



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB, 19 Broad St. Hereford, HR4 9AP Tel: 01432 273485: www.sfxhereford.org.uk Hospital Chaplain: Fr Patrick Lobo 07922323603



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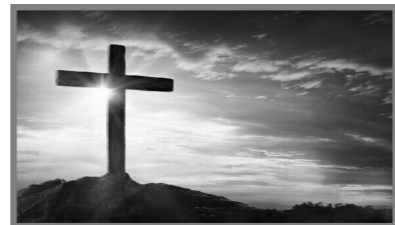
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Dear All, It was poignant yesterday to conduct the funeral of Leonard Mason, a D-Day veteran and the last surviving member of his regiment to have served in World War II. A piper came from Balmoral to play him out. As we mark Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday we remember the service and sacrifice of so many men and women, ordinary folk who gave so much to defend liberty and justice. There will be a two-minute silence at the end of our 10am Mass.

War is always a failure, and the First and Second World wars were extremely dark moments of human history. When will we ever learn? We are confronted with the tragedy of war every day on our television screens, alongside the bravery of those who stand up against violence and terror. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza, as well as the many other trouble spots of our world.

I was speaking to Canon James Pacey of Hereford Cathedral this week. He is a former theatre director and is staging a Hereford Passion Play in 2024. We would welcome participation from SFX parishioners. There are two audition/information evenings this week on Tuesday 14 & Thursday 16 November. If you are interested see the information on the Hereford Cathedral website.



Fr Brendan

Liturgical Calendar November 2023 Yr A Psalter Wk 4

Sat 11th	10.30am	St Martin of Tours	Holy Souls
Sat 11th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 11th	6.00pm	32ND SUNDAY (VIGIL)	Elikkuty Kuriakose
Sun 12th	8.00am	32ND SUNDAY	Parish
Sun 12th	10.00am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Holy Souls Intentions
Mon 13th	9.30am Rosary at 8.55am	Feria	Peter Millin RIP
Tues 14th	No public mass here. Mass at OL at 9.30am		
Wed 15th	1.00pm	St Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Michael RIP
Thu 16th	9.30am	St Gertrude	John Cunliffe RIP
Fri 17th	1.00pm	St Hilda, Abbess	Jude James RIP & his family
Sat 18th	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Michael and Clare O'Sullivan
Sat 18th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 18th	6.00pm	33RD SUNDAY	Jim Baskerville
Sun 19th	8.00am	33RD SUNDAY	Parish
Sun 19th	10.00am	33RD SUNDAY	Eva Ward RIP

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November dead list envelopes are available at the back of church. They will be placed on the altar throughout the month of November.



We remember all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Jude James, Bernard Drinkwater, Mary Fussell, May Baynham, Brigid Butcher, Pat Morris.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, Through the mercy of God, Rest in peace. Amen



We welcome into God's family **Nola Mifflin Secker** and **Phoebe Secker** who will be baptised this Saturday at 4pm.



Pray for the Sick:
Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Malcolm Darke, Fr Keith, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Maureen Tye, Sarah, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola and Finley Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, Dennis Schiavon, David John Warr, Stephen Booth, Rory Williams.

Will Heaven be Boring? by apologist Jimmy Akin



The depiction of robed saints sitting on clouds and playing harps is a modern one. It is found in art and on greeting cards, but it mashes images together in a way not found in the Bible.

Scripture uses many images of heaven, though we do need to be sensitive to their limitations. The *Catechism* explains: "This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. Scripture speaks of it in images: life, light, peace, wedding feast, wine of the Kingdom, the Father's house, the heavenly Jerusalem, paradise: "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"(1Corinthians,2:9)" (CCC1027) We thus shouldn't be confused by modern images depicting saints sitting on clouds with harps. "In the context of Revelation, we know that the 'heaven' or 'happiness' in which we shall find ourselves is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit" *St. John Paul 2nd.*

"Life is passing. Eternity draws closer; soon we will live the very life of God. After having drunk deep at the fountain of bitterness, our thirst will be quenched at the very source of all sweetness." *St Therese of Lisieux*



The ABC Faith and Scripture group meets at 6.30 PM Wednesday 15 November in the Parish Hall. We're looking at the Life and Times of King David - working through the second book of Samuel. We read the word of God together and consider its wider implications today as in ancient Israel. All welcome.

Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting is on Thursday 17th November 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall.

The theme is William Shakespeare (poetry and prose) Bring some of your favourite pieces to share with the group. All are very welcome.



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Imogen Cockcroft Sarah Williams Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes
8am Vera McHale Cecilia Balestra	8am Stephen Cleeve
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Noel Elegado Dominic Smedley	10am Deidre Schofield



St Francis Xavier's Church, is hosting a special **Mass for the Filipino Community on Sunday 26th November at 12 noon.** The celebrant will be Fr Francisco Cruz. All Filipinos from local parishes are welcome to attend. It will be followed by a shared lunch in the hall. Please bring food to share. Join us for this celebration if you can.

CAFOD Do you remember the big letter that many signed earlier in the summer which supported farmers abroad who are losing the freedom to choose which seed they use? The letter from Salina, a farmer in Bangladesh, was co-signed by almost a third of parishes in England and Wales with over 70,000 signatures. On Wednesday 11th October senior World Bank officials were presented with the letter. Thank you for supporting this initiative to call for a stop to seed privatisation.



It's Back! The Christmas Hamper Raffle.

Parishioners are asked to donate items to make Christmas Hampers. Please see the notice in the Narthex. We have decided to reduce the number of items in each hamper but increase the number of hampers. If you look at the lists you will see that the hampers contain many items that will help you to enjoy a festive Christmas. Please sign your name against an item that you can donate over the coming weeks (before Sunday 2nd December) please place your donation in the box in the Sacristy. Thank you for your continued support for this fund raising venture.



MISSIO Please could all box holders bring in their red boxes for the final count of the year by Sunday 26th November and leave them in the sacristy.



Tea, Coffee and Cake Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass. Come along and bring a friend.



Collections 4th/5th Nov
1st Collection **£592.21**
2nd Collection **£566.68**
Retired Clergy **£757.84**



Parish Calendar - November		
Wed 15th	6.30pm	ABC Faith and Scripture group
Thur 16th	10.30 am	Poetry for Pleasure
Thur 16th	6.00pm	Choir practice
Wed 22nd	7.00pm	Austen Ivereigh Talk