



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Parish Priest Dom James Hood. Assistant Priest Dom John George.
19 Broad St. Hereford, HR4 9AP Tel: 01432 273485: www.sfxhereford.org.uk
Hospital Chaplain: Fr Patrick Lobo 07922323603



Parish Administrator: Mr John Cook
Email: hereford2@rcadc.org
Office hours: 9am –1pm (not Tuesday)

SFX Parish School Headteacher:
Mrs Elizabeth Christopherson
Tel: 01432 273941

SFX Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Mrs Kathy Weston -Email
sfxsafeguarding@gmail.com Tel -273485

ON GAUDETE SUNDAY, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, rose coloured vestments are worn; they are also worn on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday. Both these Sundays are halfway through these sacred seasons. During the season of Advent, we prepare for the second coming of Christ at the end of time; we also prepare for the feast of Christmas, Christ's first coming: Christ coming into our world of darkness and sin, bringing his light, peace and beauty. On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent changes gear and we begin to focus our minds on the first coming, a gift for all. This is a matter for rejoicing, so we lay aside the purple-coloured vestments and put on rose.

Why rose-coloured vestments on the third Sunday of Advent? Why do some places have a rose-coloured candle in the wreath for that day? It's a tradition that emerged hundreds of years ago: the introit, the verses from psalm and another portion of scripture which were read as the procession approached the altar, for the third Sunday of Advent began "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." In Latin, the words are "Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete." The word rejoice-gaudete-gives the Sunday the name that many call it: Gaudete Sunday. Let us rejoice by making room for Jesus in our hearts and in our lives.

Fr James

Liturgical Calendar December 2025 Yr A Psalter Wk 3

Sat 13th	10.30am	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	<i>Annam Varghese</i>
Sat 13th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 13th	6.00pm	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	<i>Anna &Tadeusz Kania RIP</i>
Sun 14th	8.00am	3RD SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 14th	10.00am	3RD SUNDAY	<i>Socrate Bisconti RIP</i>
Mon 15th	9.30am <i>Rosary 9am</i>	3rd Week of Advent	<i>Mary & Gerry Fussell RIP</i>
Tue 16th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30		
Wed 17th	1.00pm	3rd Week of Advent	<i>Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP</i>
Thu 18th	9.30am	3rd Week of Advent	<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
Fri 19th	1.00pm	3rd Week of Advent	<i>Forgotten souls in Purgatory</i>
Sat 20th	10.30am	3rd Week of Advent	<i>Our Lady's Intention</i>
Sat 20th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 20th	6.00pm	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
Sun 21st	8.00am	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Tony Colley RIP</i>
Sun 21st	10.00am	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>Gella Sykes RIP</i>



Are you struggling to hear everything at Mass clearly and loud enough? Following some feedback from parishioners we are having some sound engineers visit the parish next week to see if they can improve the sound quality in our Church. Please message the office with any concerns.

Poetry for Pleasure The next meeting is on Thursday 18th December 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme is Winter and Christmas. Bring a few of your favourite poems to share with the group. All are welcome.

Open Invitation Next Sunday at the 10.00am Mass our Nigerian parishioners will be leading some of the singing and then providing refreshments in the Kemble Hall afterwards. Do come and join us.

We remember all who have died

Anniversaries: Mary Matley, Christopher Ford, Rozalia Mazur, Mary Oakley, Tina Wilding, Anthony Colley.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



The pink concertina for your Christmas cards has made its annual appearance on the baptismal font! Please check it to see if you have any cards in it!

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, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Vera McHale, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Ann Marie Hughson, Ann Orchard.

The Nativity Scene: an enchanting image

The outdoor crib is back and already passers-by have commented how good it is to see once again. Among the busy hubbub of the high streets, the scene is a quiet reminder of the real reason behind Christmas.

In 2019, Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Letter, *Admirabile Signum*, on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene. Why does the crib arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? The pope wrote that, "First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness." In showing us this truth, the crib teaches us about God's closeness — Emmanuel, "God-with-us," who enters all the messy, imperfect places of life.

For children, the Nativity is a first catechism in miniature. They see love, family, wonder, and worship gathered in one place. For adults, it is a moment to pause — to recognise that the Christmas story is not just history, but a present reality. Christ is born into our lives whenever we make room for Him. Nativity scene, wanted people to feel the tenderness and joy of the Incarnation. Today, placing the crib in our homes invites that same wonder. It becomes a small sanctuary of prayer: a place to reflect on God's gift and to renew our commitment to share His peace with others. As you prepare for Christmas, why not spend a few moments in prayer in front of your own nativity scene and bless it as a reminder of its true significance for us today:

Lord, bless all who look upon this crib; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Fr John



Sign up Sheets for Christmas ministers are now in the sacristy. Please come and sign up as soon as you can. Thank You.

Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Angela Holmes Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	8am Tracey Buckley
10am Lorena D L Auer Thomas Kottuppallil Noel Elegado	10am Andy Milne Audrey Fussell



Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.

**Monday 5th—Friday 9th
October 2026
5 days/4 nights.**

Cost: £1,029 pp. half board; coach return fare to Heathrow is extra. Travel insurance included. There will a presentation evening in January with a cut-off date of 14th February 2026 for signing up. Spiritual leader: **Fr. John George** Fully guided tour to include the following highlights: Papal Audience; visit to St Peter's Basilica with Mass, tour & visit to the Dome; visit to and Mass in the Catacombs. Visit to the Trevi fountain and the Venerable English College. **Booking forms** available shortly after Christmas.

Parish 200 Club. We are pleased to announce the winners of **October Draw**. 1st Sylvia Cockroft £30; 2nd Holly Ball £20; 3rd Ian and Mary Roberts £10. Winners of **November Draw**. 1st Arlene Ferrer £30; 2nd Lorraine Lloyd-Williams £20; 3rd Francis Britto £10. Winners of **December Draw**. 1st Elizabeth Wilson £30; 2nd Maggie Daron £20; 3rd Shema Lagat £10. **Congratulations** to the Winners, who can collect their letters from the Sacristy.

Winter STAR DRAW Winner Tracey Buckley **£100** If you would like a chance to win one of these monthly prizes, **subscriptions for 2026** are now due. **Speak to Paul and Brenda.**

Belmont Abbey Shop

The last day of trading at Belmont Abbey Shop before the Christmas break is on Sunday the 21st of December. The shop will reopen on Monday the 5th of January 2026 at 2pm. Father James Norris and all the shop volunteers would like to thank our customers for their support during the year and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

There will be a retiring collection at all Masses this weekend for Christmas flowers. Help us make the church even more beautiful this Christmas. Thank you.



Advent Penance Services across Hereford
Tuesday 16th 7.00pm: Belmont Abbey
Friday 19th 7.00pm: At OLQM with SFX.

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



Collection 7/12/2025

The Parish £ 728.21



What's on in December 2025

Sun 14th	11.15am	Parish Celebration after Mass in Kemble Hall
Mon 15th	10.30am	The Word of the Lord in Advent, in Kemble Hall
Wed 17th	7.00pm	The Word of the Lord in Advent, in Kemble Hall
Mon 22nd	12.30pm	Carols on the Steps