



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All, You will all have noticed that the altar frontals are now green. From Christmas to the Baptism of the Lord the colour was white; during Advent the altars had purple frontals. During this time before the start of Lent we're back in Ordinary Time. This is not the name of a special season but it's a time when our attention turns to Jesus' ministry. This year the gospel reading on most Sundays will be from St Matthew, although today's gospel is from John. We're urged during these Sundays to listen to Jesus' teaching and walk with him as we accompany him on his journey to Calvary. On this first Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord we encounter the witness of John the Baptist with those familiar words, 'Behold the Lamb of God.' On the Third Sunday Jesus calls his first disciples; his message is clear but challenging, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' On the fourth, fifth and sixth Sundays the gospel is from the Sermon of Mount: The Beatitudes, Salt of the Earth and Light of the World, and A New Law in Continuity with the Old. Matthew's Gospel underlines his conviction that the Lord is with his Church, 'always to the end of time.' **Fr James**



Liturgical Calendar January 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 2

Sat 17th	10.30am	St Anthony, Abbot	Holy Souls
Sat 17th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 17th	6.00pm	2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Ram Kali
Sun 18th	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY	Thanksgiving
Sun 18th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY	The Parish
Mon 19th	9.30am Rosary 0900	St Wulstan, Bishop	Rory Schofield RIP
Tue 20th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 21st	1.00pm	St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Jimmy Millikan Birthday
Thu 22nd	9.30am	Feria	Janet Penn
Fri 23rd	1.00pm	Feria	Nita Barry RIP
Sat 24th	10.30am	St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Val Gittings RIP
Sat 24th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 24th	6.00pm	3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Antony Philip Anniversary
Sun 25th	8.00am	3RD SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 25th	10.00am	3RD SUNDAY	George Bond 50th Anniv.

The Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia is seeking a full time Safeguarding Officer to support safe parishes across South, West & Mid Wales and Herefordshire. More details: <https://rcadc.org/vacancy-safeguarding-officer/>

Quiet Time in Church— Our church is open 7 days a week from 8.00am to 5.00pm. Lots of people do pop in whilst they are in town to say a prayer or light a candle. Most of the time there is quiet sacred music playing in the background. If however you would prefer to come at a time without music then do pop in Mon and Thursday 8.00am-9.30am. Wed and Fri 12 noon –1.00pm and Saturday 8.00am –10.30am.

 This Bible in a Year reading plan you can find on You tube by **Fr Mike Schmitz**. This is also available as a podcast and has now been downloaded nearly **1 billion times!** A New Year's resolution to give it a go?

We remember all who have died:
Val Gittings- Mon 26th Jan, Crematorium 12:15pm
Anniversaries:

Gilberte Andrews, Elaine Jennings, Queenie Franklin, Vittorina Bord, Barbara O'Sullivan, Nora King, Agnes Manteuffel, Timothy O'Sullivan, Carmel Gwinnett, William Connell, Luigi Crisia, Bernard Meaker.

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, Sarah, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Ann Orchard, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely.

2026

At the start of a new calendar year, we give thanks to God for the blessings of the past year. At the same time, we look forward to the new calendar year with the seasons of Lent and Easter. During these weeks before the season of Lent, Ordinary Time, St Matthew's Gospel with his calling of the first disciples and his teaching from the Sermon of Mount will guide us to live in the abiding presence of the Lord. It is my hope that as the year unfolds we will form a few lectio divina groups that will meet on a weekly basis to pray and meditate on Sunday's gospel. Lectio divina is a way to learn to listen to God speaking to us in the depths of our heart. By way of encouragement, a small group already meets every Monday morning after the 9.30 mass.

Before we move into the Season of Lent, we plan to have our Parish Quiz. This is an occasion to enjoy one another's company. During Lent our weekly Friday CAFOD lunches will continue, as will the Stations of the Cross before the Friday 1.00 p.m. mass. Last year it was encouraging to have many availing themselves of the Sacrament of Confession. We will also have our CAFOD Eastnor Walk during this holy season. Lent leads and prepares us for Easter with the climax of the Easter Vigil, "Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!"

During this sacred season let us ask ourselves how we live out our baptism in our busy lives. Baptism is not something that happens only to individuals, but it is a time of renewal for all the parish. This is a time when we re-dedicate ourselves to the task of being the body of Christ. This year we are privileged to have Archbishop Mark visiting us on 17th June to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Let us support our candidates as they prepare for the reception of the sacrament. Some young parishioners are already preparing for the reception of the sacraments of confession and First Holy Communion.

August marks the feast day of St John Kemble with mass in the church on 22nd August, his feast day, as well as the pilgrimage to Welsh Newton where he is buried. There will, I hope, be other events to commemorate 'our martyr.' We have a number who are preparing to receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and communion. Let us keep them in our prayers over these coming months.

Fr James

Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Kathy Weston Angela Holmes Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Philip Dixon Mary Schiavon
8am Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	8am Stephen Cleave James Morris
10am Mia Brennan Noel Elegado Gerald Okafor Moses Obanimoh	10am Liz Symonds Andy Milne



Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.
Monday 5th—Friday 9th October 2026 More information and booking forms are on the table at the back of church, or contact the parish office. **Closing date 14th February**

SFX Parish Quiz There will be a Parish Quiz on Saturday 14th February 7.15 pm in the Kemble Parish Hall. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day? Tickets £5 per person to include tea/coffee and cake during the break. Bring your own snacks/drinks to share at the table. Tickets will be available for sale after weekend Masses on 24/24th January, 31st January/1st February and 7/8th February. Teams of up to 5 people but individuals/smaller group are very welcome and teams can be made up on the night. The number of available tickets is limited due to limited space in the Parish Hall, so buy tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Church Building Updates— we were hoping to begin refurbishment works on our hall toilets soon and also to finish the upgrading of our sound system in church, however, following discussions with the Historic Churches Commission we have had to put in further paperwork for planning permission to be approved for both projects. This has now been done and hopefully we will get the green light in a few weeks time. We will keep you updated as soon as we have any more news.

Reminder If you wish to have a Mass said for someone or a special intention, please fill in the brown envelope at the back of the church and hand into the office or to the priests. There is a suggested voluntary donation of £10.



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 11/1/2026

The Parish £823.94



What's on in January 2026

Mon 19th	7.00pm	SVP meet (open to all)
Wed 21st	6.30pm	ABC Bible study in Hall
Wed 21st	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting