



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear Friends, On the Fourth Sunday rose coloured vestments make their appearance. We're urged to rejoice, 'Laetare,' as we pass halfway through this holy season. It's a time to pause and look back at what we've achieved. It's also a moment to reflect and think on what the Church urges us to do during these special days. Pope Leo has reminded us that Lent is a time for listening and fasting: it's a time of conversion. Conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. During our Lenten journey let us heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does.

Let us also keep in mind that during Lent when we fast we do so as a way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Fasting involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we hunger for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. It also teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbour. Pope Leo has urged us to strive to fast from using hurtful words in our language and to give greater space for the voice of others. He tells us that our communities should be places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love. **Fr James**

Liturgical Calendar March 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 4

Sat 14th	10.30am	3rd week of Lent	John, James, Thomas McSherry
Sat 14th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 14th	6.00pm	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	Evangelisation
Sun 15th	8.00am	4TH SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 15th	10.00am	4TH SUNDAY	Sandy Elliot
Mon 16th	9.30am Rosary 9am	4th week of Lent	Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP
Tue 17th	No public Mass FEAST OF ST PATRICK Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 18th	1.00pm	4th week of Lent	Edward Delaney
Thu 19th	9.30am	ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (SOLEMNITY)	Michael Humphries RIP
Fri 20th	1.00pm	4th week of Lent	Holy Souls
Fri 20th	6.00pm	4th week of Lent	E.B.C
Sat 21st	10.30am	4th week of Lent	Thanksgiving
Sat 21st	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 21st	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	The Parish
Sun 22nd	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Souls in Purgatory
Sun 22nd	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Socrate Bisconti



"Lord Jesus, you were nurtured by Mary; bless all mothers with your strength, peace, and love, that they may mirror her holiness and guide their families in faith."



Congratulations and a warm SFX parish welcome to Carla Segust who is being received into the catholic church and confirmed this weekend at the 8.00am Mass. We pray for Carla on this special day and for all of the catechumens who will be received into the Church during the Easter season.

Safeguarding training Reminder
Next Saturday 21st March from 11.00am to 1.00pm at Belmont (Not OL). This training session is being put on for all parish volunteers.

We remember all who have died: Anniversaries:

John Keyte, William Kerr, Maureen Williams.
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, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Hugh Davies, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Thomas Leahy, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Pauline and David Day, Sarah, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Martin Feely, Valerie Vaughan-Williams, Senan Stokes.

LENT - HOLY WEEK

On Sunday 22nd March we move into the final two weeks of Lent. These two weeks are often called Passiontide. The statues around the church and the crucifixes will be covered in purple. Our prayer intensifies as we accompany Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and Calvary for his passion.

During the fifth week of Lent the times of the masses remain the same. Before the Friday 1.00 p.m. Mass there will be the Stations of the Cross.

PALM SUNDAY

For the 10.00 a.m. Mass we'll assemble at the Bishop's Palace for the Blessing of the Palms and the Procession to the Cathedral and our church, for the rest of the Mass.

MONDAY – HOLY WEEK

Mass at 9.30 a.m. with the recitation of Lauds. Reconciliation Service at Our Lady's 7.00pm.

TUESDAY – HOLY WEEK

No mass at SFX but mass in OLQMs at 9.30 a.m. CHRISM MASS at 11.00 a.m. in the Cathedral in Cardiff, celebrated by the Archbishop.

WEDNESDAY – HOLY WEEK

Mass at 1.00 p.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 12.00 to 1.00 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Mass at 7.00 p.m., with the Washing of the Feet, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration until Midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY

Confessions from 10.00 a.m. Passion of the Lord at 3.00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

Church cleaning from 9.00 a.m. Easter Polish Blessings at 11.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

EASTER VIGIL – start in St Francis Xavier Church at 8.00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Fr James



Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Kathy Weston Angela Holmes	6pm Philip Dixon Mary Schiavon
8am Vera McHale Frances Hetterley	8am Stephen Cleeve James Morris
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Gerald Okafor Noel Elegado Mary Cook	10am Tania Tomy Andy Milne



SFX Big Lent Walk Eastnor Deer Park

On Sunday 22nd March there will be a Parish walk around Eastnor Deer Park, (Ledbury) following the same route that we have walked for the past 2 years. Meet at the free car park by the Woodshed Café (HR8 1RA) near the entrance to Eastnor Castle, ready to start walking at 2pm. The route follows a 2.5 mile track (mainly tarmac) around the park. For those who would like an extra challenge, there is an extension route up to the Obelix. The path adds an extra mile to the walk and is quite steep, but you are rewarded with fabulous views from the top. This route is chosen to be as weather proof and accessible as possible, with no stiles to negotiate. While there is normally no charge for Parish walks, on this walk you are invited to make a contribution to CAFOD. Please note: the Woodshed café accepts card only payment. The Woodshed carpark is quite large but is usually very busy, so please share lifts.

Gift Aid Envelopes for 2026 – 2027

- The Gift Aid envelopes for Tax Year 2026/2027 will be available soon: not to be used until after 6th April.
- Only ONE set of envelopes, but donations will still be split as per your instructions.
- We have saved £120 by reducing the number of envelopes; please help to reduce even further by changing to a standing order with your bank.
- If you do not currently use Gift Aid please consider starting. This will give SFX a 25% bonus at no cost to you. You must be a UK tax payer. Check your Gift Aid box by NAME - Not the number you had last year. Thank you. If you require any more details, please contact Stephen Cleeve on 01432851632 scleeve1950@gmail.com.

St Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray: and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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



Collections 8/3/2026

The Parish £876.74



What's on in March 2026

Mon 16th	10.15am	Lectio Divina (Hall)
Mon 16th	7.00pm	SVP
Wed 18th	6.30pm	ABC Bible study
Thur 19th	10.30am	Poetry for pleasure