



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

Served by the monks of Belmont Abbey- Parish Priest Fr. Brendan Thomas OSB,
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Dear All, Last Sunday we had the Parish Barbecue which despite one brief light rain shower went very well; it brought our family of God here at SFX together and enabled us to get to know better old friends and new. Thank you to everyone who came and to all those who made the event such a success. A special word of thanks goes to those who cooked the sausages and burgers to perfection. Thank you to everyone for such a wonderful afternoon. In today's Gospel we see Jesus healing a deaf man who also had a speech impediment. Jesus' compassion can be clearly seen as He takes the man aside privately, showing him the personal care and attention that all of us kindness shows us that Jesus is deeply concerned with individual needs and suffering. He doesn't just perform miracles for the crowd's sake but addresses the personal struggles of each one of us. He looked upwards towards Heaven, and then says simply, "Ephphatha" (which means "Be opened"), and by doing so Jesus restores the man's hearing and speech. The physical healing of the deaf and mute man can be seen as a metaphor for spiritual healing. Just as Jesus opened the man's ears and loosened his tongue, He can open our hearts and minds to understand and proclaim God's word. This miracle symbolises the opening of spiritual ears and the loosening of tongues to speak God's truth. We are encouraged to recognise and celebrate the works of God in our lives and to share this with others. It also challenges us to respond with faith and gratitude to God's work in our lives. Today's Gospel challenges us to look at our lives and to ask ourselves where we need the healing touch of God in our lives, where we need his mercy and compassion. It also reminds us that we must be bold in sharing our faith with others. Jesus can transform lives, he can change us if only we would let him. **Fr Andrew**

Liturgical Calendar September 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 3

Sat 7th	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	For Our Lady's Intention
Sat 7th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 7th	6.00pm	23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	The Parish
Sun 8th	8.00am	23RD SUNDAY	Forgotten Souls
Sun 8th	10.00am	23RD SUNDAY	Socrate & Maria Bisconti (57th Wedding Anniv)
Mon 9th	9.30am Rosary 9.00am	Blessed Frederic Ozanam (SVP)	Charles & Mary Hall RIP
Tues 10th	No Mass here. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 11th	1.00pm Adoration 12 noon	Feria	Forgotten Souls
Thu 12th	09.30am	Feria	Vincent Hanna RIP
Fri 13th	1.00pm Adoration & Divine Mercy	St John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Gilbert Fresle RIP
Sat 14th	10.30am	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY	Holy Souls
Sat 14th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 14th	6.00pm	24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Peter Millin Tom McCourt
Sun 15th	8.00am	24TH SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 15th	10.00am	24TH SUNDAY	The Pope's Intention

We welcome into God's family Msurshima Uzua who will be baptised this Saturday at 4.00pm. We warmly welcome Msurshima and her family into our parish.



The Pope's Intention for September We pray for all those living on the margins of society, in inhumane living conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of less importance.

Scaffolding next week! We hope to be starting the painting and renovation of the front of the church next week. The Church will be open as normal 8.00am-5.00pm. More details to follow.

We remember all who have died and those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Mary Pockett, Anthony Coyne, Judith Gray, Veronica Hill, Sadie Keavney, Gilbert Fresle, Henriette Crane, Vincent Hanna, Valentine Bird, Louisa Weed, Kevin Pockett, Carmela Langford, Andrea Balleza, Bernhard Grobelny, Francesca Burton.

Lately Dead
George Mecina, Paul Barron
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, Roy Pigou.

Jesus, The Holy Eucharist and Blessed Carlo Acutis.



Jesus, before he ascended into heaven, told us that he would not leave us orphans; he has left us his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. We are invited to come and adore him next Sunday 15th September after the 10am Mass when the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until 3pm, when there will be Benediction. Pope, Saint John Paul II observed that, "...the Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic worship. Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, yet there is a temptation to be unexcited and underwhelmed as we are so familiar with it. It is a great source of grace, strength and comfort as has been attested to over the years, and there have been many eucharistic miracles. The Church has investigated and confirmed a number of these and in most cases the consecrated host has been found to contain myocardial cells; in other words tissue from the heart. Christ has truly given us his Sacred Heart and his Precious Blood to sustain us on our life's journey.

Blessed Carlo Acutis had a wonderful devotion to the Holy Eucharist. It is expected that he will soon be canonised, though he died just a few years ago, from leukaemia, aged fifteen, in 2006. He made a study of Eucharistic miracles. Learn about the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles he created and designed: www.miracolieucaistici.org Blessed Carlo said, "the Eucharist is the highway to heaven." He lived each day cheerfully, always united with Jesus. Please sign up today for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the sign up sheets at the back of church. We need the Holy Eucharist.

P Poetry for Pleasure We will be starting the 2024/25 season on Thursday 26th September 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme will be "Some of our favourite poems". Bring a few poems to share with the group Don't forget the summer challenge of learning a poem by heart! It's not too late to start now.

Next Sunday, on **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday** (previously Home Mission Sunday) there will be a retiring collection after all Masses. This is to support the work of evangelisation at home which, as in all times, is such a vital witness and duty of the Church. The theme is: **Growing as missionary disciples.**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Sarah Slancauskas Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Fiona Stokes
8am Frances Hetterley Vera McHale	8am Stephen Cleeve
10am Mary Cook Maria (Mia) Brennan Gerald Okafor Noel Elegado	10am Andrew Milne

Parish Walk with a difference! Normally, parish walks are in the beautiful countryside around Hereford. However, a walk with a difference has been organised for Sunday 29th September. The composer Sir Edward Elgar was a parishioner of St Francis Xavier's while he lived in Hereford between 1904 and 1911. The Guild of Guides offer an "Elgar in Hereford" guided walk at a cost of £6 per adult and £1 per child. The walk lasts approximately one and a half hours. It is suitable for wheelchair users. A walk for our parish has been provisionally arranged for Sunday 29th September, starting at 2 pm and ending with tea/scone in the Hall (with Elgar music of course!) If you would like to walk, you MUST sign the sheets at the back of church either this weekend (7th/8th) or next weekend (14th/15th) so that guides can be organised. Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex.

TINTERN SUNG VESPERS:

An Ecumenical Service of Prayers for Peace at 3.00pm on Sunday, 8th September at Tintern Abbey. The speaker is The Most Reverend Mark O'Toole, Archbishop of Cardiff and Menevia; also in attendance are monks of Belmont Abbey. Entry to the Abbey is free for those attending the service and it is advisable to bring a folding chair. Lunches and teas are available in Tintern village.



HEREFORDSHIRE DEANERY HORIZONS OF HOPE

The Dignity of Being Male and Female

Gender Identity and the Catholic Understanding of the Human Person



with Fr Stephen Fawcett
Priest and moral theologian of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Wednesday 11th September 7.00pm
At St Francis Xavier's Church, Hereford HR4 9AP

Collections 1&2nd September

1st £497.22 The Parish
2nd 412.09 Renovation

Second Collection next week 15th Sept. Home Mission Sunday.

Parish Calendar- September 2024

Sun 8th	3.00pm	Vespers Tintern Abbey
Mon 9th	6.30pm	ABC Bible study Group in hall
Wed 11th	7.00pm	'The Dignity of being Male and Female. Fr Stephen Fawcett
Sun 29th	2.00pm	Parish Walk