



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear friends, The time between the Ascension and Pentecost is a period of waiting and expectant joy. It is a rich time of prayer as we cry out, "Come, Holy Spirit." Our parish novena has begun, and we are praying that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may strengthen all of us. This Sunday the readings focus on unity, love, and faith. The readings highlight the steadfastness of Stephen, the prayer of Jesus for unity among believers, and the invitation to eternal life. These themes guide us to deepen our faith, strengthen our community, and embrace God's grace as we await the solemnity of Pentecost. Our prayers and witness to faith have an untold impact on the lives of others. Many people come into our church each day to spend a moment in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. They pray and light a candle for themselves, their family and friends, the world, and those who, for whatever reason, cannot pray.

This witness finds a powerful expression in the first reading. The martyrdom of Stephen had a lasting impact on Saul, who became known as Paul after his conversion experience on the road to Damascus. We don't know if others in the crowd were also deeply impacted by Stephen's actions and final words. Others in our own lives are also watching our actions, especially during struggles. We are encouraged to live our lives as witnesses to Christ, showing love and faith in difficult times, just as Stephen did. He and countless others in each of our lives remind us that our faith can inspire and influence those around us.

The 7th Sunday of Easter calls us to deepen our faith, embrace unity, and welcome the gift of eternal life with open hearts. **Fr John**

Liturgical Calendar May/June 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 3

Sat 31st	10.30am	VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (FEAST)	<i>For Vocations</i>
Sat 31st	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 31st	6.00pm	7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	<i>Patrick Hanley RIP (anniversary)</i>
Sun 1st	8.00am	7TH SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 1st	10.00am	7TH SUNDAY	<i>David Warr RIP</i>
Mon 2nd	9.30am <i>Rosary 9am</i>	7th week of Easter	<i>Sr Brijth</i>
Tue 3rd	NO PUBLIC MASS. Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30 St Charles Lwanga & comp.		
Wed 4th	1.00pm	7th week of Easter	<i>Maria Tomaszerciz RIP</i>
Thu 5th	9.30am	St Boniface, Bishop and Martyr	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
Fri 6th	1.00pm	7th week of Easter	<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
Sat 7th	10.30am	7th week of Easter	<i>Daniel and Ellen Looney</i>
Sat 7th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 7th	6.00pm	VIGIL OF PENTECOST	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 8th	8.00am	PENTECOST SUNDAY	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
Sun 8th	10.00am	PENTECOST SUNDAY	<i>Jival (thanksgiving)</i>



JUBILEE YEAR NATIONAL DRAW TICKETS for the support of the **Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham** will be on sale after all Masses this weekend.
May Our Lady of Walsingham keep us in her care.

Sunday 8th June Midday to 3.00 pm. This year's Summer Garden Party will be a great chance to celebrate the Jubilee Year. The Holy Father has proclaimed 2025 as a Jubilee Year, a sacred time of renewal, reflection, and grace celebrated every 25 years. It is definitely something to celebrate together! The party will take place after the 10 am Mass, with tea and coffee available as usual after Mass in the Parish Hall, followed by lunch in the garden beginning at about 1200. Please bring some food (sweet and/or savoury) to share. It would be great if everyone could bring a national dish so that we can celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity in the parish. British party food is always welcome (sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps, quiche, salads, cake etc) but any curries, noodles etc are always extremely popular with everyone! Food can be left in the conservatory (accessed from the garden) before Mass begins. Do come along!

We remember all who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.
Anniversaries: Barbara Jennings, Norah Evans, Stanley Borysiuk, Paddy Baker, Peter Carton-Kelly.

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



Pray for the Sick: Fr Keith, Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Robbie Bell, Brian Symonds, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Sarah, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord Ann Marie Hughson, Paul Kingston, John Moroney, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Didit Buhain.

LOURDES

On Thursday 5th June we shall be welcoming Dr Kieran Moriarty for our Horizons of Hope Talk on The Lourdes Cure of John Traynor. In 1858 Lourdes was an unknown town in the Pyrenees in France. In February of that year a fourteen-year-old girl walked down the town's steep hill to the rubbish dump, the grotto of Massabielle, by the river Gave with her sister, Toinette and a friend to gather firewood. On the first occasion, 11th February 1858, the other girls who were with Bernadette crossed the little stream in front of the grotto and walked on, whilst Bernadette, stayed behind looking for a place to cross where she wouldn't get her stockings wet when she heard the sound of rushing wind, but nothing moved. A wild rose in a natural niche in the grotto, however, did move. From the niche, or rather the dark alcove behind it, "came a dazzling light, and a white figure". Later Bernadette said, 'it was a small young lady.' Her sister and friend said they had seen nothing.

Three days later Bernadette and her sister Marie and some friends returned to the grotto. Bernadette knelt down immediately, saying she saw the apparition again and fell into a trance. Four days later Bernadette said that "the vision" asked her to return to the grotto every day for two weeks.

This period of almost daily visions came to be known as la Quinzaine sacrée, "holy fortnight." Bernadette's story caused a sensation with the townspeople, who were divided in their opinions on whether or not she was telling the truth. Some believed her to have a mental illness and demanded she be put in an asylum.

The other contents of Bernadette's reported visions were simple and focused on the need for prayer and penance. On 25th February she explained that the vision had told her "to drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it and to eat the herb that grew there," as an act of penance. To everyone's surprise, the next day the grotto was no longer muddy but clear water flowed. On 2nd March, at the thirteenth of the apparitions, Bernadette told her family that the lady said that "a chapel should be built and a procession formed".

In the 16th claimed vision, which went on for over an hour, Bernadette asked the woman for her name, but the lady just smiled back. She repeated the question three more times and finally heard the lady say, "I am the Immaculate Conception" (Que soi era immaculada concepcion).

As a result of these visions, Bernadette was interviewed by officials of both the Catholic Church and the French government. The Catholic Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862. Since those apparitions, cures have been verified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau, following a lengthy and rigorous medical examination and have been declared as 'inexplicable.'

Fr James

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist		Ministers of the Word	
6pm	Jane Gennard Angela Holmes Sarah Williams	6pm	Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am	Frances Hetterley Vera McHale	8am	Stephen Cleeve Dorothy Kennedy
10am	Mary Cook Gerald Okafor Moses Obanimoh	10am	Andrew Milne Bruno Alves

How do they know it is a Miracle?

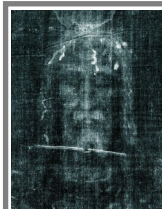
Dr Kieran Moriarty CBE, a member of the International Medical Committee of Lourdes, will be giving a talk about the cure at Lourdes of John Traynor. This talk is part of the Herefordshire Deanery Horizons of Hope series. Why not come along to what promises to be a fascinating talk. **Thursday 5th June at 7.00pm** at St Francis Xavier Church Hereford HR4 9AP All welcome Refreshments



Thursday Social Club Thursday 5th June 1.30—3 pm in the Parish Hall. Do join us for a cup of tea and a chat. Everyone is welcome.

Drinks after Saturday evening Mass at Pentecost (7th June). Please do come and join other parishioners and guests after Mass for a drink in the garden to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost.

Saturday Mass Singers We are looking for others to join the group that leads the singing at the Saturday evening Mass. You don't need to read music, and all practising is done online. Please let one of the current singers know if you are interested in helping the parish in this way.



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

The Shroud of Turin exhibition begins on Sunday 15th June and runs for 2 weeks until the 29th. A group of parishioners is needed who will be stewards so that we can keep the exhibition open for 4 hours per day from 11am until 3pm. There will be 2 x 2-hour slots each day with 2 stewards present all the time to welcome visitors, make tea and coffee as required, usually when groups visit, and answer general questions. No specialist knowledge is needed and training will be given. Please do sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Even one session would be a big help for this important parish event **Thank you!**

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



Collections 25/5/2025
1st £525.88 The Parish
2nd £472.42 Renovation



Parish Calendar – June 2025

Mon 2nd	7.00pm	SVP All welcome
Wed 4th	6.30pm	ABC Scripture group
Thu 5th	1.30pm	Thursday Social Club
Thu 5th	7.00pm	Talk by Kieran Moriarty
Thu 12th	5.00pm	Ecumenical service at Hereford Cathedral