



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear All,** This weekend we have a pastoral letter for the Holy Family from Archbishop Mark who writes about Jesus' childhood and the virtues of the family life. The Gospel writers relate very little about the life of Jesus from his birth to the beginning of his public ministry, but when they do mention the Holy Family, they are almost always on the move: fleeing to Egypt, going up to Jerusalem for purification, and returning to find the lost child Jesus.

This sense of a family on the move might resonate with many families here at St Francis Xavier's. There are many families living in different countries, unable to spend Christmastide together; changes at home, work, and in health can all reveal the insecurity of life for many at this time. Pope Francis often says that we are not just living in an era of change but in a change of era. Our parish community, then, can be a source of faith, hope, and stability for many who find this time of year difficult. Saint Paul gives us a programme for the coming year: "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

The events surrounding the birth of our Saviour fade away, and the Holy Family lives a very ordinary domestic life. As such, they provide a model for families to imitate, as the words of the Collect pray: "that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity."

Archbishop Mark also encourages families to go on pilgrimage during this Jubilee year. Our own Church has been designated as one of the pilgrim churches for the archdiocese, along with Belmont Abbey and so look at for events for you and your family to get involved in as we travel together as pilgrims of hope. **Fr John**

## Liturgical Calendar December/January 2024/5 Yr C Psalter Wk 1

Sat 28th	10.30am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	<i>The unborn</i>
Sat 28th	11.00am	<b>NB: NO Confessions and Adoration</b>	
Sat 28th	6.00pm	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	<i>For families</i>
Sun 29th	8.00am	THE HOLY FAMILY	<i>Vocations</i>
Sun 29th	10.00am	THE HOLY FAMILY	<i>The parish</i>
Mon 30th	9.30am	6th Day within the Octave of Christmas	<i>Peter Millin</i>
Tue 31st	No Mass here. Mass at Our Lady's at 9.30am		<i>Cheriyath Joseph</i>
Wed 1st	1pm	MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (SOLEMNITY)	<i>Thomas McCourt</i>
Thu 2nd	9.30am	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	<i>1. Margo Crimmings 2. Philip Cook</i>
Fri 3rd	1.00pm	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
Sat 4th	10.30am	Weekday before the Epiphany	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Sat 4th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 4th	6.00pm	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	<i>Dwarka Prasad RIP</i>
Sun 5th	8.00am	THE EPIPHANY	<i>Sue Young RIP</i>
Sun 5th	10.00am	THE EPIPHANY	<i>Catherine Warr RIP</i>



### From Fr James & Fr John

Thank you so much and to so many of you for all the hard work and dedication that you gave over the Christmas period. To the cleaners, musicians, crib builders, servers, flower arrangers, readers, welcomers, Eucharistic Ministers, and many more.

Your support of our parish is most appreciated.

On Wednesday the 8th January we welcome a visit from Chile of a group of lay Benedictine women called the Manquehue Apostolic community.



After visiting Belmont they will be joining us for the 1.00pm Mass and then after a shared lunch will be giving a short talk and explanation on the work they do. It would be lovely if any parishioner wanted to come and meet the community and join in the lunch.

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

Patrick Jeffers, Pierina Gallagher, Alena Liskova, Angela Rosier, Joseph Lauria, Vera Franklin, Patrick John King, Desmond Davies, Norah Mills, Christina Withyman, Wanda Jones, Philip Cook, James Joynt, Angelo Moruzzi, Alan Zammit, Wiktor Daron



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, Eddie Gallagher, Pauline and David Day.



**The Sanctuary lamp,** hanging over the small mass altar and visible to all, was given by Mrs Isabella Rogers who was sacristan to the Church for many years. This light burns all the time as the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle behind the High Altar.

The gilded tabernacle is a replica of the tabernacle in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in St Peter's in Rome. There are two inscriptions: round the base are, in Latin, 'My flesh is food indeed' and round the centre 'Behold the bread of Angels. Truly the Bread of the Children of Men. O Good Shepherd, Thou art our Feast, our support. Jesus have mercy on us.'

In the reserved hosts we have the real presence of Christ. At every Mass, the bread and wine offered become the Body and Blood of Christ; Christ is present in a unique way in those species reserved.

St Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican friar, theologian, philosopher, and Doctor of the Church was born 1225 and died 1274 wrote the following on the Eucharist: He offered his body to God the Father on the altar of the Cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation; and he shed his blood for our ransom and our cleansing, so that we might be redeemed from wretched captivity and cleansed from all sins.

How precious and wonderful is this banquet, which brings us salvation and full of delight! What could be more precious? ....At this meal Christ, the true God, is set before us to eat. What could be more wonderful than this sacrament?

No sacrament contributes more to our salvation than this; for it purges away our sins, increases our virtues, and nourishes our minds with an abundance of all the spiritual gifts.

It is offered in the Church for the living and the dead, so that it may be beneficial to all, as it was instituted for the salvation of all.

Fr James

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Sarah Williams Ancy Shajan Kathy Weston	6pm Philip Dixon
8am Cecilia Balestra Vera McHale	8am Helen Booth
10am Mary Cook, Noel Elegado Gerald Okafur	10am Gwenfair Gillick Iola Gillick



### Building News Update

Just in the nick of time the scaffolding came down for Christmas. Unfortunately too late to put up the outdoor crib. This will be back for next year though. The restoration and redecoration has been a major undertaking for the parish but was urgently needed and has really smartened up the front of the church and we hope our beautiful church will continue to draw in many passers-by. Our church is now open 7 days a week 8.00am – 5.00pm so do feel free to pop in when you are in town or invite people to come in to see our lovely crib and light a candle.

**Parish 200 Club. Winners November Draw 2024** 1st Bernadette Crowley £30; 2nd Sylvia Cockroft £20; 3rd Carola Morton £10. **Winners December Draw 2024** 1st Vera McHale £30; 2nd Brigid Fresle £20; 3rd Paul Puthen £10. Finally, **the Christmas £100 STAR DRAW PRIZE** goes to Monica Zakowicz.. **That's all for 2024.**

### Re-newals for 2025, due NOW!

Congratulations to the Winners who can collect their letters from the Sacristy.



Well done to all of the volunteers who turned out for singing carols on the steps just before Christmas. Over £100 was raised to help support our local foodbank at Christmas and also it gives great witness that Christ is alive and well in our churches!

### Fr James and Fr John

would like to send their warm greetings to all, wishing everyone a Holy and Peaceful 2025 and with thanks for your generosity over Christmas with cards, presents and the Christmas collection. Happy New Year to all!



**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 21st/22nd Dec**  
1st £396.63 The Parish  
2nd £289.52 Renovation



### Parish Calendar- January 2025

Mon 6th	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall New members welcome.
Wed 8th	6.30pm	ABC Scripture group. All welcome
Sat 18th	10.00am 4.00pm	Implementing the Synod Belmont Abbey