



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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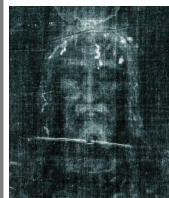
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Dear All, The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. It gets its name from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John which follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. We continue to respond to this call when we discern Jesus' voice through Scripture, Church teachings, conscience, and spiritual friendships. It reminds us that this call is still heard today. This Sunday we pray in a special way for particular types of vocations which are very necessary for the life of the Church. We need pastoral shepherds and we pray more young men will respond to the call of the priesthood. We can support this by praying, but this Sunday we are asked to support the Priest Training & Discipleship Appeal for the archdiocese. This helps train seminarians in the seminary, but its focus also includes wider discipleship activity across the archdiocese. Its aim is to build up a culture of vocation, where more young men and women can better discern their own vocations. This Sunday, therefore, we pray that those who are being called will answer the call. This Sunday is not only for vocations to the priesthood. It is also an invitation for each person to reflect on what their particular calling is and how they can respond to it for the well-being of the whole parish community. Secondly, we each need to help and not be an obstacle to others in responding to the particular calling or grace that God through his Spirit is giving them. **Fr John**

Liturgical Calendar May 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 4

Sat 10th	10.30am	3rd week of Easter	<i>The Church</i>
Sat 10th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 10th	6.00pm	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE	<i>Kunjumol Shajahan RIP</i>
Sun 11th	8.00am	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE	<i>Pope Leo XIV</i>
Sun 11th	10.00am	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE	<i>Stanley Howard RIP</i>
Mon 12th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	4th week of Eastertide	<i>The Parish</i>
Tue 13th	NO PUBLIC MASS. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 14th	1.00pm	ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE (FEAST)	<i>Michael Baldrey RIP</i>
Thu 15th	9.30am	4th week of Eastertide	<i>John , James, Thomas McSherry</i>
Fri 16th	1.00pm	4th week of Eastertide	<i>Brian Daw RIP</i>
Sat 17th	10.30am	4th week of Eastertide	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Sat 17th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 17th	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE	<i>Pope Leo XIV</i>
Sun 18th	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE	<i>Rosy Jose</i>
Sun 18th	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE	<i>Maureen Baldrey (Private Int.)</i>



Great News for SFX

As part of our special Jubilee year events we will be hosting the award winning Shroud of Turin exhibition between Sunday 15th-29th June with a talk by Shroud expert Pam Moon. We hosted this exhibition some years ago and it was a great success with lots of people from outside the parish coming in to view it.

First Holy Communions for the children of the parish will be taking place on Saturday May 24th at 10am. We keep the children in our prayers on this very special day.



NB no 10.30am Mass or confessions that day.



Red Missio Boxes - Please can you bring in your Red 'Missio boxes' in for counting please by Sunday 18th May and leave them in the sacristy. Many Thanks.

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

Anniversaries: Stanley Howard, Teodoro Donativo, Ellen Phillips, Catharina Wales, Emma Grobelny, Eileen Greene, Claire George, Mary Juby, Margaret Faulkner.



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,

Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum: Habemus papam.



I announce to you a great joy: We have a pope. Over the last few days our attention and prayers have been focused on the cardinals who would be voting for the successor of St Peter. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and is Peter's successor. The Catechism of the Church states that the pope is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful. For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered. Today, the College of Cardinals, elected one of their number to be Peter's successor. For any person to be the Vicar of Christ, taking this responsibility is daunting. He can only carry out the office by placing himself entirely in God's hands and allowing himself to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Robert Prevost is the first American-born pope. He commences as pope at the age of 69, younger than Pope Francis and Pope Benedict. Much is made of the name the new pontiff takes. He has chosen the name Leo. Leo XIII is well known for his intellectualism and his attempts to define the position of the Catholic Church with regard to modern thinking. In his famous 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo outlined the rights of workers to a fair wage, safe working conditions, and the formation of trade unions, while affirming the rights to property and free enterprise, opposing both socialism and laissez-faire capitalism. With that encyclical, he became popularly titled as the "Social Pope" and the "Pope of the Workers", also having created the foundations for modern thinking in the social doctrines of the Catholic Church, influencing the thoughts of his successors.

Pope Leo XIV, although American by birth, has spent time in Peru as an Augustinian missionary and bishop. More recently he has been the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. To that role he has brought his immense gifts of management and as a canon lawyer. He will, no doubt, wish to continue emphasising our role as missionary disciples, seeing the beauty and joy in communicating the Gospel, the Good News of Christ to others. Let us pray for Pope Leo and for the Church. May God bless him.

Fr James

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Angela Holmes Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	8am Stephen Cleeve Dorothy Kennedy
10am Lorena de L Auer Thomas Kottuppallil Noel Elegado	10am Andrew Milne Bruno Alves

Priest Training & Discipleship Appeal:

10th/11th May There will be a second collection for the Priest Training & Discipleship Appeal. alongside supporting seminarians, the second collection will also be used for wider discipleship activity across the Archdiocese of Cardiff/Menevia. Please do support this appeal to the best of your abilities.

BELMONT ABBEY

MAY PROCESSION: The annual torchlight procession in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes place on **Wednesday 14th May at 9.00pm** with Abbot Brendan preaching.

(If you have not been before this is a really joyful occasion with a great number of in attendance– please see the notice at the back of church for more details.)

The Belmont the abbey shop will be open extra hours from 2-9pm. Available to purchase are Marian devotional items, First Holy Communion gifts, Jubilee Year products (including a selection of books on the late Holy Father) and many other items.



Parish 200 Club. We have pleasure in announcing the winners of the April Draw. **1st Jeanette Livermore £30; 2nd Pete Fawcett £20; 3rd Annie McCourt £10.** Congratulations to the Winners, who can collect their letters from the Sacristy. **Paul and Brenda**

Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting is on Thursday 22nd May 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. Please note that is a week later than advertised in the annual programme. New members are always welcome. No specialist knowledge is required – just a shared enjoyment of poetry.

Date For Your Diary!

Parish Walk Brockhampton Sunday 25th May 2.00pm. This is a circular 3 mile walk over varied terrain of woodland and farmland. It takes in a view point over the River Wye. More details next week.

Welcome to new parishioners and visitors.

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



Collections 4/5/2025

1st £ 552.59 The Parish
2nd £450.86 Renovation



This weekend there will be a 2nd collection for the Archdiocese priest training and Discipleship appeal.

Parish Calendar – May 2025

Wed 14th	9.00pm	Belmont May Procession
Mon 19th	7.00pm	SVP meeting in hall
Wed 21st	6.30pm	ABC Bible Study
Sat 24th	10.00am	Talk at Belmont Abbey by Fr Nicholas King