



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Parish Priest Dom James Hood. Assistant Priest Dom John George.  
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Mrs Elizabeth Christopherson  
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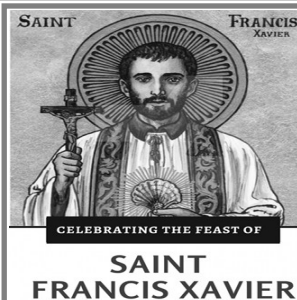
SFX Parish Safeguarding Officer:  
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**Dear Friends**, On Wednesday 3rd December we keep the feast of Saint Francis Xavier, the patron of our Church. When this church was opened in 1839 by the Jesuits, it was fitting that Saint Francis Xavier, the great Jesuit missionary, was chosen as its patron. This was one of the early churches to be built after the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1839. Churches built by religious orders were often referred to as missions. It is nearly 200 years since our church was opened in the centre of Hereford: much has happened in the Church, in the world and in our country since 1839. Today the church in Europe is often referred to as missionary territory. Our vibrant and lively parish community has parishioners from different parts of the world: India, Nigeria, the Philippines, Ireland, Brazil, Poland and Portugal, as well as Hereford, and other parts of the UK. It is truly enriching to be the Parish Priest of such a rich and diverse community. We're blessed in having a patron who is the greatest missionary after St Paul; he is the patron of Catholic Missions. He was tireless in preaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. When in India, he wrote to Saint Ignatius, stating that it was a tragedy that so many souls were lost because there was no one to preach the gospel to them. He hoped that the young men, studying in the universities in Europe, would hand themselves over entirely to God's will and come out to India to preach the gospel.

**Fr James**

## Liturgical Calendar Nov/Dec 2025 Yr A Psalter Wk 1

|          |   |   |                                |
|----------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Sat 29th | 10.30am                                 | Votive Memorial<br>Our Lady                                 | George Bentley<br>RIP          |
| Sat 29th | 11.00am                                 | Confessions & Adoration                                     |                                |
| Sat 29th | 6.00pm                                  | 1ST SUNDAY<br>OF ADVENT                                     | Michael Flynn RIP              |
| Sun 30th | 8.00am                                  | 1ST SUNDAY<br>OF ADVENT                                     | MacGregor/<br>Gleeson families |
| Sun 30th | 10.00am                                 | 1ST SUNDAY<br>OF ADVENT                                     | Michael Ramsey<br>RIP          |
| Mon 1st  | 9.30am<br><i>Rosary<br/>9am</i>         | 1st Week<br>of Advent                                       | Brian Trainor                  |
| Tue 2nd  | No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30 |   |                                |
| Wed 3rd  | 1.00pm                                  | SAINT FRANCIS<br>XAVIER, PRIEST                             | Anna & Tadeusz<br>Kania RIP    |
| Thu 4th  | 9.30am                                  | St John<br>Damascene,<br>Priest and Doctor<br>of the Church | Souls in Purgatory             |
| Fri 5th  | 1.00pm                                  | 1st Week<br>of Advent                                       | Souls in Purgatory             |
| Sat 6th  | 10.30am                                 | St Nicholas,<br>Bishop                                      | Raymond Barry<br>RIP           |
| Sat 6th  | 11.00am                                 | Confessions & Adoration                                     |                                |
| Sat 6th  | 6.00pm                                  | 2ND SUNDAY<br>OF ADVENT                                     | Anna & Tadeusz<br>Kania RIP    |
| Sun 7th  | 8.00am                                  | 2ND SUNDAY  | Sanilmon<br>Antony RIP         |
| Sun 7th  | 10.00am                                 | 2ND SUNDAY  | Doreen Giles RIP               |



**On Wednesday December 3rd it is our Feast day of Saint Francis Xavier with Mass at 1.00pm** followed by a shared lunch in the hall for anyone who can stay and celebrate our special day. Please bring a savoury or a sweet plate to share.



### Fr Gregory Sambi OSB

Many of you would remember Fr Gregory who stood in as our parish priest last year for about six months. He has sent us all news and Advent blessings from his monastery in Tanzania. His letter and some pictures are up on the notice board in the Narthex.

### **We remember all who have died Lately Dead– Michael Davis**

**Anniversaries:** Lily-Beth Price, Cosmo Gordon, Ellen Anstee, Anna Kubielska, Molly Frances, Pat Martin, Florence Marsh, James Fleming, Richard Price, Terence Goldrick.



**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, Vera McHale, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Ann Marie Hughson, Ann Orchard.

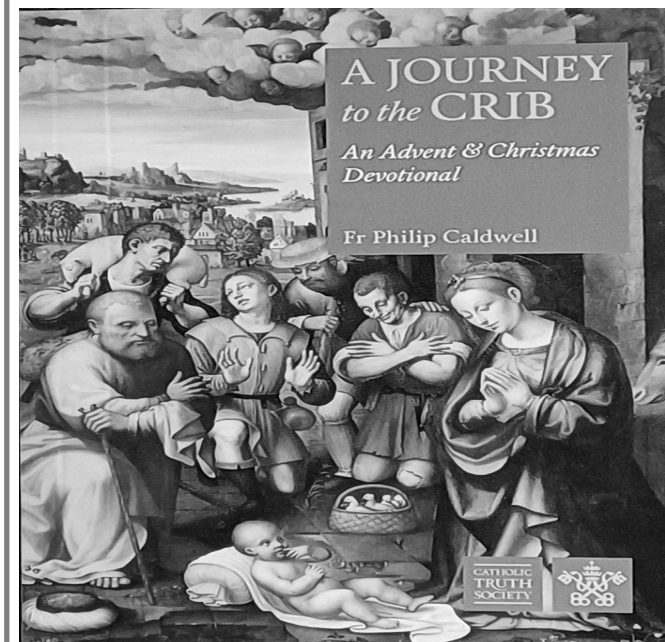
## Advent

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year, a season of preparation and anticipation for the arrival of Jesus Christ. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavours to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will guide us into a vigilant disposition.

As we begin our journey, the Gospel for the First Sunday is always an account announcing the sudden coming of the Son of Man in glory on a day and at an hour unknown to us. It is always striking to begin Advent in this way, for inevitably Advent puts Christmas in mind, and in many places the wider culture is already conjuring up the gentle images of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. But the liturgy takes us to such images by means of others that remind us that the same Lord born in Bethlehem "will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead," as the Creed puts it.

We can prepare ourselves during the season by spending time in prayer (perhaps praying the rosary together as a family), by opening our bibles to encounter the Living Word, and by renewing ourselves through the celebration of confession. At the back of church there is a small booklet entitled 'A Journey to the Crib' by Fr Philip Caldwell, a great accompaniment to your own advent journey. There are daily meditations on scripture passages alongside reflections on art and literature.

**Fr John**



| Ministers of the Eucharist                               | Ministers of the Word              |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 6pm Wendy Winterburn<br>Angela Holmes<br>Vigeetha Joseph | 6pm Stuart Fox<br>Philip Dixon     |
| 8am Cecilia Balestra<br>Frances Hetterley                | 8.00am<br>Dorothy Kennedy          |
| 10am Mia Brennan<br>Moses Obanimoh<br>Gerald Okafor      | 10am Audrey Fussell<br>Bruno Alves |

### **The Middle Coming: Fr Michael Casey OCSO.**

For our next Horizons of Hope talk, a renowned Cistercian spiritual writer will talk about the interior landscape of spiritual experience: the quiet ways in which grace transforms the human heart. He is on a rare visit to the UK from Australia.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00am- 12.30pm** at The Chapterhouse, Belmont Abbey, Hereford. All are welcome.



**Confirmations** The 2026 confirmation course for pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 (or older if you have not made your Confirmation) will begin in the New Year. To register contact **[hereford2@rcadc.org](mailto:hereford2@rcadc.org)**

### **Archdiocesan November Newsletter Now Available**

The latest Archdiocesan Newsletter is now available to read online. This month's edition focuses on our prayers for the Holy Souls during November and the continuing Jubilee of Hope. Archbishop Mark reflects on how our prayers for the deceased express the bonds of love that continue beyond death.

The newsletter includes updates on the Sisters of St Joseph's 375th anniversary, the Educator's Mass, next year's pilgrimage, the election of a new Abbess at Poor Clare Abbey, and upcoming events including Welsh Mass and an Advent Retreat.

Archbishop Mark continues to urge opposition to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill currently before the Senedd.

Read the full newsletter by clicking this link:  
**<https://tinyurl.com/2bn38xdf>**

**Thursday Social Club is on this week** tea/coffee chat and activities, Thursday 4th December 1.30-3.00pm Kemble Parish Hall. All welcome.



**A special Thank You** to all who helped last week at the 10.00am Mass with the special Filipino choir and the fabulous feast afterwards. A great celebration that did your community proud!

### **Welcome to new parishioners and visitors.**

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



**Collection 23/11/2025**

**The Parish £926.44**



### **What's on in December 2025**

|           |        |   |
|-----------|--------|---|
| Mon 1st   | 7.00pm | SVP meet in the Kemble Hall.                    |
| Wed 3rd   | 1.00pm | Feast day Mass for St. Francis Xavier and lunch |
| Wed 3rd   | 6.30pm | ABC Bible study group                           |
| Thurs 4th | 1.30pm | Thursday Social Club                            |