



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Parish Priest Dom James Hood. Assistant Priest Dom John George.
19 Broad St. Hereford, HR4 9AP Tel: 01432 273485: www.sfxhereford.org.uk
Hospital Chaplain: Fr Patrick Lobo 07922323603



Parish Administrator: John Cook
Email: hereford2@rcadc.org
Office hours: 9am –1pm (not Tuesday)

SFX Parish School Headteacher:
Mrs Elizabeth Christopherson
Tel: 01432 273941

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Mrs Margaret Daron
Email: safeguardingsfx01@gmail.com



Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica today, Christmas Eve. This heralds the start of the Holy Year which will run until 6th January 2025. Pope Francis invites us to bear witness as authentic 'Pilgrims of Hope' walking toward the Lord who opens his merciful and forgiving arms to us. The Holy Year is a special time to intensify our life of prayer.

In the General Audience of May 20th, 2020, Pope Francis said,

Prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. There is hope but I open the door with my prayer.

Because people of prayer safeguard basic truths; they are the ones who repeat, first and foremost to themselves and then to all the others, that this life, despite all its toils and trials, despite its difficult days, is full of a grace that is awe inspiring.

*Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
he who has God
nothing lacks,
God alone suffices. (St Teresa of Avila)*

Fr James



Fr James and Fr John would like to wish all parishioners and visitors a holy, peaceful and happy Christmas!



Sandro Botticelli's *The Mystical Nativity* painted around 1500 is a complex painting that symbolizes faith, prophecy, and salvation. It's a visual sermon that represents a teaching of Savonarola's about the second coming of Christ. **Millenarianism**

The painting is inspired by the belief that the world will end and be transformed as predicted in the Book of Revelation.

Unknown martyrs

The three men may represent unknown martyrs being raised up at Christ's second coming. Other elements of the painting that contribute to its meaning include:

- **Angels:** Represent faith, hope, and charity.
- **The child:** The child rests on a sheet that evokes the shroud in which his body will one day be wrapped.
- **The cave:** The cave in which the scene is set calls to mind the child's tomb.
- **The Kings:** The Kings on the left bear no gifts, but their own devotion.

The inscription: An inscription above the composition speaks of the "the troubles of Italy" but also the second coming of Christ.

Liturgical Calendar December 2024 Yr C Psalter Wk 4

Tues 24th	5.00pm	FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS	Peace in the Holy Land
Tues 24th	9.30pm	CHRISTMAS CAROLS	
Tues 24th	10.00pm	MASS OF THE NIGHT [MIDNIGHT MASS]	Persecuted Christians
Wed 25th	8.00am	QUIET DAWN MASS	Bill and Nora Mills RIP
Wed 25th	10.00am	MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY	For peace in the world
Thu 26th	10.00am	ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR (FEAST)	Liji Varghese (Thanksgiving)
Fri 27th	1.00pm	ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST (FEAST)	Alena RIP
Sat 28th	10.30am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS (FEAST)	The unborn
Sat 28th	NB No Confessions or Adoration today		



The Pope's Intention for December 2024

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith: helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

We continue to pray at Christmastide; for refugees and migrants; and expectant mothers.

We remember all who have died and those whose anniversaries occur over the Christmas season

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 Kathleen Spradbery, Ann Marie Hughson, John Moroney, Eddie Gallagher.

Glory to God in the highest!

In that Child, in fact, God-Love is manifest: God comes without weapons, without force, because he does not want to conquer, so to speak, from the outside, but rather wants to be freely received by the human being. God makes himself a defenceless Child to overcome pride, violence and the human desire to possess.

Pope Benedict XVI

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Ministers of the Word

Please see sign-up lists in Narthex for all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

6pm Sarah Williams
Jane Gennard Kathy Weston

6pm Stuart Fox

8am Vera McHale
Cecilia Balestra

8am Helen Booth

10am Mary Cook
Noel Elegado Gerald Okafor
Moses Obanimoh

10am Gwenfair Gillick

Implementing the Synod

The 3 year Synod on Synodality ended in October. One of the experts at the assembly Austen Ivereigh will lead a day at Belmont Abbey on 18th January from 10am to 4pm, to consider how to implement the synod in parishes. All welcome. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee available.



Welcome to any new or visiting parishioners.

Do come and introduce yourselves to the welcomers and come along to the hall after the 10.00am Mass on Sundays for coffee and cake.



Parish Calendar- December 2024

Mon 6th	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
Wed 8th	6.30pm	ABC Scripture Study Group All welcome
Sat 18th	10am-4pm	Implementing the Synod in parishes. Belmont Abbey