



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All, This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, the feast that brings the Christmas season to its close and opens the door to Jesus' public ministry. At the river Jordan, Jesus steps into the waters alongside those he has come to save, not because he needs repentance, but to fully share in our human story. As Jesus rises from the water, the heavens open, the Spirit descends, and a voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." These words do not belong to Jesus alone. They echo over each one of us, reminding us that through our own baptism we are claimed by God, called his beloved sons and daughters, and entrusted with a mission. The Baptism of the Lord invites us to remember who we are and whose we are. It calls us to live out our baptism each day—by choosing love over indifference, service over self-interest, and faithfulness in the ordinary moments of life. Pope Leo XIV explained that baptism "gives us life" to renounce a "culture of death," which is so prevalent in today's society. As we move from the joy of Christmas into the rhythm of Ordinary Time, may we do so renewed in our identity as God's beloved people, sent to reflect Christ's light in the world. **Fr John**

Liturgical Calendar January 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 1

Sat 10th	10.30am	Saturday after the Epiphany	Tom McCourt & Peter Millin
Sat 10th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 10th	6.00pm	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	The Parish
Sun 11th	08.00am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP
Sun 11th	10.00am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Private Intention
Mon 12th	9.30am <i>Rosary</i>	St Aelred of Rievaulx	Thanksgiving & Blessings
Tue 13th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 14th	1.00pm	Feria	Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP
Thur 15th	9.30am	Feria	Anna Kowalczyk Birthday
Fri 16th	1.00pm	Feria	Souls in Purgatory
Sat 17th	10.30am	St Anthony, Abbot	Holy Souls
Sat 17th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 17th	6.00pm	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Ram Kali
Sun 18th	8.00am	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Thanksgiving
Sun 18th	10.00am	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	The Parish

200

TWO HUNDRED CLUB

Parish 200 Club. Renewals for 2026 due now. Thanks to all who have supported the 200 club and we hope you will continue your subscription for 2026. Please send a cheque for £12 per number **(cheques payable to St Francis Xavier's 200 Club)** to the church in an envelope with your name on it and stating 200 Club. (If you pay by standing order you do not need to do anything). The easiest way to pay is to make a direct transfer. Please use the following:
Sort Code:09-06-66. Acc No: 42516221. Acc Name: St Francis Xavier's Church. To enable us to keep track of payments, **please let us know if you make a direct transfer** by email to pejwilliams@gmail.com Paul and Brenda will be available at the end of all Masses on 17th/18th January for collections and with further details. Profits go to pay for extras in the Church.
Paul and Brenda.

We remember all who have died:

Val Gittings- Mon 26th Jan, Crematorium 12;15am
Anniversaries: Angelo Moruzzi, Alan Zammit, Wiktor Daron, Kenneth Foulkes, Michael Flynn, Elizabeth Kerr, Tadeusz Sapiecha, Brigid Gore, Finian Joseph O'Driscoll, Joseph Greene, Patrick O'Neill, Michael Elliot Smith. Jacqueline Ann Roe, Patricia Franklin, Caroline Gough, Zygfryd Cypionka.

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, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Ann Marie Hughson, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Ann Orchard.



OUR SEMINARIAN

Lukasz Klis, a young parishioner, is a first-year seminarian at the seminary of Saint Philip Neri, Institute of Christ the Sovereign King, at Florence, Italy. He spent a preparatory year in one of the Institute's churches in England. He shares some thoughts about the Priesthood and seminary life.

The Institute of Christ the King the Sovereign Priest (ICKSP) is based on three main pillars which are the foundations of the Institute's life – 'Ora, lege et labora.' – pray, read and work, from the Rule of St Benedict.

The day begins with prayer, the recitation of the Divine Office, Lauds and half an hour's meditation. This is followed by lecture periods and Mass and the Office of Sext. During lunch a reading is chanted. After recreation, there are more study periods. The day concludes with the singing of the Office of Vespers, Supper and Compline.

Lukasz explained that when he was about six or seven, he went to church with his mother. After his First Holy Communion he became an altar server, remembering St John Paul II words, 'You are far more than mere helpers of the Parish priest. You are servants of Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest.'

A profound influence and inspiration in his life was his grandmother. Lukasz believes strongly that the intellectual pursuit of truth about God is intertwined with love for Him. The more one knows God, the deeper the potential for joy.

Study allows a person to grow in their appreciation and intimacy with the divine. At the start of life in the seminary there has been study of doctrine, certain dogmas and encyclical letters. This helps us to get closer to the Lord, although we can never fully comprehend God in this life. As ICKSP is an international seminary, one begins to get the idea of the universal church.

The Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ is inseparable from the Eucharist and vital to the life of the Church. All priests need the love and support of all the faithful. Lukasz thanks the parish for their prayers and support.

Fr James

Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Angela Holmes Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth
8am Vera McHale Frances Hetterley	8am Dorothy Kennedy
10am Lorena D L Auer Noel Elegado Gerald Okafor	10am Bruno Alves 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 from the office

STOP PRESS!

There will be a meeting for all who have signed up for the Rome pilgrimage AND anyone who would like to find out more.

Peter Fawcett will be giving a presentation with power point after the 10am Mass **this Sunday 11th January at 11.30am.** Come along and find out more!

Sunday 11th January

Everyone attending this **Sunday's 8 am Mass** is warmly invited to stay for tea/coffee/toast/croissants in the Kemble Parish Hall after Mass.



We welcome into God's family **Elara Fernandes**, who will be baptized this Sunday at 12 noon. A warm welcome to Elara and all her family.



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 4/1/2026

The Parish £814.46



What's on in January 2026

Sun 11th	11.30am	Rome Pilgrimage talk
Mon 12th	10.00am	Lectio Devina (Hall)
Wed 21st	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting