



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All, As we enter the last stage of Lent, our attention is awakened by the starkness of covered statues and the powerful readings at Mass. The Church is inviting us to a more intense focus on our life and faith. Are we the person we want to be in life? Is our faith central to who we are or just an add-on? For St Paul, nothing really matters in life but Christ. He wants to "gain Christ and be found in him" and his conversion is only the beginning. For Paul, his attention is on the finish line and its eternal prize – life with Christ.

Lent is a call to repentance and a new horizon. The gospel personifies this with Jesus' interaction with the women caught in adultery (where's the man in all this you might be asking). Jesus does not worry about what the woman did in the past but what she will do in the future. He will not condemn her if she will avoid future sin. Those who had condemned her walked away and did not receive His reconciliation. Jesus calls for repentance, and the woman responds.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace. **Fr John**

Liturgical Calendar April 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 1

Sat 5th	10.30am	4th Week of Lent	Holy Souls
Sat 5th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 5th	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Henry Harenty
Sun 6th	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Sue & Mike Philips Golden Wedding Anniversary
Sun 6th	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Robert Brodie RIP
Mon 7th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	5th Week of Lent	John Farren RIP Frances Thomas RIP
Tue 8th	NO PUBLIC MASS Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		
Wed 9th	1.00pm	5th Week of Lent	Forgotten Souls David Mills RIP
Thu 10th	9.30am	5th Week of Lent	Jean Price
Fri 11th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Fri 11th	1.00pm	5th Week of Lent	Billy and Janice Clark
Sat 12th	10.30am	5th Week of Lent	Holy Souls
Sat 12th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 12th	6.00pm	PALM SUNDAY	David Cronin RIP
Sun 12th	8.00am	PALM SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 12th	10.00am	PALM SUNDAY	Vocations



During Lent: Stations of the Cross Friday 12.30pm

All welcome, followed by Mass then ...



Special Lent Lunches, homemade soup and rolls etc every Friday after 1.00pm Mass. Suggested donation £3.50; proceeds to CAFOD.



We Dare to Hope After the 9.30am Mass on Monday's in the hall, small group prayer and discussion session.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

We are looking to have confirmations in the parish in a few months time. If you know anyone aged 13yrs plus who would like to be considered for Confirmation then please send details to the office.

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

Lately Dead Joyce Ingram (Funeral 10th April 12Noon), **Bunimin, Peter Young, Barrie Edwards.**

Anniversaries: Gerard Bonner, Jill Mauvan, David Mills, Francis Jennings, William Fawcett, Elizabeth Bond, Winifred Smith, Robert Mahon, Thomas Loftus, Maureen Toner, Irene Mann.



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, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord Ann Marie Hughson, Paul Kingston, John Moroney, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Didit Buhain, Margaret Davis.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation, the other two being Baptism and the Eucharist. Adults who haven't been baptized as infants and wish to become members of the Church can receive the three sacraments of initiation at the same ceremony; this often takes place at Easter. For those who were baptized as infants the sacrament is administered by the Bishop usually when the person is in their teens. Like baptism, confirmation is received once.

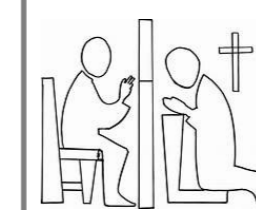
Confirmation is the sacrament that completes Baptism; in it the gift of the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon us. During the ceremony the candidates are called out by name and they answer that they are ready and willing to live out their faith as mature Catholics. As young children their parents and godparents made the Profession of Faith on their behalf, they now renew their baptismal promises. The Bishop lays on hands on those who are to be confirmed: he prays in silence that their hearts be filled with gifts of the Holy Spirit before praying aloud the prayer that they receive the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; and that they be filled with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.

The central moment in the sacrament is when each of the candidates comes up to the Bishop together with his sponsor. The Bishop asks the name of the candidate and anoints their forehead with the oil of chrism. Those who are anointed share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest and King. For this reason the oil of Chrism is used to consecrate us to God's service. It is the sign of holiness we share in Christ through the Spirit of Holiness which enables us to live God's own life. The Bishop exchanges a Sign of Peace with the candidate. The sign of peace is a sign of our membership of the Church, of our unity with Christ who is the centre of the Church and who is represented by the Bishop. The Sign of Peace repeats the greeting which Jesus gave after he rose again and came to his disciples. It is something we are called on to give to the world by the power of the Spirit. The Church's document, *Lumen Gentium*, states that those receive the sacrament of confirmation are endowed with the special strength of the Holy Spirit. They are true witnesses of Christ and are more strictly obliged to spread the faith by word and deed. **Fr James**

The Funeral of Joyce Ingram will take place in Church on Thursday 10th April at 12 noon. All are most welcome to attend the liturgy and the refreshments afterwards at the Hereford Rugby Club. *May she rest in the peace of Christ. Amen.*

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Ancy Shajan Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Frances Hetterley Vera McHale	8am Stephen Cleeve Dorothy Kennedy
10am Gerald Okafor Thomas Kottuppattil Moses Obamimoh	10am Gwenfair Gillick Valerie V Williams

Our Lady's & SFX's Lenten Penitential Service



will take place at Our Lady's, Belmont Road, on **Friday 11th April at 7pm.**

"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday: Sat. 6pm, Sun. 8am & 9.45am (gather in the forecourt of the Bishop's Palace)
Maundy Thursday: 7pm (watching until midnight)
Good Friday: 3pm
Easter Vigil: 8pm (beginning in SFX)
Easter Sunday: 8am & 10am

Sign up sheets

Sheets for various jobs and roles across the different liturgies can be found in the narthex and sacristy — there's something for everyone!

An **altar servers' practice** will take place after the 10am Mass on the 6th April in preparation for Holy Week. All servers are asked to make every effort to attend to run through the different liturgies. It is expected to be finished by 12 noon.

Gift Aid Envelopes 2025/2026

The new gift aid envelopes will be available in church this weekend. Please do not use before 6th April (new tax year). Anyone interested in joining the scheme, please contact Stephen Cleeve on 01432851632 or email scleeve1950@gmail.com

Belmont Abbey are hosting a special weekend for young men discerning their vocation in the world and to experience the monastic life. **17th-21st April.** See poster in the Narthex.

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 22/23rd March

1st £459.34 The Parish
2nd £344.57 Renovation



Parish Calendar – April 2025

Mon 7th	10.00am	Lent 'We dare to hope' faith sharing group in Hall
Fri 1th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Fri 11th	Soup Lunch after 1.00pm Mass	
Fri 11th	7pm	Penitential Service at Our Lady's.