



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear Friends, This week the holy season of Lent begins with the traditional imposition of ashes at mass. This is always a sombre moment as we're reminded of our mortality – *Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.* During the earlier part of Lent, the Church exhorts us to strengthen our life with prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We're called to look at our interior lives: to make space and give time to God. We're all good at finding excuses to put off giving time to God, opening our hearts to his love, peace and beauty. Almsgiving is about reaching out to others with the love and peace of God. In his rule, St Benedict devotes a chapter to Lent. He writes: During Lent let us take on some addition to the demands of our accustomed service of the Lord such as special prayers and sacrifice of some of our food and drink. A little further St Benedict adds so that this will increase the joy of spiritual longing with which we should look forward to the holy time of Easter. This year is the year of St Matthew. On most Sundays, the gospel will be from St Matthew, although on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent, the gospel will be from St John. A particular chapter to keep at the forefront of minds during Lent is chapter 6, from the Sermon of the Mount in St Matthew. Here Matthew writes about prayer, almsgiving, fasting, where our true treasure lies and trust in God's providence. **May God bless you. Fr James.**

Liturgical Calendar February 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 2

| | | | |
|----------|---|--|--|
| Sat 14th | 10.30am | STS CYRIL & METHODIUS PATRONS OF EUROPE | <i>Forgotten Souls</i> |
| Sat 14th | 11.00am | Confessions & Adoration | |
| Sat 14th | 6.00pm | 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | <i>Stephen Booth RIP</i> |
| Sun 15th | 8.00am | 6TH SUNDAY | <i>Bill & Kathleen Kennedy RIP</i> |
| Sun 15th | 10.00am | 6TH SUNDAY | <i>Majorie & Cyril Lawden RIP</i> |
| Mon 16th | 9.30am <i>Rosary 9am</i> | Feria | <i>Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP</i> |
| Tue 17th | No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am | | |
| Wed 18th | 1.00pm & 6.00pm | ASH WEDNESDAY with imposition of ashes | <i>Agata Jones Birthday Holy Souls</i> |
| Thu 19th | 9.30am | 1st week of Lent | <i>John Harrison RIP</i> |
| Fri 20th | 12.30pm | Stations of the Cross | |
| Fri 20th | 1.00pm | 1st week of Lent | <i>Souls in purgatory</i> |
| Sat 21st | 10.30am | St Peter Damian | <i>Stephen Baldrey</i> |
| Sat 21st | 11.00am | Confessions & Adoration | |
| Sat 21st | 6.00pm | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT | <i>Patrick Hogan RIP</i> |
| Sun 22nd | 8.00am | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT | <i>Vocations</i> |
| Sun 22nd | 10.00am | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT | <i>The Parish</i> |

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN US ON A PILGRIMAGE TO ENGLAND'S NATIONAL SHRINE TO OUR LADY.

We will travel by coach to Walsingham, leaving from Belmont Abbey on Monday 18 May. Cost per person including breakfast and evening meal is £388 ensuite & £308 standard. The coach cost will be approx £175 per person. Please contact Audrey Fussell 07952 99 36 87 or email afussy@mail.com

Poetry for Pleasure

Thursday 19th February 10:30-12:00 in the Kemble Parish Hall. The theme will be "Family and Friends". If you have difficulty finding poems on this specific theme, any poems inspired by people would be welcomed.



We welcome into God's family **Jessica Terese Jibin** who will be baptized on Monday at 12 noon. A warm welcome to **Jessica** and all her family.

We remember all who have died:

Anniversaries:

Winifred Thatcher, Teresa Dzioba, Sadie Dennehy, Joe Schofield, Ferdinand van der Knaap, Mario Filbrandt, Veronica Debollegui, Winifred Wilson, Audna Talbot.

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, Thomas Leahy, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Martin Feely, Valerie Vaughan Williams, Senan Stokes.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the Church asks us to observe fasting (obligatory from age 18 to 59) and abstinence (age 14 onwards). Fasting means limiting the amount of food we eat—traditionally one full meal, with two smaller meals that together do not equal another full meal. Abstinence means refraining from meat.

Fasting and abstinence help us to recognise our dependence on God. They teach us self-control in a world that constantly encourages excess, and they create space in our lives for prayer and attentiveness to God. Above all, fasting and abstinence are about the heart. They prepare us to walk with Christ on the road to the Cross, helping us to let go of what weighs us down so that we may more fully receive the joy of Easter.



**Ash Wednesday– February 18th
Mass at 1.00pm and 6.00pm.**



Extra weekday Mass on a Friday at 6.00pm throughout Lent.



Archbishop Mark O'Toole celebrating the Deanery Station Mass on Friday 6th March at 7.00pm.



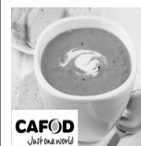
During Lent there will be 2 priests available for confessions on Saturday mornings after Mass. One of the priests will be a visiting priest from St Gregory's.



Walk with me daily prayer booklets have been ordered for all parishioners. Available at the back of church.



The Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday at 12.30pm.



After the Friday 1.00pm Mass why not stay for homemade soup and a roll in the Kemble hall. All proceeds towards CAFOD.



After Monday Mass at 9.30am there is Lectio Divina in the Kemble Hall.

| Ministers of the Eucharist | Ministers of the Word |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 6pm Wendy Winterburn Vigeetha Joseph Jane Gennard | 6pm Fiona Stokes Helen Booth |
| 8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra | 8am Dorothy Kennedy |
| 10am Thomas Kottupallill Lorena D L Auer Moses Obanimoh | 10am Gabriel Gillick Bruno Alves |

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Family Fast Day—Friday 27th February

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



Last chance to book the Rome pilgrimage

The closing date is this weekend. Please see forms at the back of church for more details.

**Herefordshire Deanery
Horizons of Hope Talk with
professor John Loughlin.
Saturday 21st February
Belmont Abbey 10.00am-12.30
Human Dignity:**



The catholic vision and why it matters.

Professor Loughlin is senior research fellow at Blackfriars, Oxford. His forthcoming book is "Human dignity: Its roots and challenges in western thought."



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 8/2/2026

The Parish £738.34



What's on in February 2026

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| Mon 16th | 10.00am | Lectio Divina |
| Mon 16th | 7.00pm | SVP |
| Wed 18th | 6.30pm | ABC Bible study |
| Thur 19th | 10.30am | Poetry for pleasure |