



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear Friends, On this Third Sunday of Lent we encounter Jesus at Jacob's Well talking to the Samaritan woman. Jesus speaks to her about the living water. That living water was given to us at our baptism. Not only were we cleansed of our sins, but we also received a spring of living water.

On the Fourth Sunday, Jesus heals the blind man. He is anointed with paste: his eyes are opened. At our confirmation, we were anointed with the oil of Chrism and we received the gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of Lord.

On the Fifth Sunday, Lazarus is raised from the dead. Jesus declares that he is the Resurrection. Our attention turns to the Eucharist, the Sunday Mass. When we receive Holy Communion, we are given life. We encounter Jesus Himself:

This is my Body, which will be given up for you.

We receive the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation once in our lives, but they should be lived out every day. When we were baptised, we were incorporated into the Church and we were called to profess before all the faith we have received from God through the Church. At our Confirmation we were more perfectly bound to the Church and endowed with the special strength of the Holy Spirit. We are strengthened by the body of Christ in the eucharistic communion. May these three Sundays in Lent be a time to renew and deepen our relationship with Christ, our Saviour, as we live out our new birth in the waters of baptism. **Fr James**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We are blessed in having beautiful Stations of the Cross on the walls of our church. They were modelled from designs first exhibited by a Belgian artist at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Every Friday in Lent we pray the Stations at 12.30 pm. before the 1.00 p.m. mass.

The Stations of the Cross (or Via Crucis) is a 14-step Catholic devotion commemorating Jesus Christ's passion and death, typically prayed during Lent and on Good Friday. It involves meditating on scenes from his condemnation to his burial, prayerfully walking alongside Jesus and encountering him like never before. There are fourteen Stations of the Cross. Each is an invitation to contemplate and experience a pivotal moment from Jesus' sentencing to his death, to his burial. They are a powerful way to step into some of the most significant moments in human history and encounter Jesus like never before. Catholics have been devoted to praying the Stations of the Cross for over 1000 years.

The fourteen stations are:

1. Jesus is Condemned to Death
2. Jesus Carries the Cross
3. Jesus Falls for the First Time
4. Jesus Meets His Mother
5. Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross
6. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
7. Jesus Falls a Second Time
8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus Falls a Third Time
10. Jesus is stripped of His Garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus Dies on the Cross
13. Jesus' Body is Removed from the Cross
14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb



Have you noticed on the 6th station, 'Veronica wipes the face of Jesus' The artist has etched a faint but beautiful imprint of the face of Jesus on the cloth? Worth a look after Mass. Fr James

An open invitation to anyone living close to the area of Moreland Avenue, Penn Grove Road or College Road. A Lectio Divina group has been formed and will meet on Thursday 12th March from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Contact Fr James or the office for details.



Coffee/tea and toast in the Kemble Parish Hall after the **8 am Mass this Sunday.** All welcome, do pop in.

Liturgical Calendar March 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 3

Sat 7th	10.30am	2nd week of Lent	<i>Souls in purgatory</i>
Sat 7th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 7th	6.00pm	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 8th	8.00am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	<i>Peter Millin & Tom McCourt RIP</i>
Sun 8th	10.00am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	<i>K.V. Jose RIP</i>
Mon 9th	9.30am <i>Rosary 9am</i>	3rd week of Lent	<i>Laura Dziurawicz</i>
Tue 10th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 11th	1.00pm	3rd week of Lent	<i>Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP</i>
Thu 12th	9.30am	3rd week of Lent	<i>Patricia Mills RIP</i>
Fri 13th	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Fri 13th	1.00pm	3rd week of Lent	<i>Barbara Bailey</i>
Fri 13th	6.00pm	3rd week of Lent	<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
Sat 14th	10.30am	3rd week of Lent	<i>John, James, Thomas McSherry</i>
Sat 14th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 14th	6.00pm	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	<i>Evangelisation</i>
Sun 15th	8.00am	4TH SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 15th	10.00am	4TH SUNDAY	<i>Sandy Elliot</i>

Latest News from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Getting closer to Go through Scripture



Lent is a time when we are invited to deepen our relationship with Scripture, particularly through listening to and engaging with the Word of God. On this month's *At the Foot of the Cross* podcast,

Fleur Dorrell, our Biblical Apostolate Manager, explores how we can make our engagement with the Bible a habit for life, not just for Lent.

We have reposted Fleur's Scriptural reflection as a standalone *Catholic News* podcast. Not so much a 'Bible for Dummies' piece, more a very useful 17-minute explainer.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/podcast/listening-to-the-word-in-lent/>

We remember all who have died:

Anniversaries:

Evelyn Hill,
Rosemary Cypionka, Mary Halls,
Nadia Humphreys, John Luby,
Marie Power, Pat Rumbold,
William Found, Philip Preece,
Sheila Fawcett.

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.



SFX Big Lent Walk Eastnor Deer Park

On Sunday 22nd March there will be a Parish walk around Eastnor Deer Park, (Ledbury) following the same route that we have walked for the past 2 years. Meet at the free car park by the Woodshed Café (HR8 1RA) near the entrance to Eastnor Castle, ready to start walking at 2pm. The route follows a 2.5 mile track (mainly tarmac) around the park. For those who would like an extra challenge, there is an extension route up to the Obelix. The path adds an extra mile to the walk and is quite steep, but you are rewarded with fabulous views from the top. This route is chosen to be as weather proof and accessible as possible, with no stiles to negotiate. While there is normally no charge for Parish walks, on this walk you are invited to make a contribution to CAFOD. Please note: the Woodshed café accepts card only payment. The Woodshed carpark is quite large but is usually very busy, so please share lifts.



Parish 200 Club. We have pleasure in announcing the winners of the **January Draw.** 1st Di Power £30; 2nd Maggie Daron £20; 3rd Kay James £10. Winners of the **February Draw.** 1st Helen Booth £30; 2nd Clare Davis £20; 3rd Brigid Fresle



Poetry for Pleasure The next meeting is on Thursday 19th March 1030-1200 in the Kemble Parish Hall. The theme is "Contemporary Life". Bring a few poems to share about life from approximately 1950s onwards. As always, everyone is welcome to join this friendly group. No specialist knowledge is required, just a shared enjoyment of poetry.



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 1/3/2026

The Parish £832.21



What's on in March 2026

Mon 9th	10.15am	Lectio Divina (Hall)
Fri 13th	12.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Fri 13th	1.30pm	Cafod Soup lunch
Fri 13th	6.00pm	Lent Mass