

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All, This week I will have been parish priest of St Francis Xavier's for one year. I don't know where the time has gone!

Although I have been a monk and priest for over 30 years, this is my first experience as a parish priest, and it has been wonderful. I have been so encouraged by you all and want to thank you. From the beginning I have been struck by the love people have for this parish, and their generosity in contributing to its life – everything from the cleaning to the singing, from catechesis to social activities.

The work of a parish priest is very mixed and each day is different but pretty full with more things to be done. I know some people think that priests only work on Sundays! It is a joy to accompany people in their life of faith - baptisms and marriages, Mass and the sacraments, visiting the sick and housebound. There is the sadness, but privilege, of being close to people when they are grieving the loss of a loved one. There is much to be done in administration and many projects are underway. There are lots of meetings!

What I have found at SFX is a wonderful congregation that seems in good heart. But there is much to be done! Today is Home Mission Sunday when we celebrate the Joy of the Gospel! I hope in the coming year we might find ways of deepening our life of faith together but also reaching out to others – perhaps especially the lapsed - to share this treasure we have in our love of the Lord and knowing God's love for us.

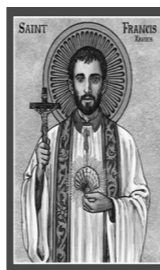
I am away this Sunday evening until the 29th on holiday. Cover will be provided by Belmont. **Fr Brendan**

Liturgical Calendar September 2023 Year A Psalter Wk 4

Sat 16th	10.30am	Sts Cornelius and Cyprian	English Benedictines
Sat 16th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 16th	6.00pm	24TH SUNDAY	Parish
Sun 17th	8.00am	24TH SUNDAY	Thanksgiving
Sun 17th	10.00am	24TH SUNDAY	Virginio Schiavon RIP
Mon 18th	9.30am	Feria	Kathryn Morison
Tue 19th	No public Mass here. Mass at OL 9.30am		
Wed 20th	1.00pm	St Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Comp	Petal O'Hea RIP
Thu 21st	9.30am	ST MATTHEW APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST (FEAST)	Victims of disasters in Morocco and Libya
Fri 22nd	1.00pm	Feria	Bridget Gregg RIP (Anniv.)
Sat 23rd	10.30am	St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	Varghese/Liji (Wedding Anniversary)
Sat 23rd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 23rd	6.00pm	25TH SUNDAY	Jogender Singh
Sun 24th	8.00am	25TH SUNDAY	Parish
Sun 24th	10.00am	25TH SUNDAY	Mary Ellen Prosser

Annual Foreign Mission Appeal

Next weekend we welcome **Fr John Convery** who will be celebrating all the masses and preaching the Annual Mission Appeal on behalf of St Francis Xavier Mission Society - Xaverian Missionaries www.xavs.org. There will be a retiring collection for the Xaverian Missionaries.



Parish AGM Thurs 5th Oct 7.00pm (Mass 6.30)

Everyone is invited to come along and listen and talk about all that is going on in our Parish here at SFX. It is a great opportunity to feel more involved and connected with our Church life. There will be reports from all the different groups in the Parish and an outline of future plans. All welcome.

Remembrance

Bernhard Grobelny, Jozef Sroda
Petal O'Hea, Mary Prosser,
Winifred Averay, Cecilia Hanslow
Lately dead Carmilina Langford
Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.



Prayer for the Sick:

Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Malcolm Darke, Ian Power, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Christina James, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Fr Keith, George Mecina, Sarah, Margaret Skelding, Ana Rudnicki, Dennis Schiavon, David John Warr.

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

Why do we pray the Rosary?

We always can and should pray to Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Historically we have always prayed to and for other people. St. Paul asks others to pray for him. We pray to Mary, Jesus' own mother as she has a special and unique relationship with him and it makes sense to ask her to pray for us.



In the Rosary we meditate with Mary on Christ's life and the important events-the Nativity, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Passion and the Resurrection-which are vital for our faith and our life.

How can we celebrate the Month of the Holy Rosary in our own parish in a special way?

- We can come together as a family to pray the Holy Rosary in each others homes.
- All can sign up to host a Rosary evening when parishioners come together to pray. A sign-up list will be at the back of church soon.
- Don't be afraid that it will be too difficult for you. Others will help you lead the prayers if you wish. There is nothing to prepare or provide, just being together in prayer.
- Let us make the powerful prayers of the Rosary, prayed together, be a strengthening of our parish life and community and for the good of the whole world.

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Saturday 7th October 2023.

Join the Ledbury and Belmont Abbey Walsingham Association in Belmont Abbey Church for **Rosary at 11.45, Mass 12.00 and Monastic Midday Prayer at 12.45.** Bring a packed lunch and join us afterwards in the Parish Room - tea and coffee provided. If you have been to Walsingham or would like to go, or are just interested, you are invited! *You do not have to be a member of the Association.* Contact: Menna MacBain 01432 359867

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

6pm Wendy Winterburn
Sarah William
Sarah Slancauskas

8am Frances Hetterley
Cecilia Balestra

10am Thomas Kottuppallil
Mary Cook
Moses Obanimoh

Ministers of the Word

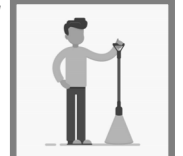
6pm Stuart Fox

8am Dorothy Kennedy

10am Andy Milne

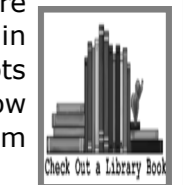
The governors of Our Lady's School

are looking to appoint somebody who can help to look after the school building and site. The role includes site security and safety, out of hours key holder and general repairs and maintenance. Minimum of 10 ½ hours term time only - the governors are happy to negotiate contracted hours and working schedule. Interested or want to know more, please telephone 01432 274814 or email admin@our-ladys.hereford.sch.uk



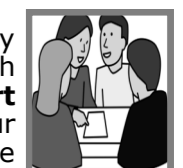
New delivery of books for our parish library

With a new delivery of library books there has never been a better time to pop in and have a look for a book! There are lots of different genres and the library is now open to all on Wednesday to Friday from 9-1pm and by arrangement



Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st September 10.30-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme is **"Sharing our Desert Island Poems"**. If you had to pick your 8 favourite poems, what would they be and why have you chosen them? Bring your list of favourite poems (title and poet) and a few of the poems to read out to the group. Anyone is very welcome to join this friendly group. No special knowledge is required-just a shared enjoyment of poetry.



Today there is a Mandatory Collection

for Home Mission Sunday when the Church in England and Wales renews her commitment to evangelisation and witness. Please pray for success of this work, and support the retiring collection for the work of the Mission .



Parish Count Mass collectors please note:

Starting This Weekend and for a total of 4 weekends we will be taking our annual mass count. Please would you count at the end of the collection and fill in the forms in sacristy. Thank you.

Tea, Coffee and Cake Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass.



Collections for 9th/10th Sept

1st Collection £287.04
2nd Collection £274.75



Parish Calendar - September/October

Mon 18th	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
Wed 20th	6.30pm	ABC Bible study group
Thur 21st	10.30am	Poetry for pleasure (Hall)
Thurs 5th	7.00pm	Parish AGM