



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear Friends,** Last Sunday I reminded all that as disciples of Jesus we're called to pray: prayer should be part of our daily lives. We are in the Year of St Luke as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and his death on the Cross. St Luke tells us how Jesus spent the whole night long in prayer in communion with his Father before he summoned his disciples and picked out twelve of them. Again, on the mountain he prayed with Peter, James and John and in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion. As he suffered on the Cross his prayer was one of forgiveness, not only forgiving the 'Good Thief' who was crucified beside him but all of us. St Luke tells us how when Jesus was in a certain place praying one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' Jesus gave his disciples those sublime words, OUR FATHER..... As we keep this Holy Year and unite in love with one another, let us meditate on these words that Jesus has given us. We turn to God as his son or daughter. We pray that his kingdom of love and peace may live in our hearts. We pray that we be forgiving as Jesus is.



Pope Francis writes that Prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. There is hope but I open the door with my prayer. **Fr James**

## Liturgical Calendar February 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 2

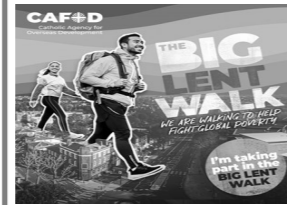
Sat 15th	10.30am	Our Lady	The Parish
Sat 15th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 15th	6.00pm	6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Mohan Singh RIP
Sun 16th	8.00am	6TH SUNDAY	Vocations
Sun 16th	10.00am	6TH SUNDAY	The Parish
Mon 17th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	Feria	John Harrison RIP
Tue 18th	Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 19th	1.00pm	Feria	John Farren RIP
Thu 20th	9.30am	Feria	Stephen Booth RIP
Fri 21st	1.00pm	Feria	Forgotten Souls
Sat 22nd	10.30am	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE (FEAST)	English Benedictine Congregation
Sat 22nd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 22nd	6.00pm	7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Deceased members of Corrigan family
Sun 23rd	8.00am	7TH SUNDAY	Doreen Giles
Sun 23rd	10.00am	7TH SUNDAY	The Parish

**Volunteers needed.** For all the weekend masses we are in need of people to act as welcomers, giving out the newsletters/hymn books. **For the 10.00am help with the teas and coffee.** Contact office.



### Dates for your Diaries

We are now in the year of St Luke and on Thursday 6th March, at 7.00pm we are delighted to welcome Abbot Brendan to SFX to give a talk on St Luke. This will be the day after Ash Wednesday and is therefore a great way to start your Lent!



### Big Lent Walk (Cafod)

Sunday 16th March around Eastnor park by Ledbury. Walk is on good paths suitable for all the family. More details to follow soon.

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

### Anniversaries:

Irene Loftus, Sadie Deheny, Joseph Schofield, Ferdinand van der Knaap, Mario Filbrandt, Winifred Wilson, Audna Talbot, Keith Davies.



**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

**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, Bunimin, Mark Edmunds.

**ASSISTED DYING BILL** At the end of November MPs voted in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. The Catholic bishops of England and Wales expressed dismay. Our own, Archbishop, Mark wrote the following:

*The Passing of this bill is deeply disappointing and indicates a worrying trend of how we look out for the most vulnerable in our country, especially those with disabilities, the sick and the elderly. I hope that with further reflection our society will recognize this is not the way to go. The Church has long supported palliative care, teaching that assisted suicide and euthanasia – which both involve the intentional taking of life – are never permissible. Withholding "extraordinary means" of medical treatment and allowing death to occur naturally can be morally permissible under Catholic teaching.*

The assisted dying bill in the UK is currently at the "committee stage," meaning a group of MPs are reviewing the bill line-by-line, scrutinizing each clause and proposing amendments, after successfully passing its second reading in the House of Commons; it has not yet become law and still needs to progress through further stages in both House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The archbishop has urged the public to take action. "I urge you to write to, or email, your local MP, to express your concerns about the bill. There is information on the **Right to Life UK website**, including a guide on how to do this," he said.

Addressing the Catholic community and beyond, the archbishop quoted scripture to emphasise the Christian perspective on suffering and the sacredness of life. He says Scripture reminds us that Jesus Christ entered fully into our suffering. 'It is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weakness,' the letter to the Hebrews reminds us (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus knew the reality of suffering and death from the inside. He gave His life for us all," Archbishop Mark said, pointing to the transcendent meaning of life and death for Christians.

We are called to pray and to remember that "All human life is sacred. This message is not just for people of faith, but for all people of goodwill, because the proposals for physician-assisted suicide are not just contrary to the dignity and sanctity of life, they pose grave dangers to vulnerable people. Cherishing life means building a society where every person is included and the diversity of individuals is not seen as a burden."

*A priest of the Plymouth diocese shared this prayer.* Lord of Life, we pray today for those who are terminally ill, that they may receive the love and care they deserve and know that their life is precious even to their last breath.

We pray especially for those who are vulnerable and who may not have the support and guidance they need. We pray for families and friends, for those who accompany the sick and the dying; that they may be consoled.

We pray for those who care for the dying; may they be strengthened and encouraged in their work. We pray for those elected to serve us in parliament; pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, that your wisdom and compassion may prevail in the decisions they make.

We pray for ourselves, that we may always appreciate the gift of life in all its great and beautiful variety. Help us never to take it for granted, but to be grateful for what we have received from you.

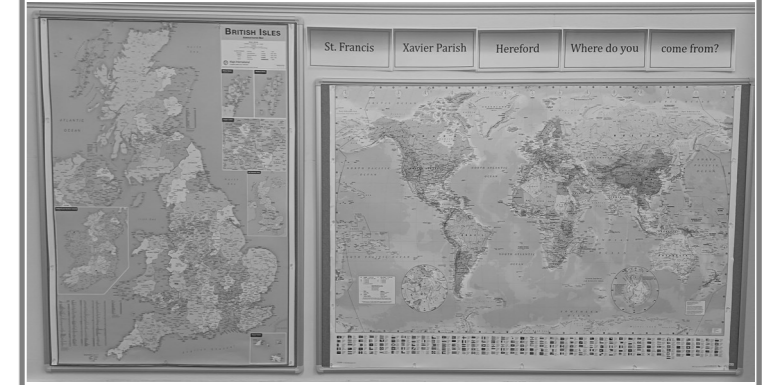
Heavenly Father, author of life, we place our cares in your loving hands today and always. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Saint Francis Xavier Parish Map

SFX parish has a wonderful diversity. Fr James and Fr John are keen to have an overview of where we all come from. In the parish hall you will now see these world and UK maps.

Every parishioner is invited to come in and place their own location pin to show where they are from. When we have finished it will be great to see the spread and diversity of all our parishioners.

For this to be successful it does need everyone to come in and stick their pins in! The hall is open after every mass and at most times during the day.



### Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting is on Thursday 20th February 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme is **"The poetry of Wales"**. New members are always welcome to join this friendly group. No specialist knowledge is required, just a shared enjoyment of poetry. Bring a few poems to share with the group or just sit back and enjoy listening!

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Ancy Shajan Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Tracey Buckley Lorraine L Williams
10am Lorena de lima Auer Thomas Kottuppattil Noel Elegado Mary Cook	10am Audrey Fussell Liz Symonds

**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 1st/2nd Feb**  
1st £538.38 The Parish  
2nd £474.36 Renovation



### Parish Calendar- February 2025

Mon 17th	7.00pm	SVP New members welcome
Wed 19th	6.30pm	ABC Scripture study All welcome
Thurs 20th	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure