



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All, One of the great things about our church is that it is open. It's open every day, throughout the day, so that sinners, saints, and shoppers alike can call in and spend some time with the Lord. And they do. Many people come and pray, placing their petitions before God in this house of prayer. As the entrance antiphon puts it: "To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God." During the next couple of weeks, St Luke will be teaching us about prayer. This week, the parable is a lesson in persistence in prayer. While the parable seems to present prayer as nagging God for what we want, such a reading misses the point. God is not like the judge. The key is found in the description of the judge as corrupt and unjust. Since God can be neither, we must understand Jesus to be saying that if even an unjust judge responds to the persistence of the widow, how much more so will God listen to our prayers. God truly wants to hear our needs and respond generously. Jesus gets to the heart of the parable when he teaches us about the persistence of the one who prays. God wants us to be like the persistent widow, staying in relationship with God, confident that God hears and answers prayers. Then Jesus laments, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" In this lament, Jesus notes how easy it can be for us to lose heart. But this doesn't need to be the case. In this month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, we ask Our Lady to support us and to pray with us and our families, especially in the difficult moments of life. **Fr John**

Liturgical Calendar October 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 1

Sat 18th	10.30am	ST LUKE, EVANGELIST (FEAST)	Margaret Kenny RIP
Sat 18th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 18th	6.00pm	29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	The Parish
Sun 19th	8.00am	29TH SUNDAY	Kamia Anna RIP
Sun 19th	10.00am	29TH SUNDAY	Patricia Mills RIP
Mon 20th	9.30am <i>Rosary 9am</i>	Feria	John Farren RIP
Tue 21st	NO PUBLIC MASS. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30		
Wed 22nd	1.00pm	St John Paul II Pope	Tymek, Vicki, Alice
Thur 23rd	9.30am	Feria	Peter Lynch RIP
Fri 24th	1.00pm	St Anthony Mary Claret	Sheelagh Schofield
Sat 25th	10.30am	The Six Welsh Martyrs and their companions	Souls in Purgatory
Sat 25th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 25th	6.00pm	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jane Corrigan RIP
Sun 26th	8.00am	30TH SUNDAY	Henry John RIP
Sun 26th	10.00am	30TH SUNDAY	The Parish

World Mission Sunday There will be a **retiring collection at all Masses This weekend 18/19th for World Mission Sunday (Missio)**. This is the main collection of the year for what used to be called Foreign Mission Sunday. The theme for 2025 is:



"Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples"
Please bring in your Red Boxes for the autumn count which supports Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries by Sunday 26th October. They can be left in the sacristy. Thank You.

Parish Christmas Bazaar

It's time to start thinking about the Christmas Bazaar! This will be held on Saturday 29th November in the Parish Hall. There will be more details to follow over the coming weeks, but in the meanwhile, a sign up list for stall holders/volunteers is now in the Narthex. Any help and support will be greatly appreciated as this is an important fundraising and social event for the Parish.



We remember all who have died and those whose anniversaries occur about this time
Latelly Dead-Rita Rees, Margaret Ann Kenny

Anniversaries:
Peter Gunter, Sheelagh Schofield, Guisepina Newnes, Carol Joyce, John Brown.
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, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Sarah, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Kath Feely Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Didit Buhain, Margaret Davis, Ann Marie Hughson.



LECTIO DIVINA

Reading the Scripture
Reflecting on the Meaning
Responding through Prayer
Resting in God
Responding in Action

Lectio Divina is a particular way of reading the Bible. It calls for a different approach from the rapid reading that we're all accustomed to. In Lectio we read the text slowly and meditatively. Lectio Divina is reading in the power of the Holy Spirit, who frees, heals and gives us life. The Holy Spirit lifts us above the literal meaning of the text to listen to the voice of God, which deifies men and women by uniting them with Christ. Lectio Divina brings about a conversation from our empty minds obsessed by flesh and blood to the mind of Christ, so that we can receive the ears, eyes and heart of Christ. Lectio Divina is ancient. It is, in fact, the way in which the Fathers of the Church read the Scriptures in the first centuries. Lectio can be practised individually or in groups.

How to get started?

Find a quiet place and light a candle. This will help you to remember that Christ is the Light of the World and recalls the candle that burnt at your baptism. A crucifix or cross will show you how greatly God loves you. An icon or image of Our Lady or one of the saints reminds you that you never do Lectio Divina alone.

Choose a reading- my suggestion is the gospel reading for next Sunday.

Remember that Lectio is praying the scriptures, so start by saying a prayer of the Holy Spirit, followed by a brief examination of conscience, asking the Lord for forgiveness and mercy, as you open your heart to receive his Word.

Read the passage slowly. Read it a second time but pause after each verse to allow the Word of God to touch your heart. Don't rush to move on to the next verse but treasure the silence; in silence you will discover space to listen. You will often find that a particular verse resonates, spend time praying this verse, repeat it and allow the Word of God to touch your heart. At the end of the session, say the Lord's Prayer and pray for somebody or a particular intention.

In his book, From a Prophetic Voice in the City - Meditations on the Prophet Jeremiah - Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini writes, 'The word of God contained in the Bible, before being an activity, is truly a gift of God. Through this word, God gives himself to me, speaks to me nourishes me with his life, communicates his love, power, and divinity just as he communicates it to me in the Eucharist.' **Fr James**

Ministers of the Eucharist		Ministers of the Word	
6pm	Kathy Weston Angela Holmes Vigeetha Joseph	6pm	Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am	Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	8am	Tracey Buckley TBC
10am	Thomas Kottuppallil Mary Cook Moses Obanimoh	10am	Andy Milne Bruno Alves



**Do You have
Children or
Grandchildren or family
who don't come to
Church?
Then this talk might be
really helpful for you**

James Potter is the lay chaplain at Sacred Heart School in Wimbeldon and has had over 20 years experience in school/university chaplaincy and parish youth ministry. On **Thursday 30th October at 7.00pm** James will be giving a talk at SFX on 'The Church and Young People' sharing his experiences of how to talk to young people about the faith. Why don't they come to Mass any More? How can I talk to them about the faith without an argument? There will also be discussion time for your own particular questions.

**Why not save the date and come along?
Flyers are in the Narthex for you to take and use as an invitation?**

Belmont Parish Harvington Hall Trip is on Saturday 15.11.25 leaving Belmont Abbey at 9 am There are places available, cost is £40. Bring own sandwiches, Tea and Coffee available. Ring Meena (01432 359 867) to book your place, she requires a £15 deposit.

On another note Claire Nicholson who is organising the **Belmont quiz night** on Friday 25.10.25 is desperate for SFX to take a table. It costs £15 per person for a table of 6-8 persons. To book please contact Belmont Parish.

Mass Head Count - Every year we have to send to the archdiocese our weekly mass attendance numbers averaged out over a 4 week period. This year we had an average of 83 people for the 6.00pm on Saturday, 77 for the 8.00am and 227 for the 10.00am with a total combined **average of 387**

Welcome to new parishioners and visitors. Do introduce yourselves to the welcomers and **come along after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake.**



Collection 12/10/2025
The Parish £ 888.40



What's on in October 2025

Mon 20th	7.00pm	SVP meeting
Wed 22nd	9.00am	Church cleaning. Please come and help. Thanks
Wed 22nd	6.30pm	ABC Scripture group—all welcome
Thurs 30th	7.00pm	The Church and Young people. Talk by James Potter.

