



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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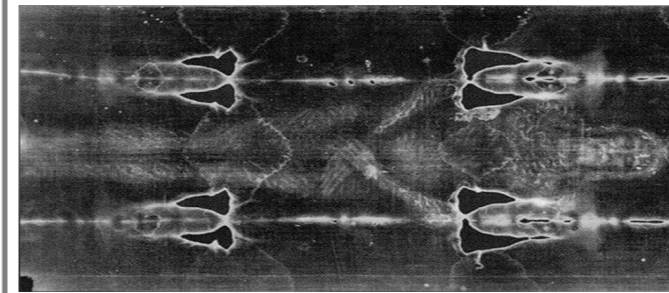
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## Dear Friends,

The joy of Easter is almost here, but before that we must accompany Jesus in his Passion during what is traditionally called, 'Passiontide.' The last two weeks of Lent are an immediate preparation for the sorrowful events of the Easter drama. It is a time to focus more on the Passion and death of Jesus and to accompany him on his way to Calvary. The statues and images are covered. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images are uncovered at the Easter Vigil. During this time the Church's liturgy will be sombre. The gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday of Lent is the Raising of Lazarus. Jesus tells Martha, sister of Lazarus, that he is the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believes in him, even though he dies, he shall live, and everyone who lives and believes in him shall never die.

Fr James



## Pope Leo takes A Closer Look at the Shroud of Turin

Pope Leo XIV explores the Shroud of Turin through a digital experience, unveiling its mysteries and sparking ongoing debate.



The first to see up close, indeed very close, the Shroud, by enlarging the details on the screen of his iPad, was Pope Leo XIV, who experienced the close-up view prepared by the Diocese of Turin. The Pontifical Custodian of the Cloth, Cardinal Roberto Repole, explained to the pontiff how this digital system worked, assisting the pontiff in viewing the shroud image. This is an absolute novelty made possible by new technologies and made available on two websites, [www.avvolti.org](http://www.avvolti.org) and [www.sindone.org](http://www.sindone.org), so that from any device and without any restrictions—smartphone, tablet, PC—one can observe and enlarge the smallest signs present on the relic. Thanks to the programme developed, Repole explained to Pope Leo, one can 'navigate' the image, and the most significant and curious details become evident: the face, the crown of thorns, the wounds on the side, the bloodstains. Each enlargement is accompanied by explanations and connections with Gospel passages describing the Passion of Jesus. Pope Leo has expressed his desire to visit the Shroud in person and for further studies to continue.

**Sign up sheets for Easter now in Sacristy**  
Please come and sign up for all the various ministries over Easter. Please support by signing up as soon as possible. Thank you.

Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Vigeetha Joseph TBC	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Tracey Buckley
10am Mary Cook Thomas Kottuppallil Lorena D L Auer Noel Elegado	10am Gabriel Gillick Gwenfair Gillick



## SFX Big Lent Walk Eastnor Deer Park

On Sunday 22nd March there will be a Parish walk around Eastnor Deer Park, (Ledbury) following the same route that we have walked for the past 2 years. Meet at the free car park by the Woodshed Café (HR8 1RA) near the entrance to Eastnor Castle, ready to start walking at 2pm. The route follows a 2.5 mile track (mainly tarmac) around the park. For those who would like an extra challenge, there is an extension route up to the Obelix. The path adds an extra mile to the walk and is quite steep, but you are rewarded with fabulous views from the top. This route is chosen to be as weather proof and accessible as possible, with no stiles to negotiate. While there is normally no charge for Parish walks, on this walk you are invited to make a contribution to CAFOD. Please note: The Woodshed café accepts card only payment. The Woodshed car park is quite large but is usually very busy, so please share lifts.

## Building News—Updates

1. You may have seen during the week some scaffolding at the front of the church. This was to touch up some paint from the work done last year, and involved no extra cost to us.
2. We have had permission this week from the Historic Churches Commission to refurbish the Kemble Hall toilets and decorate the hall. This work has now gone out to tender. More details to follow.
3. The installation of some extra sound speakers in the church and a new amplifier is ongoing with new proposals being sent back to Historic Churches for their approval. Hopefully more updates soon.



**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 15/3/2026**  
The Parish £898.96



What's on in March 2026		
Sun 22nd	2.00pm	Parish Walk
Mon 23rd	10.15am	Lectio Divina
Fri 27th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Fri 27th	1.30pm	CAFOD soup lunch

## Liturgical Calendar March 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 1

Sat 21st	10.30am	4th week of Lent	Thanksgiving
Sat 21st	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 21st	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	The Parish
Sun 22nd	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Souls in Purgatory
Sun 22nd	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY	Socrate Bisconti
Mon 23rd	9.30am Rosary 9am	5th week of Lent	Anna Tadeusz
Tue 24th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 25th	1.00pm	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)	Henry Haverty RIP
Thu 26th	9.30am	5th week of Lent	Anna & Tadeusz Kania
Fri 27th	1.00pm	5th week of Lent	Oliver Handley
Fri 27th	6.00pm	5th week of Lent	Christopher & Tony Murphy RIP
Sat 28th	10.30am	5th week of Lent	Mary, Danny & Andrew McPherson Blair
Sat 28th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 28th	6.00pm	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	The Parish
Sun 29th	8.00am	PALM SUNDAY	Vocations
Sun 29th	10.00am	PALM SUNDAY (Mass begins at the Bishop's Palace)	Private Intention



**Don't forget—clocks go forward one hour next Saturday night, 28th March.**

This year we will be having a **retiring collection on Maundy Thursday for the poor.** Hope Scott House has been nominated. Also there will be a **retiring collection on Good Friday for the Holy shrines in Jerusalem,** especially needed this year with the ongoing war.

**Lectio Divina** - The St Barnabas Lectio Divina parish group will meet next on Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm at 1 Moreland Avenue. All welcome.



**Accommodation help needed**  
One of our parishioners is in urgent need of 1 bed accommodation. Contact the office if you can help.

**Easter Flowers Collection** To help get our church looking beautiful for the Easter Liturgies there will be a retiring collection for the Easter flowers next weekend. Thank you for your support

**We remember all who have died: Anniversaries:**  
John Keyte, William Kerr, Maureen Williams.  
**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, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Sarah, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Thomas Leahy, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Pauline and David Day, Bethanie Lucas Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Martin Feely, Valerie Vaughan-Williams, Senan Stokes.