



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 There was an excellent meeting this week with the Historic Churches Committee to take forward some projects at SFX. As well as some of the professionals involved, Fr Michael and Stuart Fox, chair of the PAC (Parish Advisory Council) were also present.



It now looks as if we will have the go-ahead to install the solar panels at the end of May. We hope to benefit with reduced energy costs from the summer onwards, as well as moving to a greener and more sustainable energy source for the future.

Have you noticed how weathered and deteriorated the church façade has become? It is over 20 years since it was painted and is in urgent need of attention. We have permission to repaint the church this autumn. There are certain conditions for repainting an historic building, so it will be the same yellow colour, but I am told there are newer paints available that are a lot more durable. Finally, we have plans to improve the narthex with new notice boards, a small repository and a storage area that could be used for chairs or hymn books. A skilled local craftsman has drawn up proposals and we have received a legacy from one of our parishioners that can go towards the cost. The plans are on the board to be seen – the design is fairly simple but practical.

All of this will be discussed at the next PAC meeting on 21st May, at which I will be present. If you have any thoughts on these or any other matters, please pass them on to me or to a member of the PAC. **Fr Brendan**

Liturgical Calendar May 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 2

Sat 4th	10.30am	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS (FEAST)	Rose Jose RIP Anniversary
Sat 4th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 4th	6.00pm	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Thomas Diath
Sun 5th	8.00am	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Henry John
Sun 5th	10.00am	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	The Parish
Mon 6th	9.30am	6th Week of Easter	Claire Albrow Anniversary
Tues 7th	No public mass here. Mass at OL at 9.30am		
Wed 8th	1.00pm	6th Week of Easter	Helen Zammit
Wed 8th	6.00pm	VIGIL OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	Rob Brodie RIP
Thu 9th	1.00pm	ASCENSION OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)	Mary Hall RIP
Fri 10th	1.00pm	6th Week of Easter	Grace - Good Health
Sat 11th	10.30am	6th Week of Easter	Suffering Souls
Sat 11th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 11th	6.00pm	7 TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Christian Hodges
Sun 12th	8.00am	7 TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Louise Soares RIP
Sun 12th	10.00am	7 TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	The Parish

Belmont Torchlight Procession

Come and join the Belmont community for one of the highlights of the church year. Belmont Abbey's Torchlight Procession always draws big crowds from around Herefordshire and Wales to what is a beautiful evening in honour of Our Lady in her month of May. It takes place at **9pm on Wednesday 15th May.**



A baptism to celebrate

We welcome into God's family **Franco Espejo** who will be baptised this Sunday at 12.00 noon. We warmly welcome Franco and his family to the parish.



We remember all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Shiela McPherson, Olive Jones, Joe Lawrence, Kieran Powell, Allen Flowers, Stephen Farr, Teodoro Donativo, Stephanie West, Catharina Wales.

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, Teresa Loftus, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, David Warr, James Spradbery.

Ascension Thursday- 9th May A Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates Jesus' ascension into Heaven. Historically, this holy day has been celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday – the Thursday of the Sixth week of Easter. The Ascension of the Lord Jesus into heaven is a mystery rooted in history and spoken of in Scripture, like the Resurrection. It is presented both at the end of Matthew's Gospel and at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles.



It's easy to misunderstand the Ascension, as if Christ were abandoning his disciples. But Jesus promised that this wouldn't happen, saying "I will not leave you desolate" (John 14:18) and "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matt. 28:20). Similarly, we misunderstand the Ascension if we imagine that Jesus is returning to heaven, as if he ever left heaven in the first place. As St. Augustine points out, Jesus "did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. **Instead, Christ's Ascension is really his enthronement in heaven.**

Ascension Thursday is only the beginning. Christ has the first body in heaven, but not the last. He is followed soon after by his mother, which is why we celebrate the Assumption. And someday, God willing, we will all join him. This is why the angel's message on Ascension Thursday is forward-looking: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). The union between heaven and earth has begun, and it is irrevocable. Our journey now is to prepare for that union to be completed within us.

St Mary's High School Lugwardine PTFA

Are organising a family quiz night Friday 17 May 6.30pm for 7 pm start. Bartestree village Hall £10pp to include ploughman's supper. Tea/coffee, Raffle, Bar. Contact linzy parry 07929277604 for tickets.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Sarah Williams Imogen Cockroft, TBA	6pm Philip Dixon
8am Cecilia Balestra Vera McHale	8am Helen Booth
10am Mia Brennan, Noel Elegado, Thomas Kottuppallil Moses Obanimoh	10am Liz Symonds

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE - Monday 23rd - Saturday 28th September 2024.



Led by Fr. Matthew Carney - Our Lady & St. Michael's, Abergavenny Parish. Flying from Stanstead, direct to Tarbes/Lourdes Airport. Organised by Tangney Tours, 5 nights Full Board in Hotel Alba, £708 Sharing, £858 single. Coach travel from Abergavenny, 5.30am on 23rd, returning approx. 4pm on 28th. Cost of coach extra, depends on number of pilgrims, between £60-£100 per person. Info available by e-mailing Fr. Matthew at fr.matthew@live.co.uk or on the Abergavenny parish website www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk

St Francis Xavier's Church, Hereford is hosting a special Mass for Filipinos on Sunday 26th May, Trinity Sunday, at 12 noon.

The celebrant will be Fr Francisco Cruz. All Filipinos from local parishes are welcome to attend. It will be followed by a shared lunch at the hall. Please bring food to share. Join us for this wonderful celebration.



Churches together in Herefordshire AGM

Open meeting at Challenge Community Church on 8th May at 7pm. We are looking for another Catholic representative to sit on our Standing Committee. If you have any nominations to put forward from the Catholic Churches, please let me know so I can add this to the AGM agenda. Many thanks, *Emma Wright* County Ecumenical Officer, Churches Together in Herefordshire.

Could you go along to the meeting as a representative of SFX and give a short report back? Please contact the office if you could do this. Thank you.

Is The Stranger Still Welcome?

A talk by Megan Knowles of the Jesuit Refugee Service Megan has spent over 7 years working alongside refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Her work with the Jesuit Refugee Service has focused on raising awareness and amplifying the voices & experiences of refugees, which can lead to a positive change in their lives. 7pm on Thursday 16th May at Hedley Lodge. Belmont Abbey.



A Cup of Tea/Coffee and Cake

Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass. A great way to make new friends and meet with Fr Gregory.



Collections 20/21st April
1st £ 546.38 The Parish
2nd £ 333.04 Renovation

Parish Calendar- May 2024		
Wed 15th	9.00pm	Torchlight procession, Belmont
Thurs 16th	7.00pm	Belmont Talk on Refugees