



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear friends, Today we celebrate Laetare Sunday. It gets its name from the Entrance Antiphon from the Mass, "Rejoice (*Laetare*) Jerusalem," recalling that the Church is called to joyful anticipation of the victory to be won. This is also reflected in the quietly joyful rose-coloured vestments worn at Mass. Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us.

Today is also Mothering Sunday. It is a time to recognise the importance of those who have cared for and mothered us throughout our lives. We thank God for mothers who raised their children in the faith and demonstrated true love in times of difficulty and despair. We also pray for those who find this Sunday a difficult day of hurt, grief, and perhaps anger. Although not technically a religious holiday, Mother's Day is still an important day of prayer:

When our mothers are tired, Lord, give them strength.

When they feel alone, give them comfort.

When they feel overwhelmed with the challenges of parenting, help them to know peace.

In their darkest moments, be their Light.

At times in our lives, our mothers are everything to us, meeting our every need.

We ask You to provide them today with whatever gift they need. Amen. Fr John

Liturgical Calendar March/ April 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 4

Sat 29th	10.30am	3rd Week of Lent	Holy Souls
Sat 29th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 29th	6.00pm	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	Thanksgiving
Sun 30th	8.00am	4TH SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 30th	10.00am	4TH SUNDAY	David Warr RIP
Mon 31st	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	4th Week of Lent	Birthday Thanksgiving
Tue 1st April	NO PUBLIC MASS Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 2nd	1.00pm	4th Week of Lent	Honorata Dudek RIP
Thu 3rd	9.30am	4th Week of Lent	Holy Souls
Fri 4th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Fri 4th	1.00pm	4th Week of Lent	Christopher Richards RIP
Sat 5th	10.30am	4th Week of Lent	Holy Souls
Sat 5th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 5th	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Henry Harenty
Sun 6th	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Sue & Mike Philips Golden Wedding Anniversary
Sun 6th	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Robert Brodie RIP



During Lent: Stations of the Cross Friday 12.30pm

All welcome, followed by Mass then ...



Special Lent Lunches, homemade soup and rolls etc every Friday after 1.00pm Mass. Suggested donation £3.50; proceeds to CAFOD.



2. 'We Dare to Hope' After the 9.30am Mass on Monday's in the hall, small group prayer and discussion session.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

We are looking to have confirmations in the parish in a few months time. If you know anyone aged 13yrs plus who would like to be considered for Confirmation then please send details to the office.

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

Lately Dead Joyce Ingram (Funeral 10th April 12Noon), **Bunimin, Peter Young.**

Anniversaries:

George Turnbull, Thomas John Hughes, Reginald Pearson, Simon Philip Carroll, Brenda Strouken, Patricia Cecilia Salt, Maciej Alexander Gargolinski, Edna Toolsy.



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, Margaret Davis.

Sing a New Song to the Lord



Last Saturday we had a very productive morning learning about music for the Mass under the expert guidance of Fr. Anslem, a monk from the same community as Fr. James and Fr. John. Although the day had been quickly arranged there was a very good turnout with organists and members

of the choir from the 10am Mass, as well as the schola which now leads the unaccompanied singing at the 6pm Mass.

Fr. Anslem started by helping us reflect why we sing – including praise, joy, and deeper prayer. He then helped us focus on what we should sing, reminding us that the Church has always taught that we should all know the main sung parts of the Mass in Latin. In a parish as diverse as ours this 'common language' is clearly a sign of our unity.

We then got down to practising some chants. We learned the setting of the English Gloria that is printed in the Missal, and we also relearned the Gloria from the *Missa de Angelis* – a chant that was known throughout the Catholic world until fairly recently. After this Fr. Anselm taught us some simple chants for the responsorial psalm, and also stretched our horizons – and larynxes! – to more elaborate settings of the Alleluia and Communion antiphons.

Music can sometimes be divisive. This workshop showed how it unites us - with shared chants based on centuries of common Catholic worship. Over the next few months we will be putting this 'new' music into effect. Please join in. We need new singers at both Masses – could this be you? If so, please introduce yourself to one of the schola at the 6pm or one of the choir or organists at the 10am.

The great African Cardinal Robert Sarah says: "There is very much work to be done in singing the liturgy rather than simply singing something at the liturgy." Last Saturday helped us all to focus on doing just that. Thank you, Fr Anselm!
Philip Dixon

Annual Recommissioning service

will take place for current eucharistic ministers during all masses on the weekend of Sunday 30th March.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Sarah Williams Ancy Shajan Sarah Slancauskas	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Cecilia Balestra Vera McHale	8am Stephen Cleeve Dorothy Kennedy
10am Noel Elegado Gerald Okafor Mary Cook	10am Andrew Milne Bruno Alves

Telling our Stories: How we are witnesses to our faith

The next talk in the deanery's 'Horizons of Hope' series will be given by Dr Jordan Pullicino, a lecturer in Pastoral Theology at St Mary's College, Oscott. It will take place at Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey on Saturday 5th April 10.00am–12.30pm. All are welcome.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Public Survey

Our Lady's offers low-cost venue hire and support services for local residents, including families using the adjacent primary school. Built in the 1950s, the building needs upgrading so it can be used by more people. To ensure the redevelopment meets the needs of all the community, a public survey is taking place until 31st March. It only takes five minutes and at the end you can enter a draw to win £50 of gift cards of your choice.

Go to: <https://Devonconsultants.co.uk/OurLady>

An **altar servers' practice** will take place after the 10am Mass on the 6th April in preparation for Holy Week. All servers are asked to make every effort to attend to run through the different liturgies. It is expected to be finished by 12 noon.

Gift Aid Envelopes 2025/2026

The new gift aid envelopes will be available in church this weekend. Please do not use before 6th April (new tax year). Anyone interested in joining the scheme, please contact Stephen Cleeve on 01432851632 or email scleeve1950@gmail.com

Thank you for your generosity during the recent second collections. The following was raised:

Cafod: £429.46

Walsingham: £208.76

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 22/23rd March

1st £625.29 The Parish
2nd £452.00 Renovation



Parish Calendar – March/April 2025

Mon 31st	10.00am	Lent 'We dare to hope' faith sharing group in Hall
Fri 4th April	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Fri 4th	Soup Lunch after 1.00pm Mass	
Sat 5th	10am-12.30pm	'Telling our Stories' talk at Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey