



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB,  
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**Last Sunday** we had an afternoon of exposition, as the Blessed Sacrament was placed on the altar to enable us to spend time in prayerful contemplation. I want to thank all those who came and spent time with Our Lord, it truly was a blessed time.

**In today's Gospel** we see Jesus and his disciples alone and there is a great sense of intimacy as Jesus tries to share with the people he is closest to how he is destined to suffer and die. However, it doesn't take long before the disciples are arguing among themselves about who was the greatest, who was better than who and like kids arguing in the playground each one of them wanted to be boss; the top man. They were exalting themselves trying to show they were better and more important than anyone else and so deserve preferential treatment. Then Jesus comes along and pulls the rug from under their feet. He challenges their ideas of their own importance, and shows them, and us, that while we may feel proud of whom we think we are by virtue of our power, success, money or fame, these count for nothing before God. He takes a small child and uses him as a visual aid. The Aramaic word for 'child' is also used for 'servant' so by placing a child in their midst he is re-enforcing the fact that true greatness lies not in wealth or status but in innocence of heart and humility. God has to be our reason for being; for without God human existence becomes meaningless. We only know who we truly are by trying to see ourselves as God sees us; by becoming who God meant us to be and we can only do that when we embrace the fact that no amount of power, wealth or prestige can bring us true happiness; for it is only in God that true fulfilment can be found, our true selves revealed and we discover who we really are. **Fr. Andrew**



## Liturgical Calendar September 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 1

Sat 21st	10.30am	ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE (FEAST)	Darren Bond RIP
Sat 21st	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 21st	6.00pm	25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Helen Hathaway RIP
Sun 22nd	8.00am	25TH SUNDAY	CD Joseph RIP
Sun 22nd	10.00am	25TH SUNDAY	Mary Ellen Prosser (anniv.)
Mon 23rd	9.30am <i>Rosary</i>	St Pius of Pietrelcina	Varghese/Liji
Tues 24th	No Mass here. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM (FEAST)		
Wed 25th	1.00pm <i>Adoration 12 noon</i>	Feria	Krystyna Kowalczyk (Birthday)
Thu 26th	09.30am	Sts Cosmas & Damian (martyrs)	John, James, Thomas McSherry
Fri 27th	11.00am	WEDDING OF DANIEL HARROD & MISHA THOMAS. NUPTIAL MASS	
Fri 27th	1.00pm	St Vincent de Paul	Virginio Schiavon anniv.
Sat 28th	10.30am	Our Lady's Mass	Nino & Maria Meschi
Sat 28th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 28th	6.00pm	26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Our Lady's Intention
Sun 29th	8.00am	26TH SUNDAY	Pope's Intention
Sun 29th	10.00am	26TH SUNDAY	Holy Souls

**We welcome** into God's family Elena Niedzielska who will be baptised this Sunday at 12 noon. We warmly welcome Elena into our parish and congratulate her family.



**STATISTICS COUNT WEEK 1**  
**Collectors please** to do the head count at the end of the collection and fill in the form in the sacristy. Many thanks.

The 24th September commemoration of **Our Lady of Walsingham** has been "upgraded" in England from a memorial to a feast! As you may know, Fr. Keith is a priest of the Ordinariate under the patronage of Our Lady of Walsingham. We keep him and all the Ordinariate priests and their families in our prayers. Our Lady of Walsingham. Pray for us.



**We remember all who have died and those whose anniversaries occur about this time.**  
Winifred Averay, Cecilia Hanslow, Jean Child, Zofia Sapiecha.  
**Lately dead**– Joan Longford



**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, Roy Pigou, Ann Marie Hughson, Teresa Bord, Theo Bevan.

## Deanery Talks– Horizons of Hope

Our recent talk in the parish hall by Fr Stephen Fawcett was very well attended with only a few spare chairs and those who did come heard a very thoughtful and engaging talk on the dignity of human gender.

Fr Stephen explained how male and female uniting in sexual love in a sacramental marriage are an icon of how God loves: Faithful, Fruitful and Forever. He said that there are two genders male and female and that God does not make 'mistakes' but people can experience a genuine sense of confusion and disorientation promoted by a secular world.

Fr Stephen went on to say that, God shows his mercy to all of us... to grow into the people we should be. It's not that some people need mercy and some people don't. All of us need the truth and everyone needs the grace to journey in that truth.



He explained that there has been neither a sense of toning down the truth and raising up the sort of focus on mercy, nor of a toning down the mercy because it might be interpreted as weakness, but rather "a harmony."

Fr. Stephen added that while the Church has been very clear in its teaching, sometimes people don't understand the difference between simple and easy. The Church's teaching, he said, is simple: the beauty of sexuality, realized in faithfulness, in commitment. However, he added, "it isn't easy!".

## Our next talk

HEREFORDSHIRE DEANERY - HORIZONS OF HOPE

### Navigating Ethical Potholes

Reflections of a Catholic Doctor  
with  
**Dr Michael Hall**  
Former Consultant Physician at Hereford County Hospital  
All Welcome!

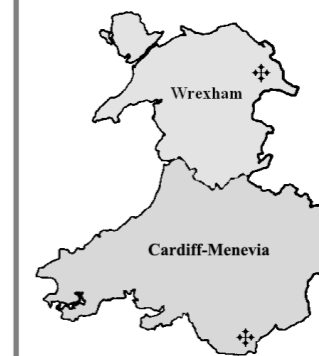
**Thursday 10th October 7.00pm**  
At Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey, Hereford HR2 9RZ

<b>Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	<b>Ministers of the Word</b>
6pm Wendy Winterburn Kathy Weston Sarah Williams	6pm Philip Dixon
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Lorraine Lloyd-Williams
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Gerald Okafor Noel Elegado Lorena de Lima Auer	10am Bruno Alves

## Parish "Elgar in Hereford walk" Sunday 29th September 2.30 pm

Meet outside the West door of the Cathedral (main door facing King Street) ready to start the walk at 2.30 pm. The walk should take one to one and a half hours. Tea and scones will be available in the Parish Hall after the walk. We have had to pay the Guild of Guides in advance in order to secure the booking. If you signed up for the walk, please pay Dorothy on the day. The cost is £6 per adult.

## The Vatican announces creation of the united Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia



In a pastoral letter read across the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia on the weekend of 14-15 September, Archbishop Mark O'Toole shared the joyful news of the creation of the new Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia.

The announcement was promulgated from Rome, following the decision of Pope Francis, on 12 September,

coinciding with the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. This significant moment marks a new chapter for the Catholic community in South Wales and Herefordshire.



## Red Missio Boxes

If you have one of the red Mission boxes it is now the time to hand in for the count please. If you can bring in and leave them in the sacristy or hand into the office by the 2nd Sunday of October.

Many Thanks for your support in this great work.

## The Archdiocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage



is being celebrated for ALL married and engaged couples in St David's Cathedral on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 12 noon, and you are all invited; the widowed are also invited and will be included in the prayers of intercession.

**P Poetry for Pleasure** We will be starting the 2024/25 season on Thursday 26 September 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme will be "Some of our favourite poems". Bring a few poems to share with the group Don't forget the summer challenge of learning a poem by heart! It's not too late!

**Collections 14th/15th September**

1st £432.81 The Parish  
2nd £281.01 Renovation  
**Home Mission Sunday £227.44**



## Parish Calendar– September/October 2024

Thu 26th	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure in Hall
Sun 29th	2.30pm	Parish Walk
Wed 2nd	6.30pm	ABC Scripture Group