



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB, 19 Broad St. Hereford, HR4 9AP Tel: 01432 273485: www.sfxhereford.org.uk Hospital Chaplain: Fr Patrick Lobo 07922323603



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The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God and each other. On Sunday from 11am until 3pm we will have the opportunity to spend some time with the Lord before the Blessed Sacrament. This is to help us better prepare for the Holy Year of Jubilee and help us in our relationship with God. Please take some time out from your day to spend with the Lord. In today's Gospel we are faced head on with the million dollar question, a question which each one of us has to answer and can only answer for ourselves: "who do you say I am"? The question Jesus asks is one which resounds throughout the whole of the Gospels and has a profound effect on those who dare to answer it. It represent a 'cross roads' not only for the Apostles but for us as well. Jesus could have asked this question anywhere but he chose Caesarea Philippi. It was here, the ancients believed, that Pan, the god of nature and fertility, was born. It was also the site of a major shrine dedicated to Caesar who was worshipped there as a god. Here, in, this cosmopolitan place of worship, Jesus asks the crucial question: "who do people say that I am?" Jesus is demanding an answer in the face of all the other religions of the world, in the face of all other claims to divinity. He is asking the Apostles, and us, to choose, either for or against him. The world in which we live isn't that much different from that of Jesus and the Apostles. It too is full of false gods, mostly of our own making, a world of endless spiritual options and opinions, of pick and mix religions, all of which leave a feeling of emptiness and uncertainty. Jesus asks: "Who do people say that I am?" There are plenty of ready answers: "he is simply a good man, a great teacher, a prophet". However, Jesus is not content with glib answers but challenges each one of us: "but you, who do you, say that I am?" He invites us to express an opinion and to declare ourselves either for him or against him. We have a choice. Once we have answered the question life will never be the same again.

Fr. Andrew.

Liturgical Calendar September 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 4

Sat 14th	10.30am	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (FEAST)	Michael Ramsay
Sat 14th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 14th	6.00pm	24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Peter Millin Tom McCourt
Sun 15th	8.00am	24TH SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 15th	10.00am	24TH SUNDAY Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	The Pope's Intention
Sun 15th	3.00pm	BENEDICTION	
Mon 16th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	Sts Cornelius and Cyprian (martyrs)	Holy Souls
Tues 17th	No Mass here. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 18th	1.00pm Adoration 12 noon	Feria	Holy Father's Intention
Thu 19th	09.30am	Feria	Holy Souls
Fri 20th	1.00pm Adoration & Divine Mercy	Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Comp.	Petal O'Hea RIP
Sat 21st	10.30am	ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE (FEAST)	Darren Bond RIP
Sat 21st	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 21st	6.00pm	25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Helen Hathaway RIP
Sun 22nd	8.00am	25TH SUNDAY	Forgotten Souls
Sun 22nd	10.00am	25TH SUNDAY	C D Joseph RIP

We welcome into God's family Nesochi Okafor who was baptised this Saturday at 2.30pm. We warmly welcome Nesochi into our parish and congratulate her family.



We are approaching the Mass count for the Pastoral Statistics, which will this year take place on the following weekends:

21st/22nd September, 28th/29th September, 5th/6th October, 12th/13th October. **Collectors please** to do the head count at the end of the collection and fill in the form in the sacristy. Many thanks.

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

Veronica Foden, Bernadette Carroll, Colin Phillips, Virgino Schiavon, Canon O'Connor, Bernhard Grobelny, Sarah Fawcett, Jozef Sroda, Petal O'Hea, Mary Prosser, Winifred Averay, Jean Child, Cecelia Hanslow, Zophia Sapiecha.



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, Roy Pigou, Ann marie Hughson, Teresa Bord, Theo Bevan.

SFX Church Building News and Update



I'm sure you've all seen the scaffolding outside SFX. It's there so that we can carry out some essential repairs and maintenance of our wonderful Church. The prevailing south westerly wind regularly batters the front of the Church bringing rain and worse with it, which means the plaster and general fabric of the Church frontage has taken a beating in the 20 plus years since it was restored and is in desperate need of repair. I expect many of you will have noticed chunks of plaster falling off!

But those, like me, who are new to the Parish, may not remember the challenges SFX faced at the turn of the Century. At that time, our beautiful building was in such a state of disrepair that it was put on the open market for sale. It was only thanks to a dedicated group - the Friends of SFX - and the considerable efforts of some key individuals that the Church was saved and so brilliantly restored.

So the work that you can see today, which will continue until Christmas, is essential to ensure the long term future of the building in which we have the privilege to worship. And of course the work doesn't stop there. The renovation of such an important historic building needs funding and it is the second collection you see recorded each week, (which is actually about one half of our single collection at Mass), which goes towards the upkeep of SFX. It is your generosity, week in week out, that pays for the upkeep of this exceptional place of devotion and worship. Of course, the priceless work of our Church cleaners goes a very long way towards this too.

In recent years, we have replaced the lighting and installed solar panels - both of which are already saving us money - but there will be more expenses to come, so we want to keep you up to speed on what we are doing and why we are doing it. We will keep you informed throughout.

Finally, thank you for your generosity each week in the collection, donating on the card machine- and for the candles. Please keep on giving so that we, and importantly future generations of Catholics, can continue their worship at SFX. **Stuart Fox—Chair, SFX Parish Council**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Imogen Cockroft Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Stephen Cleeve
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Moses Obanimoh Noel Elegado	10am Gwenfair Gillick

Parish Walk with a difference! Normally, parish walks are in the beautiful countryside around Hereford. However, a walk with a difference has been organised for Sunday 29th September. The composer Sir Edward Elgar was a parishioner of St Francis Xavier's while he lived in Hereford between 1904 and 1911. The Guild of Guides offer an "Elgar in Hereford" guided walk at a cost of £6 per adult and £1 per child. The walk lasts approximately one and a half hours. It is suitable for wheelchair users. A walk for our parish has been provisionally arranged for Sunday 29th September, starting at 2 pm and ending with tea/scone in the Hall (with Elgar music of course!) If you would like to walk, you MUST sign the sheets at the back of church either this weekend (7th/8th) or next weekend (14th/15th) so that guides can be organised. Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex.



October, the Month of the Holy Rosary.

Rosary at home devotions will begin in October. Details to follow soon. "The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary." Pope St. Pius X



This Sunday is Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

(previously Home Mission Sunday) and there will be a retiring collection after all Masses. This is to support the work of evangelisation at home which, as in all times, is such a vital witness and duty of the Church. The theme is: **Growing as missionary disciples.**



Poetry for Pleasure We will be starting the 2024/25 season on Thursday 26th September 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme will be "Some of our favourite poems". Bring a few poems to share with the group Don't forget the summer challenge of learning a poem by heart! It's not too late to start now.

Collections 7th/8th September
1st £511.09 The Parish
2nd £405.47 Renovation
Retiring Collection this week
15th Sept. Home Mission Sunday

Parish Calendar– September 2024		
Mon 16th	7.00pm	SVP meeting in Parish Hall
Thu 26th	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure in Hall
Sun 29th	2.00pm	Parish Walk