


# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Mrs Margaret Daron  
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**Dear All,** On Monday we celebrate the feast of one of my favourite saints, Augustine of Hippo. He is, alongside St Thomas Aquinas, the Church's greatest theologian.

But it is his human story that moves me, told in his *Confessions* – the first 'modern' autobiography. It is a psychologically profound and dazzling account of the work of grace in the human soul. It is the story of a restless and wayward youth coming back to the faith crying to God: "Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new." Augustine compared his conversion to a lazy man in bed finally deciding it is time to get up to face the day. He rejected high civil office and become a monk, bishop, philosopher, mystic, poet and theologian all in one.

Today we celebrate the feast of St Monica, his mother (eclipsed by the Sunday this year). It was her prayers and persistence that supported her son Augustine throughout his life. She is the patron saint of mothers who continue to pray quietly for the spiritual well-being of their children.

She died at Ostia, the port of Rome while waiting to return to North Africa, saying to Augustine: "Bury me wherever you want. But all I ask is that you remember me at the altar of God." She understood that we remember our loved ones best not at the graveside, but here at the altar where the living and the dead are alive in Christ. I remember the feast of St Monica fondly, as four years ago today my mother passed away. We can give thanks for all our loved ones who have supported us not only materially but spiritually with their love and prayers and remember them here at the altar of God. **Fr Brendan**



**Liturgical Calendar August 2023 Year A Psalter week 1**

Sat 26th	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Holy Souls
Sat 26th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 26th	6.00pm	21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Holy Souls
Sun 27th	8.00am	21ST SUNDAY	Jeff Wilson RIP
Sun 27th	10.00am	21ST SUNDAY	Parish
Mon 28th	9.30am	St Augustine, Bishop Doctor of the Church	Veronica Thomas RIP
Tue 29th	No public Mass here. Mass at OL 9.30am		
Wed 30th	1.00pm	Feria	Migrant Refugees
Thu 31st	9.30am	St Aidan, Bishop, and Saints of Lindisfarne	Parish
Fri 1st	1.00pm	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	Eileen and Ray Cotterell, 68th wedding Anniversary
Sat 2nd	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Holy Souls
Sat 2nd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 2nd	6.00pm	22ND SUNDAY	Ajit Singh
Sun 3rd	8.00am	21ST SUNDAY	Parish
Sun 3rd	10.00am	21ST SUNDAY	Socrate and Maria Bisconti 10th wedding Anniversary

**Deanery Mass: 14<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm At Belmont Abbey.**

There will be a wonderful opportunity for the Catholics in Herefordshire to come together for a special Mass and Celebration. We plan to have the Mass on the lawn – weather permitting. Belmont has a relic of the Holy Cross, so Mass will finish the with adoration and blessing of the relic: "Lord, by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the World!" There will be refreshments in Hedley Lodge afterwards. If you can, please bring cake or something sweet to share!



**Remembrance**

Declan O'Brien, Marion Prosser, Eva Connolly, Jean Goldrick, John Richardson, Fr Anthony Tumelty, Margaret Bartlett, Douglas James, Brung Henniker-Heaton, Marie Dyke, Anthony Rosser.

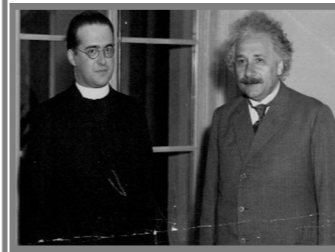


**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

**Prayer for the Sick:**

Ania Kuzba, Joan Colley, Jan Beavan, Malcolm Darke, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Christina James, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Fr Keith, Mary Elizabeth, George Mecina, Ana Rudnicki, Sue Forder, Ausura Chukarov, Margaret Skelding, Dennis Schiavon.

**Television station rediscovers lost interview with priest who developed Big Bang theory**



A Belgian television station has rediscovered a twenty minute video in which Fr. Georges Lemaitre, considered the father of the Big Bang theory, explains what the origin of the universe may have been like.

Lemaitre was a Belgian astrophysicist known for being the first academic to propose the theory of the expansion of the universe from a massive explosion of what he called a "primordial atom" or "cosmic egg." Until now, only photographs of Lemaitre were preserved, the most popular being the one where he appears alongside Albert Einstein. However, the VRT tv station recently found a video in which the father of the Big Bang explains. (Search- VRT YouTube channel.)

**Why does this matter to me a parishioner?** Why matter, time, space, and energy have not always existed – if they erupted into existence at a point in the past, not infinitely long ago – then whatever brought them into existence can't have been matter, time, space, or energy. It can only have been something that transcended those, which is a very good fit for God?



**A Common Objection "If the Big Bang needs a Big Banger then what caused God?"**

Some atheists think they can refute this argument by asking, "If everything needs a cause, then what caused God?" The argument from the beginning of the universe, however, never says that *everything* requires a cause. It only claims that *everything* that *begins to exist* requires a cause for its existence. Since we have good reasons to believe that the universe began to exist, then the universe requires an explanation for why it exists. God, on the other hand, never began to exist because he is eternal (he created time itself), and therefore God requires no cause for his existence. He has always existed; but the universe has not always existed. For more discussion on this see <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-heavens-declare-the-glory-of-god>

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
<b>6pm</b> Jane Gennard Ancy Shajan Vigeetha Joseph	<b>6pm</b> Philip Dixon
<b>8am</b> Angela Holmes Vera McHale	<b>8am</b> Dorothy Kennedy
<b>10am</b> Thomas Kottappullil Dominic Smedley Noel Elegado	<b>10am</b> Stephen Booth

**PARISH BBQ 27th August 11.30 am. Is happening this Weekend!**

Because it is an English Bank Holiday Weekend! We hope and pray for good Weather! The BBQ will start at 11.30 After the 10.00am mass. A Big Thank you in advance to Paul and Brenda Williams and a number of other helpers who have worked so hard to put this on.




**Wedding News** With great Joy **Katarzyna Tokarz** and **Sergiu-Angelo Brehar** will be married here at SFX on Saturday 26th August at 2.00pm. We wish them a long, happy and holy marriage and many blessings for the future.



**Guys and Girls between 18-35**, you're invited to join the Young Catholics group of SFX. **September 8th at 6pm** in the main hall. We are kicking the night off with some deep prayer in the presence of Christ before the blessed sacrament by candle light, while we pray 3 mysteries of the Rosary, each decade having a prayer intention of your choice. All after our daily gospel reading. We'll then follow with, after our soul nourishment, with some Pizza and a social with an early evening visit to the Pub. To get involved or ask questions...

Contact Pete below:  
E-mail: [youngcatholicsatsfx@gmail.com](mailto:youngcatholicsatsfx@gmail.com)  
Instagram: @youngcatholicssfx  
WhatsApp: +447538609151  
Get in contact soon so we can organise your favourite pizza!

**Catholics aged 18 to 45? YouCAN are organizing a Monastery Day at Belmont Abbey, on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for you! Quiet time with God and one another, Mass, Confessions, Prayer, Bible Study and the Divine Office.**

**For bookings and further information contact [rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk](mailto:rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk)**

**Tea, Coffee and Cake** Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass.



Thank you!

**Collections for 19th/20th August**

1st Collection £460.23  
2nd Collection £359.97



**Parish Calendar - August/September**

Sun 27th	11.30am	Parish BBQ
Wed 6th	6.30pm	ABC Bible study. All Welcome
Sun 10th	3.00pm	Vespers at Tintern Abbey
Thur 14th	6.30pm	Deanery Mass at Belmont