



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All. There has been a lot of news coming out of Rome recently. Pope Francis has named 21 new Cardinals for the Church. But perhaps of greater importance is the announcement that the 2023 Synod will include as full voting members 70 lay people, half of whom will be women. For those wanting a greater role for women in the church progress might seem slow, but this is a significant development. Some very capable women have also been taking up more senior positions at the Vatican.

I mention this in the week that we celebrate the feast of St Mary Magdalene. The Gospels tell us that Mary was the first witness to the Resurrection, and indeed she leaves the pages of the Scriptures as the *apostola apostolorum*, the 'apostle to the apostles' as Pope St Gregory the Great called her. It is only right that Pope Francis recently raised her feast to a status equal to that of the Apostles.

It seems a good moment to thank God for the work and witness of women in this parish. Where would we be without their presence? Their generosity, love and hard work? It seems only right that the worldwide church is finally drawing on their wisdom too in discerning the way ahead. It should have happened long ago.

The Easter Sequence says: *Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as He rose!*

St Mary Madgalene, pray for us! **Fr Brendan**



Liturgical Calendar July 2023 Year A Psalter week 2


Sat 15th	10.30am	St Bonaventure Bishop and Doctor	John, James, and Thomas McSherry
Sat 15th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 15th	6.00pm	15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Holy Souls
Sun 16th	8.00am	15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Parish
Sun 16th	10.00am	15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Marie Therese Grimes
Mon 17th	9.30am	Feria	Clare Young RIP
Tue 18th	No public Mass here. Mass at OL 9.30am		
Wed 19th	1.00pm	Feria	Private Intention
Thu 20th	9.30am	Feria	Holy Souls
Fri 21st	1.00pm	Feria	Timothy Surtees RIP
Sat 22nd	10.30am	St Mary Magdelene Feast	Michael Malone
Sat 22nd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 22nd	6.00pm	16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Edgaras RIP
Sun 23rd	8.00am	16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Parish
Sun 23rd	10.am	16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Stanley Howard RIP

Woking High School Orchestra

A Summer concert of movie classics and more

Performing at:
Belmont Abbey, Hereford
Monday 17th July, 3pm

Including music from:
Jurassic Park - The Sound of Music - Beauty and the Beast



Remembrance
Geoffrey Wilson, Bernard Newton, Olga Tully, Pauline Cassin, Hilda Shaw, John Buchanan Brown.



Recently Died
Mary Barnacle: Requiem Mass 12.00 noon Thursday 27th July.

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

Prayer for the Sick:
Ania Kuzba, Joan Colley, Fr Keith, Ausura Chukarov, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Midad Jasari, Jan Beavan, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Margaret Skelding, Christina James, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Ann Currie, Patricia Moroney, Mary Elizabeth, George Mecina, Ana Rudnicki, Sue Forder.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 1-6 August-
World Youth Day (WYD) is an event for young people organized by the Church which was initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985. It is celebrated at the diocesan level annually on Christ the King Sunday—and at the international level every two to three years at different locations around the world. At the closing Mass for 1995 WYD in the Philippines 5 million attended the closing Mass! John Paul II envisioned the gatherings as a celebration of community and exhibited the faith and hope that he and the Church put in young people.

Pope Benedict XVI said we should not view WYD as a kind of rock festival; he stressed that the event should not be considered a "variant of modern youth culture" but as the fruition of a "long exterior and interior path".

The highlights of World Youth Day are the celebrations attended by the Pope, such as the welcoming and opening ceremony, the Way of the Cross, the vigil and, on the last day, the Mass of Sending.



The theme of WYD Lisbon 2023 is "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39).

As a parent of two children who, between them, attended five WYD celebrations I can still recall some of the descriptions and experiences that they came away with.

Words and feelings such as amazement, togetherness, friendship, spiritual intensity, the excitement of seeing and hearing the Pope, common purpose, overwhelming, fun, unbelievable crowds, community, the global church, tiredness, homesickness, kindness, silence, bonding and laughs are just a few of the lived moments which they brought home with them.

The six young pilgrims travelling to Lisbon from SFX are: Jerry Joseph, Aby Joseph, Adrian Elegardo, Dom Smedley, Iola Gillick, and Peter Cunningham.

We pray for them. We wish them a holy, safe, prayerful, peaceful, uplifting and life-changing World Youth Day experience.

The young pilgrims from around the world are not only the Church of the future. They are the Church of today in their vibrancy and joy and we look forward to hearing their stories when they return and to journeying forward together. *John Cook*

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jane Gennard Sarah Williams Sarah Slancauskas	6pm Helen Booth
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Dorothy Kennedy
10am Mary Cook Gerald Okafor Moses Obanimoh	10am Audrey Fussell

Parish Walk Sunday 23rd July 2023
The next Parish walk will be on Sunday 23rd July 2023. It is a 4.5 - 5 mile circular route around Hoarwithy via Sellack and King's Cagle churches. We will start at the impressive Italianate church of St Catherine in Hoarwithy at 2.30 pm. The route is over fields and along quiet country roads. Having completed a practice walk, I can confirm that most stiles have now been replaced with gates and there is now only one stile. There are no steps on the walk, but there is one fairly short, steep incline up a woodland path. If you would like to go into St Catherine's church at Hoarwithy, please arrive a bit earlier as we will aim to start walking at 2.30 pm. The pretty churchyard at Sellack provides a good stopping point if you would like to bring a flask. If you would like a lift to Hoarwithy, please contact Dorothy on 07733 174681.



Poetry for Pleasure
The next meeting will be on Thursday 20th July 10.30 -1200 in the Parish Hall. This week we look at "Women Poets".
No expert knowledge is required! Just bring a few poems on the theme to share with the group.



Cafod Corner
At the heart of the global food crisis is a struggle for control over the world's seeds. For generations, small-scale farmers (who produce a lot of the world's food) have freely swapped and shared a wide variety of seeds. This practice for a variety of reasons is now under threat. Our parish Cafod group will be inviting you to co-sign a letter at the back of Church making this issue heard.



We welcome into God's family Felix Morris-Lloyd who will be baptised this Sunday, at 12.00
We warmly welcome Felix and all his family into our SFX Parish community.



Collections for 8th/9th July
1st Collection £335.17
2nd Collection £111.50
Peters Pence Collection £345.61 Many Thanks



Parish Calendar

17th July	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
19th July	6.30pm	ABC Bible Group. All welcome
20th July	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure
20th July	7.00pm	PAC Meeting in Parish Hall
25th July	11.00am	Longworth Mass
27th Aug	Noon	Parish BBQ