



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear All,**  
As we begin the holy season of Lent on this First Sunday, the Church invites us into a time of grace, renewal, and honest self-examination. The Collect prayer speaks of "holy Lent" as a time where "we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ." In the Gospel, Jesus is led into the desert, where he faces temptation and remains faithful to the Father's will. His journey reminds us that Lent is not about testing our strength alone, but about learning to trust more deeply in God. Over these forty days we are called to walk with Christ through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, allowing our hearts to be reshaped by God's mercy. Lent is a gift of time—time to turn again towards the Lord, to recognise our need for him, and to grow in freedom as sons and daughters of God. May this season help us to prepare with hope and humility for the joy of Easter. **Fr John**

## Liturgical Calendar February/March 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 1

Sat 21st	10.30am	St Peter Damian	Stephen Baldrey
Sat 21st	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 21st	6.00pm	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	Patrick Hogan RIP
Sun 22nd	8.00am	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	Vocations
Sun 22nd	10.00am	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	The Parish
Mon 23rd	9.30am Rosary 9am	1st week of Lent	Anna & Tadeusz RIP
Tue 24th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 25th	1.00pm	1st week of Lent	Serian Stokes
Thu 26th	9.30am	1st week of Lent	David Warr RIP Birthday
Fri 27th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Fri 27th	1.00pm	1st week of Lent CAFOD Soup Lunch in hall after Mass	Pat Ledwith RIP
Fri 27th	6.00pm	1st week of Lent	Holy Souls
Sat 28th	10.30am	1st week of Lent	Souls in Purgatory
Sat 28th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 28th	6.00pm	2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	Marie Alcock RIP
Sun 1st	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 1st	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY	Vocations

## The Hereford Passion at the Cathedral:

Friday 6 & Saturday 7 March, 7.30 pm Following on from the success of The Hereford Passion in 2024, The Revd Canon James Pacey will once again bring the story of Jesus' final days to life this Lent. The production will use words, music, action to tell the events of that fateful week against the stunning architecture of Hereford Cathedral nave. Tickets cost £10 per adult and £6 per child and are available from the Cathedral or online: <https://www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/hereford-passion-2026>.



## Retreats and Events at Belmont Abbey

Belmont are now organizing retreats and day events again including a series of **Lent Tuesdays: "Witnesses to the Faith"** from 10am to 3pm at The Chapterhouse. The retreats and events calendar can be found at [www.belmontabbey.org.uk/event-listings](http://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/event-listings) and will be updated through the year.

## We remember all who have died: Anniversaries:

Keith Davies, Veronica King, Judith Lewis, Gladys Bradshaw, Sheila Mills, Anne Hanley, Elizabeth Petry, Michael Knap.

**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.

## DEANERY STATION MASS AT SFX ON FRIDAY 6th MARCH

We are privileged to have been asked to host one of the Lent Station Masses of the Archdiocese on Friday 6th March at 7.00 p.m. Archbishop Mark is celebrating the Station Mass on this day in our church. What are Station Masses?

The "Station Mass" originated in Rome under the auspices of Pope St Gregory the Great (590 – 604). They were conceived as a daily pilgrimage in the footsteps of the martyrs and saints.

Pilgrims and penitents visited forty churches in Rome on foot and performed penitential exercises and celebrated Mass in each "stopping place" or "station". In doing so, they were also following the example of Jesus who went out into the desert and fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for his mission. Archbishop Mark's visit to our church for the Deanery Station Mass is a moment of significance. We will gather in prayer as the Deanery of St John Kemble with our bishop to celebrate mass during this sacred season. Lent is a time of renewal. These forty days are a time when we aim to deepen our life of prayer: to open our hearts to the presence of God and to share that love and joy with those around us. We think of the poor and suffering in our community and in the world. During these days we work to become more Christ-like in our actions and in our thoughts. Lent is a time when we aim to cut out the unnecessary deeds of our daily lives and respond to God's invitation to be a true disciple of his.

On Friday 6th March the Station Church in Rome will be San Vitale on Via Nazionale. In the late fourth century a small chapel was built here to honour the martyrs Saint Gervase and Saint Protase. In the fifth century a wealthy woman named Vestina donated money to build a larger basilica and the church was named, Titulus Vestinae. The name was changed to San Vitale by Pope Saint Gregory the Great. Saint Vitalis was father to Saints Gervase and Protase. He, his wife, Valori and their two sons were all martyrs.

Let us unite in prayer with all who will be attending the Station Mass at San Vitale in Rome.  
**Fr James**



## STATION CHURCH IN ROME – SAN VITALE

Ministers of the Eucharist		Ministers of the Word	
6pm	Kathy Weston Wendy Winterburn Angela Holmes	6pm	Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am	Vera McHale Cecilia Balestra	8am	Stephen Cleeve
10am	Thomas Kottuppallil Noel Elegado Maria Brennan	10am	Andy Milne Audrey Fussell

## 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](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



## An Evening Concert with The Hereford Fire Choir

in memory of Joyce Ingram Friday 13th March 2026 7:00pm St Francis Xavier's Church, HR4 9AP Tickets £8 on the door to include

Refreshments Bar NB cash only—no card facilities. Raising funds for *Conquer The Great Wall of China Trek for St Michael's Hospice* by Caroline, in memory of her husband Kevin. All proceeds will go directly to the Hospice.



**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 15/2/2026**  
**The Parish £567.26**

What's on in February/March 2026		
Fri 27th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Fri 27th	1.30pm	Soup Lunch/CAFOD
Fri 27th	CAFOD Family Fast Day	
Fri 6th	7.00pm	Deanery Station Mass