



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear All,** Jesus' teaching on discipleship continues in today's Gospel from Luke. The passage begins with the same kind of hyperbolic statement on family relations that Jesus said a few weeks ago in the Gospel.

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." These statements were meant to jolt Jesus' listeners into paying attention and discussing his basic message. The evangelist is referencing Micah 7:6, in which the prophet is lamenting the breaking down of family relations. The call to follow Jesus may indeed entail opposition even from those we love the most!

Now that we are shaken by this teaching, what is Jesus' message today? He makes it clear for us: "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." This reminds us that there is nothing half-hearted about following Jesus. We will face opposition, and we will have to carry a cross – our personal cross, a suffering and burden uniquely our own. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else. Now this can often seem like giving up many things, but it is more about discovering ourselves in Christ. Recently, Pope Leo met with several members of religious congregations and exhorted them to "embrace the marvellous adventure of following Christ more closely." **Fr John**

## Liturgical Calendar September 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 3

Sat 6th	10.30am	MASS OF OUR LADY	<i>Bernard Gilepsy RIP</i>
Sat 6th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 6th	6.00pm	23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<i>Ajit Singh RIP</i>
Sun 7th	8.00am	23RD SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 7th	10.00am	23RD SUNDAY	<i>Socrate Bisconti</i>
Mon 8th	9.30am Rosary 9am	THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Feast)	<i>The Pope's Intention</i>
Tue 9th	NO PUBLIC MASS. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30		
Wed 10th	1.00pm	Feria	<i>Tadeusz Yania</i>
Thu 11th	9.30am	Feria	<i>Vincent Hanna RIP</i>
Fri 12th	1.00pm	MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY (FEAST)	<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
Sat 13th	10.30am	St John Chrysostom	<i>Forgotten Souls</i>
Sat 13th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 13th	6.00pm	EXULTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	<i>David Bodian RIP</i>
Sun 14th	8.00am	EXULTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	<i>Gilbert Fresle</i>
Sun 14th	10.00am	EXULTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	<i>The Parish</i>

## Congratulations to Ray and Eileen Cotterell on their 70th (Platinum) wedding anniversary last Wednesday.



**1955**

**2025**

We pray for married couples in the parish, for those with a significant anniversary this year and for all who are preparing for this great vocation.

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

### Anniversaries:

Mary Pockett, Anthony Coyne, Gilbert Fresle, Henriette Crane, Vincent Hanna, Valentine Bird, Carmela Langford, Kevin Pocket, Andrea Balleza, Bernhard Grobelny, Louisa Weed, Francesca Burton.



**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, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Sarah, Ann Marie Hughson, Patricia Marongiu, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Rita Rees, Didit Buhain, Margaret Davis, Sarah James, Kath Feely.

## HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE?

Last week we reflected on the wonderful Benedictine hospitality many of us experienced at the opening of the new guest facilities at Belmont Abbey. In chapter 53 of his rule St Benedict writes that all who arrive at the monastery should be welcomed at Christ.

Jesus famously said, "I came not to be served but to serve." Throughout the gospels he puts that claim into effect in different ways. He also commands us to do the same. We obey that command in other ways too. Over the next three weeks I want to focus on how we can serve each other at the celebration of Mass. This week my focus is on the ministry of Welcome.

As parishioners of St Francis Xavier, let us live out Jesus' teaching and keep in mind the stress St Benedict places on welcoming the guest. When we welcome others, we are welcoming Christ.

When you came into church today, someone handed you this newsletter. It was a small but important gesture. A smile and a greeting showed that you were welcome and valued. Perhaps you took it for granted but imagine if no one were there, wouldn't the church seem a colder place? And what about visitors – what would be their first impressions of St Francis Xavier's Church?

Last week we mentioned our need for more welcomers at all weekend masses. This is a role that any one of us can do. The work is minimal. Turn up about 20 minutes before Mass begins. Make sure that newsletters and music are at the back of church. And then smile and greet everyone as they come in. A simple but very important way in which we can serve our parish. It can be done by individuals or by families – children have a natural gift for making people feel welcome!

Please sign up at the back of the church if you want to help in this way. We will then be able to renew our rota of Welcomers. **Fr James**



Ministers of the Eucharist		Ministers of the Word	
6pm	Wendy Winterburn Kathy Weston Vigeetha Joseph	6pm	Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am	Vera McHale Frances Hetterley	8am	Tracey Buckley Lorraine L Williams
10am	Thomas Kottuppattil Moses Obanimoh Gerald Okafor	10am	Audrey Fussell Valerie V Williams

**A Huge thank You to all the volunteers who put on such a lovely BBQ for over 100 parishioners last Sunday. Thank you to all who came along. Well done!**



## Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting is on Thursday 18th September 1030-1200 in the Parish hall. The theme will be "Some of our favourite poems". Bring a few of your favourites to share with the group. Absolutely no specialist knowledge is required, just a shared enjoyment of poetry. Everyone is welcome to join this friendly group.

**Wednesday 17th September 7.00pm** is our next parish pastoral council meeting. We are looking for 2/3 new members. If you would like to be considered or to nominate someone please put names in the suggestion box at the back of the church or email the office. **Parish AGM meeting**

**Wednesday 15th of October 7.00pm. Open to Everyone**

AGM  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
2025

**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 31/08/2025**  
1st £511.79 The Parish  
2nd £443.64 Renovation



## What's on in September 2025

Wed 17th	7.00pm	Parish council meeting
Thurs 18th	10.30am	Poetry for pleasure, in the <u>Parish Hall</u>
Sat 24th	7.00pm	Deanery Mass for all the local parishes