



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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In Chapter 53 of St Benedict's Rule, The Reception of Guests, we read that anyone who arrives at the monastery should be received just as Christ himself. We arrived at Saint Francis Xavier Parish last Monday, not as guests but as the priests to serve you and to be part of the parish community. We have been received just as Christ himself. Although these last few days have been busy with so much to learn and to meet you, it has been a special time for both of us as we've experienced the light and beauty of Christ in the hearts of so many around us.

Our first Sunday with you is the First Sunday of Advent, the start of the Liturgical Year. This is a time to open our hearts and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at the end of time. The Church urges us to look to Christ and get ourselves ready to welcome him into our hearts. During these days of Advent, we think about Christ's coming into our world as a man like us in all things but sin. We're also bidden to think about Christ's second coming at the end of time. Thirdly, Christ dwells in the hearts of each one of us, so we turn our hearts and minds to the presence of Christ in our everyday lives. In short, Advent is about three comings of Christ – Past – Christ's Birth: The Incarnation; Future - Christ's coming at the end of time; and Now - Christ's presence in our hearts in our everyday life.

When we recite the Apostles' Creed, we say: "He [Christ] will come to judge the living and the dead." The Nicene Creed says: "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end." May these days of Advent, be a time when we bring the love, beauty of Christ to members of our families, the parish and all whom we encounter. **Fr James and Fr John**

Liturgical Calendar November/December 2024 Yr C Psalter Wk 1

Sat 30th	10.30am	ST ANDREW, APOSTLE (FEAST)	Gerard & Jeanie Livingstone RIP
Sat 30th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 30th	6.00pm	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (VIGIL)	Michael Flynn RIP
Sun 1st	8.00am	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The Parish
Sun 1st	10.00am	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Dave & Kathy Weston 40th Wedding Anniv.
Mon 2nd	9.30am <i>Rosary 9am</i>	1st Week of Advent	For
Tue 3rd	Saint Francis Xavier Mass at 6.00pm talk at 7.00pm		
Wed 4th	1.00pm <i>Adoration 12 noon</i>	St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church	For the Pope's intentions
Thu 5th	09.30am	1st Week of Advent	Pat Martin
Fri 6th	1.00pm	St Nicholas, Bishop	Raymond Barry RIP (anniversary)
Sat 7th	10.30am	St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Vocations
Sat 7th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 7th	6.00pm	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Holy Souls
Sun 8th	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	E.B.C.
Sun 8th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The Parish

Welcome, Welcome. To our two new priests of the parish: Fr James Hood OSB and Fr John George OSB who are now resident in the parish and raring to go! Fr James and Fr John will be at the back of church after Mass if you would like to say hello. We wish them both all the very best in what we hope will be a long and fruitful ministry with us at SFX.

We also welcome the children and staff from St. Francis Xavier's school to the 10am Mass to participate in the liturgy on this 1st Sunday of Advent.



Advent Bazaar Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the Advent Bazaar; by organising the event, donating items, buying raffle tickets and being there to support the parish. Your work is greatly valued. All proceeds go to parish funds to help maintain our beautiful church.

We remember all who have died: Lately Dead- Aetemio Fario
And those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Lily-Beth Price, Ellen Anstee, Anna Kubielska, Molly Frances, Richard Price, Florence Marsh, James Fleming, Terence Goldrick



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

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."



This Sunday not only marks the start of a new liturgical year (Year C), but also heralds a new Lectionary in Catholic churches across the country. The Lectionary is a book containing the readings for Mass, for Saints, and the sacraments (such as weddings and funerals); it is the book used by the reader when they proclaim the

readings. The Book of the Gospels is the larger, more beautifully decorated book, often carried in procession by a deacon or priest, and is used to proclaim the Gospel reading at Sunday Mass and at other important occasions.

The Second Vatican Council constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) teaches that Christ is always present to us, especially in liturgical celebrations. Christ is supremely present in the sacrifice of the Mass as well as "in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church (SC 7)." The new Lectionary is an invitation for us to rediscover the power of the Word of God in our lives and to spend time listening to what God's word can teach us each day.

The blessing for the new Lectionaries, which will take place at the 10am Sunday Mass, emphasises that sacred Scripture is not composed of old, dead words, but living words that nourish and transform. As the prayer says: Bless these Lectionaries and Book of the Gospel. As they contain your words of life, strengthen by them the faith of your people who, with conviction and boldness, put into practice in their lives what they hear in your word.

In the monastic tradition, the practice of lectio divina (spiritual reading) is the slow, careful reading of Scripture that seeks to personalise the Word of God. It is a great way to immerse yourself more fully into the power of God's word. Why not give it a go by taking one of the readings from Mass today? What word/s resonant with you? How do they challenge you in your life of faith? **Fr. John**

First Thursday Social Club The next meeting will take place on Thursday 5th December 1.30- 3.00 pm in the Parish Hall. Come and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with old friends and new. All are very welcome.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Kathy Weston Sarah Williams Ancy Shajan	6pm Fiona Stokes
8am Vera McHale Cecilia Balestra	8am Stephen Cleeve
10am Noel Elegado Gerald Okafor Moses Obanimoh	10am SFX Pupils

ADVENT begins this Sunday and has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming to us is remembered: and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's coming at the end of time.

A time of watchfulness and prayer. 5 ideas to help us keep a holy Advent

1.A renewed focus on prayer.

At the back of Church take one of the little 'Walk with me' prayer books and use as a daily guide to the holy season.



2.Advent wreath/crown.

An Advent wreath is a wreath with four candles. Usually, three purple and one pink which are lit on the four Sundays of Advent. Each Sunday in Advent, one new candle is lit. Continue to light the same candle(s) each day during the week. Some families do this at dinnertime or during their daily family prayer time.



3.A Religious Advent Calendar

helps countdown the days in a meaningful way. The SVP online shop have some nice examples. svp.org.uk



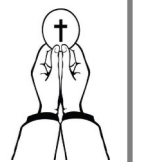
4.Go to Confession

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation. One of the best ways to prepare our hearts is through the purification and healing which the sacrament of Confession brings. A good confession is the best way to welcome the Christ-Child in the stable at Bethlehem.



5.Go to Mass more often

You may want to go to Mass during the week as well as on Sundays. Attending daily Mass helps us to keep our focus more on Christ during Advent and less on the consumerism of Christmas all around us that vies for our attention.



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 for coffee and cake.**



Collections 23rd/24th Nov
1st £324.95 The Parish
2nd £154.65 Renovation
Collection for Fr Andrew £520



Parish Calendar- December 2024

Mon 2nd	7pm	SVP in Parish Hall
Tues 3rd	6.00pm	SFX Feast day Mass followed by a talk at 7.00pm & mince pies!
Thurs 5th	1.30pm	First Thursday social club