



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB,  
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It is wonderful to be back with you this weekend. Although my life as Abbot is full and a happy one, I miss my time at St Francis Xavier's, particularly of course the people who make this parish so special. I heard that the average Mass count has gone up to over four hundred on a Sunday. I am glad the parish continues to thrive. I pray that this parish always continues to be a place where we come close to Christ (and to one another as a genuine community) and take Christ's light and love out to the world. At Mass I will be delighted to announce who will succeed me and lead this beautiful community.

November opens with two lovely celebrations. On Friday, All Saints (a holy day of obligation) we celebrate the cloud of witnesses in heaven and pray that we too may become saints! We recommit to holiness to become the best version of ourselves.

On Saturday we remember All Souls, and throughout the month pray for those who have gone before us. It is poignant to remember and pray for those who have touched our lives, but we trust in a merciful God who will lead us to a final place of peace, mercy and love. If you would like loved-ones remembered at the altar, just place their names inside the envelope at the back of the church and hand them in at the Sacristy. It is a beautiful thing to bring our departed family and friends close to Christ in the Mass. *Abbot Brendan*

## Liturgical Calendar October/November 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 2

Sat 26th	10.30am	St Chad and St Cedd	Anjaly Abraham
Sat 26th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 26th	6.00pm	30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Ann McManus RIP Theresiamma Mathai RIP
Sun 27th	8.00am	30TH SUNDAY	Sr Lizam George RIP
Sun 27th	10.00am	30TH SUNDAY	Bill McManus
Mon 28th	9.30am	STS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES (FEAST)	Fr. Andrew's Int. (Birthday)
Tue 29th	No Mass here. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 30th	1.00pm	Feria	Gismonda Symonds (anniv.)
Thu 31st	09.30am	Feria	Special Int.
Thu 31st	6.00pm	ALL SAINTS (SOLEMNITY) VIGIL	The Sick and Housebound
Fri 1st	1.00pm	ALL SAINTS (Holy Day of Obligation)	AJ Varughese KV John
Sat 2nd	10.30am	ALL SOULS DAY	All the Faithful Departed
Sat 2nd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 2nd	6.00pm	31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Henry John RIP
Sun 3rd	8.00am	31ST SUNDAY	Ahudyiza (Birthday)
Sun 3rd	10.00am	31ST SUNDAY	Audrey Hill (sick)



**Farewell to Fr Brendan.** As you will know, this weekend is Abbot Brendan's last weekend as our Parish Priest. You will be able to say goodbye to him after any of the weekend Masses, but the main Parish farewell and presentation will take place after the 10am Mass. There will be cake of course! We thank Fr Brendan for all his work in our parish and will keep him in our prayers as Abbot of Belmont.

**November Dead List Envelopes** are now available at the back of church. Please write the names of your loved ones and place in envelope together with your offering and hand in to the office or put in collection. The names will be placed on the altar and Masses said for them during the whole of the month of November. **Mass Intentions** If you would like a Mass for your intention there are envelopes available at the back of church. I will do my best to accommodate your request but, if the date is not available, the nearest possible date will be given. Could you put a contact number so that I can ring you if need be. Thank you.

**We remember all who have died:** Bridget Barton.  
**And those whose anniversaries occur about this time:**

Maria Quinn, Sarah Stansbury, Anthony Clark, Gismonda Symonds, Vera Barrington-Hopkins, Shirley Gutowski, Patricia Mills.  
**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, Roy Pigou, Ann Marie Hughson, Teresa Bord. John Moroney

**Have you ever wondered why Catholics pray for the dead?** If death marks the end of earthly life, why pray for the deceased when their chance to turn to Christ seems to have ended? The answer is found in Scripture and Catholic Tradition, which form the foundation of belief in Purgatory.

**What is Purgatory?** Purgatory is defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven," which is undergone by those "who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030). The Catechism clarifies that "this final purification of the elect is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (CCC 1031). Heaven is the perfect union between God and man. Sin distances us from God, and to be in perfect communion with him, we must be completely free of sin. According to Scripture, one must be "clean" to enter heaven (Revelation 21:27). Therefore, a cleaning or "purification" is necessary for those who still require it. Just like a proper guest at a grand banquet, God desires us to be purified and properly attired to enter into the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

**The Power in Praying for the Dead** As the Bible and Catholic Tradition point out, our prayers can help the heaven-bound souls in Purgatory. Countless saints and mystics have defended these claims. Once in heaven, these purified souls, or saints, can intercede for others before the throne of God-making our prayers for the souls in purgatory even more meaningful. St. Pope John Paul II said that "praying for the souls in Purgatory is the highest act of supernatural charity."

*For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. <sup>45</sup>But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin. 2 Mac 12:44*

There will be a retiring collection at all Masses next weekend 2nd/3rd November for the **Sick and Retired Clergy Fund**. This annual collection is for the support of clergy in the diocese who have given their lives to be there for us as our priests.



**Thursday Social Club** The Thursday Social Club will meet on Thursday 7th November 1.30-3.00 pm in the Parish Hall. Come and meet old friends and new. All are welcome!

<b>Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	<b>Ministers of the Word</b>
6pm Kathy Weston, Wendy Winterburn, Sarah Williams	6pm Stuart Fox
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Lorraine Lloyd-Williams
10am Mary Cook, Thomas Kottuppallil, Gerald Okafor, Lorena de Lima Auer	10am Audrey Fussell



**Filipino Mass** @ St. Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic Church on **24/11/2024** 12 noon with a shared lunch afterwards in the hall. Bring food and drink to share. Our celebrant is Fr. Francisco Cruz, CM. Do pass this invitation on. Spread the word!

## Fundraising Concert here at SFX

In aid of Neuroendocrine Cancer.  
**3 Local Choirs-Friday 1st November**  
**Tickets £6, on the door, refreshments included.** Hereford Fire choir, The kindle singers and Gracenotes ladies choir.



## PARISH ADVENT BAZAAR

**Saturday 30th November 2024**  
The Parish Bazaar is only 5 weeks away! This will be the first Parish Bazaar since the Covid epidemic. The aim is to have a really enjoyable parish social event and to raise funds to help with the ongoing programme of maintenance of our beautiful church. For the Bazaar to be a success, we need everybody to be involved in whatever way you can. Over the coming weeks, there will be notices about what is currently most urgently required. This weekend, please look at the two lists in the Narthex:  
1. Christmas Hamper Raffle: Please sign to indicate which items you would like to donate for this ever popular raffle.  
2. Bazaar volunteers: Can you help to run a stall, or provide help in any other way? Please sign up on the yellow poster in the Narthex.

## Can you Help? Our children's liturgy group

at the 10.00am Sun Mass is really popular and a great boon for the parish but we urgently need another helper. Please contact the office for further details.



## Receiving the Synod

The 3 year 'Synod on Synodality' ends at the end of October. This is an important even in the life of the modern Church. One of the experts at the assembly Austin Ivereigh will very kindly give 2 talks to help our parishes understand how we should both receive and then implement the synod. First talk 'Receiving the Synod, Saturday Nov 24th Belmont 10-12.

**Welcome to any new or visiting parishioners.** Do come and introduce yourselves to the newcomers and **come along to the hall after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake** to meet the parishioners and parish priest.



**Collections 19th/20th Oct**  
1st £518.31 The Parish  
2nd £328.03 Renovation  
Missio £405.50



## Parish Calendar- October/November 2024

Wed 30th	6.30pm	ABC Scripture Group
Fri 1st	7.00pm	3 local Choirs Concert
Thurs 7th	1.30pm	First Thursday Club