint Christians set apart for special purpose: at Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination... and to strengthen the sick. Parishioners who face the frailty of old age or illnesses with serious consequences, are invited to seek the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick after Masses this weekend. Our Blessed Lord supports us to the winning post! **Fr T**



Liturgical Calendar July/August 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 1

Sat 27th	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Elizabeth Cross RIP
Sat 27th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 27th	1.30pm	Wedding Tom Fawcett -Alice Mitchell	
Sat 27th	6.00pm	17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	The Parish
Sun 28th	8.00am	17TH SUNDAY	Brian Daw RIP
Sun 28th	10.00am	17TH SUNDAY	Sr Dolores
Mon 29th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus	Jise Varghese Thanksgiving
Tues 30th	No mass here. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 31st	1.00pm Adoration 12 noon	St Ignatius of Loyola	Alice and Victoria
Thu 1st August	9.30am	St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Albert Gregg RIP 100th Birthday
Fri 2nd	1.00pm Adoration 12 noon	Feria	Donal Looney RIP
Sat 3rd		Mass of Our Lady	Martin O Sullivan (sick)
Sat 3rd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 3rd	6.00pm	18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Holy Souls
Sun 4th	8.00am	18TH SUNDAY	Nigel & Lorraine Lloyd-Williams Ruby Wedding
Sun 4th	10.00am	18TH SUNDAY	The Parish



The SVP national raffle tickets will be on sale this weekend of 27th 28th July. This also supports the work of our Parish SVP group who do great unseen work. Please keep our SVP group in your prayers. (New members always welcome?)



Children's Liturgy—Summer Break
A very big **Thank You** to all of the helpers who have been running the children's liturgy through the year. It is a great ministry for the parish. They will be taking a break now over the summer holidays beginning after this weekend until we start again in September when the schools return.

Quiet Times in Church

for silent prayer (No music)
Mon and Thurs 8.00am-9.30am
Wed and Fri 12.00 noon -1.00pm



We remember all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.
Gerald Bubb, Cornelius (Con)Tobin
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, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery.



Our Church of Saint Francis Xavier was built by the Jesuits. The Jesuit order (The Society of Jesus) was founded by St. Ignatius Loyola whose feast day we celebrate this Wednesday.

Pope Francis, himself a Jesuit, spoke about St Ignatius during a Wednesday audience:

"Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on *discernment*, the process of making sound decisions about the meaning and direction of our lives, we now consider the witness of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. As a young soldier, Ignatius was gravely wounded in battle. During his long convalescence, he was unable to read his favourite novels of chivalry and heroic exploits. The only books at hand were the lives of the saints. Reading them, at first reluctantly, Ignatius came to realize that the stories of the saints brought him lasting joy and happiness, while the other stories left him ultimately arid and empty. This insight was the origin of the method of prayer and discernment that Ignatius left us in his celebrated *Spiritual Exercises*. There he speaks of the importance of distinguishing between worldly and spiritual thoughts, cultivating the latter, and allowing them, by God's grace, to mature within our hearts. In time, then, we come to discern in prayer the often unexpected signs by which God makes himself known to us, leads us to conversion and shows us his will for our lives."



Wednesday audience 7th Sept 2022

St Ignatius of Loyola

Thursday Social Club—Please note that there will be no meeting in August. The next Thursday Social Club will be on Thursday 5th September.
Poetry for Pleasure- Please note that there will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Thursday 26th September.
ABC Bible study Group The next meeting will be in September as the school term begins.
A Cup of Tea/Coffee and Cake
Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Wendy Winterburn Ancy Shajan	6pm Philip Dixon
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Helen Booth
10am Mary Cook, Peter Cunningham, Gerald Okafor, Noel Elegado	10am Audrey Fussell

Today is the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has given the day the theme: "Do not cast me off in my old age" from Psalm 71:9 For more information see: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>



world-day-grandparents-elderly/

Dear Lord, We thank you for grandparents and elderly relatives throughout the world, their lives and their vocation. We are grateful for their love, care and the advice that they give to each of us. Protect them dear Lord, in all that they do, as we continue to be blessed by their wisdom in our communities. Guide them in their earthly pilgrimage and always keep them close to your heart, so that they continue to generously respond to your call. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. **Amen.**

The Portiuncula Indulgence may be obtained on 2nd August. <https://ucatholic.com/blog/how-can-you-get-the-portiuncula-indulgence-tomorrow/>



Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary? Or at a significant stage in your marriage; perhaps a new baby, illness, empty nesters, retirement or a recent bereavement?

The Archdiocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage

is being celebrated for **ALL** married (and engaged) couples in **St David's Cathedral on Saturday 5th October at 12 noon**, and you are all invited; the widowed are also invited and will be included in the prayers of intercession. You might also consider having your anniversary date included in the Mass booklet and share photographs to form part of a reflective presentation. For more details, to share information and to express your wish to attend, please contact Joanne White via flc@rcadc.org; you can still be included even if you are unable to attend in person as the Mass will be livestreamed-Cathedral website.



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE GRAVE OF ST JOHN KEMBLE

This year's Pilgrimage takes place on Sunday, 18th August. 3.00pm at Welsh Newton. We meet for Rosary, Readings and Prayers at St John Kemble's Grave in the Churchyard at Welsh Newton.



Congratulations to Tom Fawcett and Alice Mitchell

who were married here on Saturday 27th at 1.30pm. With our prayers and every best wish for the future.



Collections 20th/21st July
1st £484.38 The Parish
2nd £386.05 Renovation



Parish Calendar– August 2024

Sun 18th	3.00pm	John Kemble Pilgrimage
Sun 25th	12.00	Parish BBQ