



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear All**, Lent comes to an end on a note of false triumph. The blessing and distribution of psalms recalls our Lord's entry into Jerusalem for the last time as the crowds cry, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" Yet the Gospel at Mass reminds us that in less than a week these same streets will be stained with His blood when the crowds cry, "crucify him, crucify him!"  
At Masses for this Sunday, we begin with the blessing of palms as we hail Christ in his ultimate victory. Palms were symbols of life among the nomadic tribes, who, when crossing the desert, rejoiced at seeing the palm tree as it indicated an oasis with life-giving water was near. Palms have long been a sign of victory, success and glory. Victorious armies or leaders returning from the battlefield or a long military campaign were welcomed by the populace jubilantly waving palm branches. On Palm Sunday, we still go out to meet Him, carry the blessed palms, joyfully sing out our hosanna and joining in His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. But soon our joy turns to soberness as, clutching our palm, we hear the narrative of Christ's passion. We realize, once again, that His triumph, His true victory, will come through the cross. We know, as Jesus did, how Holy Week will end. We know that joy will turn to sorrow and back to joy. We know that through the horror of His suffering, followed by the glory of His resurrection, good will trump evil and life will trump death. The palms we take home and put in a special place serve to remind us that Palm Sunday is not lost to the ages but that by Christ's victory we, too, can achieve everlasting life. **Fr John**

## Liturgical Calendar April 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 2

Sat 12th	10.30am	5th Week of Lent	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Sat 12th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 12th	6.00pm	PALM SUNDAY	<i>David Cronin RIP</i>
Sun 13th	8.00am	PALM SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 13th	9.45am	PALM SUNDAY (Meet at Bishop's Palace)	<i>Vocations</i>
Mon 14th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK	<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
Tue 15th	NO PUBLIC MASS Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 16th	1.00pm	WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	<i>Mary Amor</i>
Thu 17th	7.00pm <u>NB No</u> <u>9.30am</u> <u>Mass</u>	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (Maundy Thursday)	<i>The English Benedictine Community</i>
Fri 18th	10.00am 11.00am	Confessions Walk of witness from <u>the Cathedral</u>	
Fri 18th	3.00pm	GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	
Sat 19th	<u>No Mass</u> <u>10.30</u>	No Confessions Church cleaning 9.00am	
Sat 19th	11.00am & 11.30	Easter Polish Food Blessings	
Sat 19th	8.00pm	THE EASTER VIGIL	
Sun 20th	8.00am	EASTER SUNDAY	<i>John McGregor RIP</i>
Sun 20th	10.00am	EASTER SUNDAY	<i>Joyce Ingram RIP</i>



**Easter Polish Food Blessing**  
This year will be on **Saturday 19th April at 11.00am and 11.30am** Please pass this notice on to anyone who might be interested.

Wielkanocne błogosławieństwo polskich potraw - W tym roku odbędzie się w sobotę 19 kwietnia o godzinie 11:00 i 11:30. Prosimy przekazać tę informację wszystkim osobom, które mogą



We welcome into God's family **Xander Jaison** who will be baptized this Saturday at 4.00pm and also **Noah Noyes** who will be baptized on Sunday at 2.00pm. We warmly welcome Xander and Noah and their families into our parish.

We remember all who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

**Lately Dead Peter Young  
Barrie Edwards**



**Anniversaries:**  
Michael Kennedy, Patrick McCaughey, Eduardo Da Silva, Pearl Bray, Mary Harrison  
**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, Teresa Bord Ann Marie Hughson, Paul Kingston, John Moroney, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Didit Buhain, Margaret Davis.



## THE CHRISM MASS

Every year before Easter, at cathedrals around the world, the people of God celebrate the Chrism Mass. It is one of the most significant liturgical events in the Church. Participating in the Chrism Mass is a great way to come to a deeper appreciation of the sacramental life of the Church. What is the Chrism Mass, and why is it important?

The Chrism Mass will take place next Tuesday in the Co-Cathedral of St Joseph in Swansea, when the Archbishop, joined by the priests of the Archdiocese, will bless the oils that are to be used in the sacraments in the year ahead. After the Homily, the Archbishop will turn to the priests and invite them to renew their Priestly Promises. He will then turn to all present and ask them to pray for their Priests. Finally, he will invite all to pray for him that he may be faithful to the apostolic office entrusted to him, that he may be made day by day a living and more perfect image of Christ, the Priest, the Good Shepherd, the Teacher and Servant of all.

The Blessing of the Holy Oils: The Oil of the Sick, The Oil of Catechumens, and The Oil of Chrism takes place. The oil of the sick is used to anoint the sick. Before someone is baptized, they are anointed with the oil of catechumens. The oil of chrism is used in the Sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy orders.

The oil of holy chrism is particularly important since it is used in the sacraments that anoint with the Holy Spirit. It is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, an aromatic resin reminding us that as Christians we are called to give off the 'fragrance' of Jesus Christ, 'the smell of life leading to life'.

Oils are used for ordinary things like cooking and lighting fires, but are also used to anoint people, to consecrate someone or something for a sacred purpose.

Anointing with oils is also a sign of God's blessing, of his strength and favour.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, 'From the beginning until the end of time the whole of God's work is a blessing' (§1079). The only thing God has ever wanted to do is bless his people: bless them with life in abundance. Jesus is the one who brings this abundant life, and through the sacraments we are blessed with it. The oils symbolise this. In blessing the oils, and in using them to bless others, we see and smell Christ at work, blessing those lost and far away with his divine, abundant life. **Fr James**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Ancy Shajan Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Tracey Buckley Lorraine L Williams
10am Lorena D L Auer Thomas Kottuppattil Noel Elegado	10am Andrew Milne Bruno Alves



**Parish Quiz Saturday 26th April 7.15 pm** in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to join the Parish Quiz following the 6 pm Mass on Saturday 26th April. Individual tickets £7.50 to include a Ploughman's Supper and a glass of beer/prosecco/soft drink. You are welcome to bring any additional drinks. There will be a raffle  
Family tickets £25 (2 adults and 2 under 18s) Come as a team or individually: teams can be made up on the evening. Please sign the list in the Narthex if you intend to come. This is to help with catering.



## Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday: Sat. 6pm, Sun. 8am & 9.45am (gather in the forecourt of the Bishop's Palace)

**Maundy Thursday: 7pm** (watching until midnight)

**Good Friday: Confessions 10.00am. Passion 3pm  
Easter Vigil: 8pm (beginning at SFX)  
Easter Sunday: 8am & 10am**

### \*Sign up sheets\*

Sheets for various jobs and roles across the different liturgies can be found in the narthex and sacristy — there's something for everyone! Special Request for **Church cleaners** needed Sat 19th April **9.00am**

## Volunteers for counting

**Urgent.** There is a need for a volunteer(s) to join the counters rota. This takes place on a Monday morning to count all the donations and collections into the parish during the previous week.

No previous experience is necessary. You will work with one of our counters. Please come forward and join a friendly team. Please contact either John Cook in the office, or Stephen Cleeve on 01432 851632 /[scleeve1950@gmail.com](mailto:scleeve1950@gmail.com).

**Parish 200 Club.** We have pleasure in announcing the winners of the March Draw. 1st Elizabeth Leahy £30; 2nd Brigid Fresle £20; 3rd Elizabeth Wilson £10. Congratulations to the Winners, who can collect their letters from the Sacristy. Thanks Paul/ Brenda.

**Welcome to new parishioners and visitors.** Do introduce yourselves to the newcomers and **come along after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake.**



**Collections 6/4/2025**  
**1st £527.46 The Parish**  
**2nd £421.23 Renovation**



**Retiring collection today for Easter**

## Flowers

**The Easter Offering—Next weekend**

Is traditionally for the parish clergy. Thank you.

## Parish Calendar – April 2025

Sat 19th	Church cleaning 9.00am. Volunteers needed please	
Sat 19th	11 and 11.30am Easter Polish food blessing	
Sat 26th	7pm	Parish Quiz Night
Sat 28th	SVP	In Parish Hall