



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear all,** Candlemas beautifully continues the light first given to us at our Baptism. On that day, a candle was lit from the Paschal Candle and entrusted to us with the words, "Receive the light of Christ." It was a sign that Christ's light now shines in our lives, calling us to live as children of the light. At Candlemas, as we bless and carry candles once more, we are reminded that this baptismal light has not faded with time. Instead, it is meant to grow stronger as we walk with Christ. Just as Simeon recognised the child Jesus as the light for all nations, we are invited again to recognise Christ as the light who guides our choices, shapes our prayer, and sustains us in moments of darkness. Candlemas therefore renews our baptismal calling. The light we receive is not kept for ourselves, but shared—within our families, our parish community, and the world around us. In celebrating this feast, we pray for the grace to keep that flame alive, so that our lives may continue to reflect the light of Christ given to us at the very beginning of our journey of faith. **Fr John**

## Liturgical Calendar February 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 4

Sat 31st	10.30am	St John Bosco	Michael Davis RIP & family
Sat 31st	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 31st	6.00pm	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)	Mohan Singh
Sun 1st	8.00am	CANDLEMAS	The Parish
Sun 1st	10.00am	CANDLEMAS	Stephen Booth
Mon 2nd	9.30am Rosary 9am	CANDLEMAS (with blessing of throats)	Souls in Purgatory
Tue 3rd	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 4th	1.00pm	Feria	Ann Margaret Da Silva Birthday
Thu 5th	9.30am	St Agatha	The Parish
Fri 6th	1.00pm	St Paul Miki and companions, Martyrs	Holy Souls
Sat 7th	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Stephen Brown
Sat 7th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 7th	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Thanksgiving Joseph family
Sun 8th	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Tom & Kathleen Kinoult RIP
Sun 8th	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Joe Schofield RIP

**HEALING SERVICE:** The monthly Service of prayers for healing next takes place in the Abbey Church at 6.45pm on Friday, 6th February 2026 led by Fr Michael Clothier from the Community of Saint Gregory the Great. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions will be available. All welcome.

**Parish 200 Club Lottery.** Thank you to all who have paid their £12 for 2026. Many have yet to re-new their membership and we always welcome new players. **Please put money or cheques payable to St Francis Xavier's Church in an envelope with your name on and marked 200 Club. Envelopes may be put in the collection plate or posted through the Presbytery door.** Payment via bank transfer to **St Francis Xaviers Church. Sort code: 09-06-66. Acc. No: 42516221.** Cash Prizes every month and star Draw twice a year of £100. Sign up this weekend. [pejwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:pejwilliams@gmail.com) for further details.

**Holy Baptism** We welcome into God's family **Anna Gates** who will be baptized this Sunday at 12 noon. A warm welcome to **Anna** and all her family.

**We remember all who have died:**  
**Sue Forder**-funeral at Belmont Abbey on Friday 13th February at 2pm

**Anniversaries:** Josephine Kelly, Margarita Doverman, Billy McAleese, Patricia Chamberlain, Eileen Pugh, Neva Jais, Antoinette Perrot, Canon Thomas Keane, Maria Mecina, Donald Wilson, Tom Supple. **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, Mídad Jasari, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Sarah, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradberry, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Ann Orchard, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely.

## The Feast of Encounter

In 2014, Pope Francis, who as a Jesuit was a consecrated priest, spoke of the Presentation of the Lord as "the feast of Encounter." The Gospels recall the encounter between Jesus and his people, when Mary and Joseph brought their child to the Temple in Jerusalem; the first encounter between Jesus and his people, represented by Simeon and Anna, took place. The Pope also noted that it was also an encounter "between the young and the old." The young were Mary and Joseph who brought their infant son to the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses; the old were Simeon and Anna who waited patiently and full of hope for "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel" as the antiphon for the Mass says.

Pope Francis described the Presentation as the unique encounter between observance and prophecy, where the young are the observers and the old are the prophets. He continued: "In fact, if we think carefully, observance of the Law is animated by the Spirit and the prophecy moves forward along the path traced by the Law." He spoke of Consecrated life as the encounter between these two elements, between the young and the old, between observation and prophecy. There is no rivalry or opposition between these realities. Instead, the Holy Spirit animates them both, so that they become signs of joy that can be recognised by all. His words spoken to consecrated persons are also important for us to hear. He concluded by saying: "It's good for the elderly to communicate their wisdom to the young; and it's good for the young people to gather this wealth of experience and wisdom, and to carry it forward, not so as to safeguard it in a museum, but to carry it forward addressing the challenges that life brings."

May the grace of this mystery, the mystery of the Encounter, enlighten us and comfort us on our journey. Amen. **Fr John**



## Ministers of the Eucharist

6pm **Angela Holmes**  
**Wendy Winterburn**  
**Vigeetha Joseph**

8am **Cecilia Balestra**  
**Frances Hetterley**

10am **Mia Brennan**  
**Moses Obanimoh**  
**Gerald Okafor**

## Ministers of the Word

6pm **Mary Schiavon**  
**Helen Booth**

8am **Stephen Cleave**  
**James Morris**

10am **Liz Symonds**  
**Charley Smith**

## Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.

Monday 5th—Friday 9th October 2026  
More information and booking forms are on the table at the back of church or use the online booking link  
<https://www.my-holiday-booking.co.uk/availability/check/index/i/22/t/ROM-SFX>

**Closing date 14th February**

If you have any questions, do contact Rae at  
**Email: rae@tangney-tours.com t:01732 886666**

## SFX Parish Quiz

There will be a Parish Quiz on Saturday 14th February 7.15 pm in the Kemble Parish Hall. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day?

Tickets £5 per person to include tea/coffee and cake during the break. Bring your own snacks/drinks to share at the table. Tickets will be available for sale after weekend Masses this weekend and next weekend (7/8th February). Teams of up to 5 people but individuals/smaller group are very welcome and teams can be made up on the night. The number of available tickets is limited due to limited space in the Parish Hall, so buy tickets early to avoid disappointment!

**Herefordshire Deanery**  
**Horizons of Hope Talk with professor John Loughlin.**  
**Saturday 21st February**  
**Belmont Abbey 10.00am-12.30**

## Human Dignity:

**The catholic vision and why it matters.**  
Professor Loughlin is senior research fellow at Blackfriars, Oxford. His forthcoming book is "Human dignity: Its roots and challenges in western thought."

**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 25/1/2026

**The Parish £796.57**



## What's on in February 2026

Mon 2nd	10.30am	Lectio Divina
Mon 2nd	7.00pm	SVP in Kemble Hall
Wed 4th	6.30pm	ABC Bible study
Sat 14th	7.15pm	Quiz Night