



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear Friends,** Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem when he is proclaimed King, 'Hosanna in the highest.' We'll read the account of the Passion according to Matthew. Jesus institutes the Blessed Sacrament and dies on the cross. As the week unfolds, we read the account of Jesus' anointing at Bethany, his prediction at the Last Supper that one of the Twelve — Judas — will betray him. Judas will leave the meal, and Jesus predicts that Peter will deny him three times. On Maundy Thursday, mass is celebrated in the evening with the Washing of Feet and the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. At the mass the Lord Jesus gave to the Church the gift of the Eucharist, and with it instituted the priesthood. Let us join Our Lord in prayer at the Altar of Repose, as Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and was deserted by his closest disciples. **See sheets with the psalms of Trust.** On Good Friday mass is not celebrated but there is a service at 3.00 p.m. with a liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross and the distribution of holy communion. **These two days are days of intense prayer; I ask that we leave the church in silence to allow others to pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Maundy Thursday or to venerate the Cross on Good Friday.** Holy Saturday is a day of quiet waiting by the tomb before the night of nights when our Saviour rose from the dead. **Fr James**

## Liturgical Calendar March/April 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 2

Sat 28th	10.30am	5th week of Lent	Mary, Danny & Andrew McPherson Blair
Sat 28th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 28th	6.00pm	PALM SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 29th	8.00am	PALM SUNDAY	Vocations
Sun 29th	10.00am	PALM SUNDAY (Mass begins at the Bishop's Palace)	Private Intention
Mon 30th	9.30am Rosary 9am	MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK	Barrie Edwards
Mon 30th	7.00pm	Reconciliation service at Our Lady's	
Tue 31st	Chrism Mass, Cardiff Cathedral 11am. Mass at Our Lady's Church 9.30am		
Wed 1st	1.00pm	WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	Jamberoo Abbey
Thu 2nd	7.00PM NB No 9.30 Mass	EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Maundy Thursday	The English Benedictine Congregation
Fri 3rd	10.00am 11.00am	Confessions Walk of Witness	
Fri 3rd	3.00pm	GOOD FRIDAY	
Sat 4th	No Mass 10.30am	HOLY SATURDAY No confessions (Church cleaning 9.00am)	
Sat 4th	11&11.30	Easter Polish Food Blessing	
Sat 4th	8.00pm	THE EASTER VIGIL	
Sun 5th	8.00am	EASTER SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 5th	10.00am	EASTER SUNDAY	World Peace

## St John Kemble Deanery Walk Sunday 12th April



**April** A walk on Hergest Ridge is planned for Sunday 12th April. Hergest Ridge rises above the market town of Kington. It straddles the English Welsh border and covers a section of the Offa's Dyke long distance footpath. The walk up to the trig point and back is approximately 4.5 miles/ 2 hours long. The first part is a long but gentle incline up the grassy broad ridge. There are no stiles and the walk is easy if taken slowly. The views across Powys, Herefordshire and beyond are stunning. Meet ready to start walking at 2 pm at the gate on to the open hillside at the top of Ridgebourne Road. Directions: Head for Hergest Croft Gardens (HR5 3EG) There is a free car park on Ridgebourne Road opposite the entrance to the gardens. Please share lifts where possible to avoid congestion.

## We remember all who have died: Anniversaries:

Margaret Hossack, Rogelia Balleza, Fritz Manngnen, Sean Podmore, Ita Godfrey, Maureen Bellamy, Peter Young, Patricia Llewellyn, Simon Carroll, Brenda Stroucken, Patricia Salt, Maciej 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:** Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Sarah, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Malgorzata, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Teresa Bord, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Patricia Marongiu, Senan Stokes, Barbara James, Pauline and David Day, Bethanie Lucas, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Martin Feely, Valerie Vaughan-Williams, Lauren Dawes.



## From Down Under

Last week I returned from the privilege of travelling with a group to Australia, a land rich not only in natural beauty but also in a deep and living faith. While there, I was reminded of the remarkable legacy of John Bede Polding (1794 -1877), the first Archbishop of Sydney and a Benedictine monk from Fr James' and my community. His vision for the Church in Australia was shaped by the Benedictine spirit—one of prayer, community, and stability. He sought to build a Church rooted not in power or prestige, but in the quiet, faithful rhythm of the Gospel. This was witnessed in his ministry to the convicts sent to the country by boat and by establishing a mission for the Aboriginal people. Today, that same spirit is alive in places such as Jamberoo



Abbey, a Benedictine monastery nestled in the hills of New South Wales founded by Polding in 1849. The community lives a life of prayer and work, echoing the ancient rhythm of "ora et labora" (prayer and

work). Visiting the Abbey was a gentle reminder that the Christian journey is not always dramatic or visible, but often unfolds in small acts of fidelity, day by day. Yet the witness of figures like Polding and the quiet faithfulness of communities like Jamberoo Abbey remind us that the journey toward Easter is not about fleeting emotion, but about perseverance. It is about staying with Christ not only in moments of joy, but also in moments of uncertainty and sacrifice. Like those first disciples in the Gospel, we too can be caught between moments of enthusiasm and moments of hesitation. This Holy Week we are invited to deepen our own journey. It is a journey we know well, yet one that always asks something new of us. To walk with Christ not just in the waving of palms, but in the carrying of the Cross. To rediscover, perhaps in quiet and hidden ways, what it means to be faithful. And as we do so, we hold fast to the hope that lies ahead: that beyond the Cross is the empty tomb, and beyond every ending, the promise of new life in the Risen Lord. **Fr John**

Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Kathy Weston Angela Holmes Wendy Winterburn	6pm Helen Booth Mary Schiavon Stuart Fox Philip Dixon
8am Cecilia Balestra Vera McHale	8am James Morris Stephen Cleeve TBC
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Noel Elegado Maria Brennan	10am Charley Smith TBC Audrey Fussell Andy Milne



## Joyful Signs of Growth as 150 Prepare to Enter the Church

Archbishop Mark welcomed more than 100 catechumens and candidates to Cardiff Cathedral for the Rite of Election, with a further 50 gathering at the Co-Cathedral of St Joseph in Swansea, as they take a significant step towards receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. This year's figures reflect a growing trend of people entering the Church across England and Wales. At SFX we currently have around 10 candidates at various stages of Instruction. Please do keep them all in your prayers.



**SFX TEENS** The April gathering for SFX Teens (13 - 18 yrs) will be at 1.30 - 3.00 pm on Holy Saturday, 4 April, in the Kemble Hall at SFX. There will be some discussion about the meaning of the Easter Vigil (which will be celebrated that evening, and which SFX Teens are encouraged to attend), plus an opportunity for sacramental confession in readiness for Easter, plus PIZZA. All teens associated with SFX in any way are warmly welcome to come along. No need to pre-register. (The gathering will be immediately followed by the Servers' rehearsal, mindful that some SFX Teens are also servers). Donations of £5 per head toward catering costs are 'encouraged' for those able to contribute.

**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 22/3/2026

The Parish £767.43  
CAFOD Family Fast Day £635.50  
**Collection for Easter flowers this weekend**



**The Easter offering** is traditionally your offering for the parish clergy. Thank you.

## What's on in March/April 2026

Sat 4th	11 & 11.30am Polish Food Blessings	
Sat 4th	1.30pm	SFX Teens in Kemble Hall
Sun 12th	2pm	Parish Walk
Sun 12th	3.00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet