



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB,
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Dear All, At the first Pentecost we remember how the apostles were heard in different languages. The church has often compared it to the story of the Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11*). At Babel languages were confused and the world divided. At Pentecost the peoples understood each other again and the Spirit's gift is unity. The list of unpronounceable names in the first reading is itself a witness to the universality of the church!



When we gather at SFX I thank God for the diversity of our congregation. We are from so many nations, cultures and backgrounds and yet we all speak the same language of faith and love. In a world that is polarized and divided we can witness that division, war and prejudice is not God's intention. We can thank God that the Spirit's gifts of love, joy and peace are alive in our congregation. Thank you, all of you, for making SFX a wonderful manifestation of the unity of the Church in a great diversity!

Next Sunday, 26th May is Trinity Sunday and we will honour Our Lady after the 10am Mass with our May Procession. Our Filipino community will likewise celebrate the Flores de Mayo with a special Mass at 12 noon and honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. The following Sunday, 2nd June will be Corpus Christi. Please come to the procession to quietly witness to our love of the Lord in Hereford.

Those will be the last two weekends with Fr Gregory. I thank him for all the care and kindness he has brought to the parish in my absence and I look forward to being back with you in two weeks' time. Happy Feast! **Fr Brendan**

Liturgical Calendar May 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 3

Sat 18th	10.30am	7th Week of Easter	Rob Brodie RIP
Sat 19th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 18th	6.00pm	VIGIL OF PENTECOST	Holy Souls
Sun 19th	8.00am	PENTECOST SUNDAY	Michael Kennedy RIP
Sun 19th	10.00am	PENTECOST SUNDAY	The Parish
Mon 20th	<u>NB Mass 8.00am</u>	Mary, Mother of the Church.	Marin Thanksgiving
Tues 21st	No public Mass here. Mass at OL at 9.30am		
Wed 22nd	1.00pm	Feria	Steven Baldrey
Thur 23rd	9.30am	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST	Tom McCourt, Peter Millin
Fri 24th	1.00pm	Feria	Marie McDonald
Sat 25th	10.30am	St Bede the Venerable	Holy Souls
Sat 25th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 25th	6.00pm	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	Tymek Alina
Sun 26th	8.00am	HOLY TRINITY	Holy Souls
Sun 26th	10.00am	HOLY TRINITY	Parish

Archbishop of Cardiff and Menevia



Mark O'Toole will host an "Open Listening Session" via Zoom on May 25th to discuss the potential union of the Cardiff and Menevia dioceses. Participants at the online event will have a chance to reflect on three questions relating to the proposed union. The session, running from 10am – 12.30pm, will conclude with a question-and-answer session with Archbishop Mark. A summary of the findings will later be forwarded to the Vatican. To register, please click this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8121pdu2qrjssHdJNvsqxMniDMaXkj9JdXHb#/registration>

We remember all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Mary Lowe, Mary Morgan, Irene Pogson, Mary Doverman, Linda Smith, Marc de Jersey, Roy Bosworth, Eileen Jones, Gilean Brain.



Lately Dead Brian Daw Eddie Rider –Funeral, Monday 20th May at 10.15am at the Crematorium.

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, Teresa Loftus, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, David Warr, James Spradbery.

What does Pentecost have to do with my Life Right Now? Here are 3 Suggestions

First, I think it is a good reminder to ask God to give us the Holy Spirit in our daily prayer. Even if for only a moment right when we wake up, by simply lifting our heart to the Lord and saying "Come Holy Spirit," we can allow the Holy Spirit to make a dwelling place within us. Challenge yourself to utter those words and see what God reveals to you.

I try to make a habit of doing this at my desk before I start my workday (the Lord knows I need all the help I can get on Monday mornings...). The more I'm able to do this—before a meeting for work, as I'm about to have a difficult conversation with a friend, contemplating a dilemma during an afternoon stroll—the more confidence I feel in God's hand in my life.

Second, Pentecost also reminds me that I'm not alone in the spiritual life—that none of us are. Life can be hard and even with the hope of Christ, the encouragement of my friends and family is so valuable in walking out my Christian life well. When I'm with friends, gatherings at Mass, the Spirit's presence feels tangible to me. I feel joy in being surrounded by others who desire my same heart and mission in life. The gratitude that emerges from being part of a community reminds me I'm not alone—that the Holy Spirit draws us together in one community.

Lastly, Pentecost reminds me of the Apostles' incredible boldness and courage. Even though many of them were often in a lot of danger, they had the courage to bring Christ to others. It wasn't their courage or will alone that allowed them to do such great and heroic things for the Kingdom of God; it was the Holy Spirit working with and inside them. It was this encouragement from the Holy Spirit that gave St. Paul the strength to suffer imprisonment and St. Peter martyrdom for the sake of the Gospel. What if we had that boldness? Or rather, what if we were a little more aware that we already have what we need to be so bold? What would my life look like? That's why I think Pentecost has much to teach us.

Chris John-Catholic Vancouver

Music Group Practice

Anyone who would like to join in with Bernard the organist music group that sing at the front at the 10.00am Mass, practice resumes this Monday 20th at 6.30pm then every fortnight. All welcome.



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Sarah Williams Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Stuart Fox
8am Vera McHale Cecilia Balestra	8am Stephen Cleeve
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Noel Elegado Mary Cook Moses Obanimoh	10am Andrew Milne

St Francis Xavier's Church, Hereford is hosting a special **Filipino Mass on Sunday 26th May, Trinity Sunday, at 12 noon.**

The celebrant will be Fr Francisco Cruz. All Filipinos from the local parishes are welcome to attend. It will be followed by a shared lunch in the Parish Hall. Please bring food to share. Join us for this wonderful celebration!



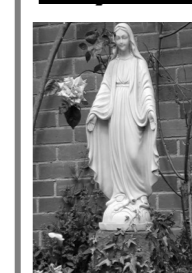
Thanksgiving Collection for Fr Gregory

After 3 months at SFX, Fr Gregory will be leaving us on **Wednesday June 5th.** In appreciation for all his hard work and his great contribution to the parish over the past 3 months, an overnight trip to London is being planned for Tuesday 21st May. This will be Fr Gregory's first visit to London and we would like to make it really memorable with visits to some of the main attractions, including Westminster Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, a river cruise and of course, a football stadium tour!



A collection basket for this farewell gift from the parish will be out at the back of church for all weekend Masses **this** weekend. Thank you very much.

May Procession on Sunday 26th May




May is named after Mary and during this month it is a great Catholic tradition to have a 'May Procession' in her honour. Following on from the 10.00am mass at approximately 11.15am we will process out of Church and into the garden to crown Mary as Queen. We often have the first Holy Communion children to lead the procession but as First Holy communions this year are slightly later in June this honour will be undertaken by some of our children from the children's liturgy group. Do come along to this lovely celebration and as a special request if you could bring in rose petals from your garden on the morning and hand in to the children's liturgy that would be really appreciated.

A Cup of Tea/Coffee and Cake

Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass. A great way to make new friends and meet with Fr Gregory.



Collections 4/5th May
1st £ 529.10 The Parish
2nd £ 393.50 Renovation



Parish Calendar- May /June 2024

Mon 20th	6.30pm	Music group practice
Mon 20th	7.00pm	SVP
Sun 26th	11.15am	May Procession
Sun 26th	12 noon	Filipino Mass
Fri 7th June	7.00pm	Film Night