



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Parish Priest Dom James Hood. Assistant Priest Dom John George.  
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Mrs Margaret Daron  
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**Dear All,** As well as being the weekend when Fr James and I are inducted as the Parish Priest and Assistant Priest at the Sunday 10am Mass by Abbot Brendan, it is also the 'Sunday of the Word of God,' a day instituted by Pope Francis devoted to the celebration and study of Holy Scripture.

In fact, the Rite of Induction mentions praying the Word of God and specifically asks priests if they will meditate, preach and use it for prayer. But it's not just us who have this responsibility. The People of God are also questioned whether they will read the Scriptures and attend to its teaching. Abbot Brendan will turn and ask: "Will you share with your priests the mission of the Church to bring the Word of God to those who do not know it?" That's certainly a task for us all to be getting on with! It reminds us that, though many members, we are one body in Christ, and we share in the responsibility to proclaim the Good News.

The Word of God has the power to transform. If we spend time reading Holy Scripture, we enter into conversation with God, and it can be surprising where this takes us. Scripture can call us to repentance and conversion; it can awaken in us a desire to see good days, and it can give us a thankful heart for the blessings we encounter in others. Pope Benedict XVI wrote in 'Verbum Domini' that "in this dialogue with God we come to understand ourselves and we discover an answer to our heart's deepest questions... How important it is for our time to discover that God alone responds to the yearning present in the heart of every man and woman!"

Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." This same Spirit continues to pour out his gifts upon us, to show us the meaning of the Scriptures and to form us as credible heralds of the gospel. **Fr John**

## Liturgical Calendar January 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 3

Sat 25th	10.30am	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL (FEAST)	Forgotten Souls
Sat 25th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 25th	6.00pm	3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	The Pope's Intention
Sun 26th	8.00am	3RD SUNDAY OT	The Parish
Sun 26th	10.00am	3RD SUNDAY OT	Michael Ramsay
Mon 27th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	Feria	Michael Baldrey
Tue 28th		St Thomas Aquinas. Priest and Doctor of the Church. Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am	
Wed 29th	1.00pm	Feria	Fr Roman
Thu 30th	9.30am	Feria	Dennis Schiavon RIP
Fri 31st	1.00pm	St John Bosco, Priest	For the Young
Sat 1st	10.30am	St Brigid of Ireland	For the Sick
Sat 1st	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 1st	6.00pm	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)	For Vocations
Sun 2nd	8.00am	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	The Parish
Sun 2nd	10.00am	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	For Religious

## Flame takes place on Saturday 15th March 2025

and is the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales.

Filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, adoration and young people from across England and Wales, it's an event like no other!

**To find out more see [cymfed.org.uk/flame/](http://cymfed.org.uk/flame/)** SFX parish are looking to organise a few of their 14-25yr age-group parishioners to go up to London for this event. If any parishioners are interested and would like to join in please can you speak to Fr John and register your interest with the office at... hereford2@rcadc.org



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

**Lately Dead—Patricia Woodriffe**  
**Funeral here on Thursday 13th Feb 1.00pm**

## Anniversaries

William Connell, Luigi Criasia, Mary Haines, Dom Christopher Jenkins, Joan Sheeran, Joan Brooks, Dennis Schiavon, Christopher Saunders, Josephine Kelly.

**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, Bunimin, Mark Edmunds.

**Synod on Synodality** is an 'off putting' name. On Saturday 18th many from the Deanery and others as far a field as Malvern gathered at Belmont Abbey for an uplifting day on Synod on Synodality led by Abbot Brendan and Austen Ivereigh. Austen Ivereigh is a parishioner of the Belmont parish but is well known as the biographer of Pope Francis and someone who was a participant in the Synod, assisting the bishops in collating information from the dioceses for the Synod.

If asked to summarize the day, it is the importance for each parish to listen to each other humbly and for each person to have the space to speak boldly but humbly. Each one of us should not be afraid to bring the light of Christ that dwells in our heart to others. The Synod on Synodality is about developing a process, a method, for each person to be able to participate in the life of the Church at the parish level.

Each parish is a community of believers with Christ at its centre. For that parish to grow in the love of Christ, communion must be present. This has to be worked at all the time; it requires that we listen to one another and allow each person to participate and bring the gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, to others. Three key words in this process are: Communion, Participation and Mission. This process of listening humbly at meetings as particular issues are discussed must take place in the context of prayer: both vocal and a silent reflection and meditation on what each speaker has said. From this listening, reflection and meditation the participant can go out and implement what has been discussed. To be able to achieve this, we must be open to the Holy Spirit and be prepared to learn a new method of functioning. It requires discipline as we learn to listen deeply and humbly to one another. The process is about encouraging each other and allowing each person to share his / her charisms.

I will be meeting soon with those parishioners from SFX who attended as well as the Parish Advisory Council- now to be referred to as Parish Pastoral Council- as to how we can embrace this to enhance parish life at SFX. We will then invite the wider Parish to become involved in this important journey. **Fr James**



**Visit from Abbot Brendan** This Sunday 26th January we welcome Abbot Brendan who will be celebrating the 10.00am Mass with us and will also give a formal induction and blessing to our new priests and bless the Narthex and church front restoration.

<b>Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	<b>Ministers of the Word</b>
6pm Kathy Weston Wendy Winterburn Shaun Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Stephen Cleeve Dorothy Kennedy
10am Lorena de Lima Auer Moses Obanimoh Noel Elegado	10am Andy Milne Bruno Alves



## Thursday Social Club

The next Thursday Social Club will be on Thursday 6th February 1.30-3 pm in the Parish Hall. Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat. All are welcome.



## Coffee and Croissants

You are warmly invited to share coffee and croissants in the Parish Hall after the 8 am Mass on Sunday 9th February



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

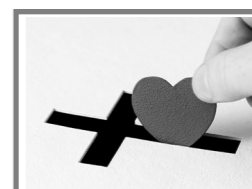
**CAFOD** (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales. It is a charity that provides aid to people in poverty around the world.

CAFOD's work includes providing practical help, campaigning for justice, and supporting communities to protect the environment. A comprehensive website explains the work of CAFOD and how to become involved <https://cafod.org.uk> If you would like to join the Parish CAFOD group, please speak to Fr James or Fr John.



## Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006)

will be canonised by Pope Francis in April. A relic of Blessed Carlo will be on display at Belmont Abbey on Saturday 15 February and from 27 January the Abbey shop will have a display of items on Blessed Carlo to purchase. 2025 also marks the Year of Jubilee. Various souvenirs to mark the year will also be on sale in the shop. Please come for a look around.



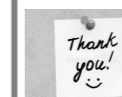
## Church Stewards Needed

If anyone is able to give up an hour a week to become a steward in the church, please contact Margaret Cleeve on 01432 851632. This is purely voluntary and if for some reason

you are unable to do your 'hour' you will not need to find a replacement. No training is necessary but we need volunteers to provide information on the history of SFX etc, if required, to all the visitors we see each week. Many thanks.

## Welcome to new parishioners and visitors.

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



**Collections 18/19th Jan**  
**1st £ 458.20 The Parish**  
**2nd £ 367.67 Renovation**



## Parish Calendar- February 2025

Mon 3rd	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
Thurs 6th	1.30pm	Thursday Social Club
Sun 9th	8.45.am	Coffee and Croissants