



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Our Coronation Big Lunch last week was such a wonderful occasion. Good food, plenty to drink, great entertainment and most of all a chance to connect with each other as a parish. Thank you to all who put in hard work the make it a roaring success. The next big social event – I hope – is a parish barbecue at the end of the summer.

Regarding pastoral issues, I recently attended a workshop on safeguarding with the clergy of the Archdiocese. I would like to thank Maggie Daron, our Parish Safeguarding Officer for her oversight of this issue for the parish. Although it can be an administrative burden, safeguarding is something we take very seriously.

Thursday is the feast of the Ascension – it is good to have these feasts returned to their proper day. As it is a Holy Day of Obligation Masses will be 6pm on the Wednesday and 1pm on Thursday (as well as a 9am Mass at SFX School). Think about praying between Ascension and Pentecost for new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, into our world, into our lives, and into our parish! St Paul lists nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. That is one to pray for each day. *Come Holy Spirit!* Have a blessed week, Fr Brendan

Liturgical Calendar May 2023 Year A Psalter week 2

Sat 13th	10.30am	Our Lady of Fatima	William Fawcett RIP
Sat 13th	11-12 noon Confessions and Adoration		
Sat 13th	6.00pm	6th Sunday of Easter	Theresa Curley RIP
Sun 14th	8.00am	6th Sunday Easter	Parish
Sun 14th	10.00am	6th Sunday of Easter	V.T. Augustine RIP
Mon 15th	9.30am	6th week of Eastertide	William Fawcett RIP
Tue 16th	No Mass here- 9.30 Mass OL parish		
Wed 17th	1.00pm	6th week of Eastertide	Varghese Kottackai Antony
Wed 17th	6.00pm	VIGIL OF THE ASCENSION	Parish
Thu 18th	9.00am	THE ASCENSION SFX School Mass	SFX School
Thu 18th	1.00pm	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	Successful Operation
Fri 19th	1.00pm	Requiem Mass for John MacGregor	
Sat 20th	10.00am	SFX School First Holy Communion	Holy Communion Children.
Sat 20th	6.00pm	7th Sunday Easter	Stanley Howard RIP
Sun 21st	8.00am	7th Sunday Easter	Susan Young RIP
Sun 21st	10.00am	7th Sunday Easter	Parish

Poetry Thursday 18th May: 10.30 Our SFX poetry group will be looking at World Poets in translation (e.g. Rumi, Cavafy, Rabindranath Tagore, Ghalib, Lorca) no prior knowledge necessary, all welcome. Parish Hall

We welcome into God's family **Amelia Gardner who will be baptised this Saturday, 13th, at 2.30pm.** **Oscar Ollek to be baptised on Friday 19th May at 5.00pm.** We warmly welcome **Amelia and Oscar and their families** into our parish.

Remembrance Sheila McPherson, Olive Jones, Joe Lawrence, Kieran Powell, Allan Flowers, Stephen Farr, Teodoro Donativo, Emma Grobelny, Eileen Greene, Claire George, Margaret Faulkner.
Recently Died **Stephanie West** funeral date TBC **Catherine Wales** funeral date TBC **John MacGregor** Fri 19th May 1.00pm **Stanley Howard** Wed 31st May 11.00am

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.

"Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect." 1 Peter 3:15

This quote is a great model for a Christian when called on to try and explain our faith. Over the next few weeks we will be using this part of the bulletin to give some common questions or objections to our faith with perhaps a good answer to respond with.

Q Why do Catholics worship statues of Mary? It's against the Ten Commandments!

A. We don't! Catholics don't worship statues, we only worship God. Our statues are only like our photos on our phones of our beloved ones to inspire us and keep us focused. Mary is not the fourth part of the blessed Trinity so we don't worship Mary but give her reverence as the 'Mother of God'.

Objection- God is eternal and therefore can't have a Mother!

A. Normally, a mother is older than her child, but Mary is an exceptional case as the Virgin Birth shows Mary was Jesus' mother in the true sense. As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus is God and therefore Mary is the Mother of God. (Greek *theotokos*, "God-bearer") Mothers do not give birth to natures, they give birth to persons, and Jesus was a divine person. This is recognised by many theologians including protestants. Martin Luther wrote "Mary the mother, does not carry, give birth to, suckle and nourish only the man, only flesh and blood for that would be dividing the person-but she carries and nourishes a son who is God's son. Therefore she is rightly called not only the mother of the man but also the Mother of God." (Luthers works 24:107).

May Procession Sunday 28th May

Following on from the 10 o'clock Mass at approximately 11.15am we will process out of church and into the garden to crown Mary as Queen in this traditional and much-loved devotion in the month of May. First Holy Communion children are specially invited to come wearing their first communion clothes and to help carry the statue of Mary and to strew petals. Do come along to this lovely celebration to complete our May devotions.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Vera McHale Imogen Cockcroft Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Audrey Fussell
8am Angela Holmes Cecilia Balestra	8am Dorothy Kennedy
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Jaimol James, Noel Elegado	10am Lynne Surtees



World Communications Day, Sunday 21st May 2023. On World Communications Day we are asked to keep those who work in the media in our prayers and **there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Communications Network**, which is entirely funded by this collection. The CCN provides communications support for the bishops of England and Wales, both individually and collectively, the Holy See and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through the media on a variety of different levels. CCN works with media (behind the scenes) on a daily basis to ensure the best possible coverage of current issues which have relevance for the Catholic faith.

Novena Prayer for Pentecost begins on the day after The Ascension (from 19th May until 27th.)



A Novena prayer is 9 days of prayer before an important feast of the Church.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful And enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

A Date for Your Diaries Friday June 23 7.00pm

A special concert here in SFX Church by the Hereford Police Choir



"The beautiful Saint Francis Xavier's church are hosting a very special event. An evening with the Hereford Police Choir. Come and join us for a two part concert of singing by Herefords most iconic male voice choir accompanied by refreshments. All charitably in aid of the pilgrims of World Youth Day."

Tea, Coffee and Cake

Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass.



Thank you!

Collections for 6th/7th May
1st Collection £473.09
2nd Collection £225.33



Parish Calendar

15th May	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
18th May	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure (Hall)
20th May	10.00am	First Holy communions (School)
27th May	10.00am	First Holy Communions (Parish)
28th May	11.15am	May Procession