



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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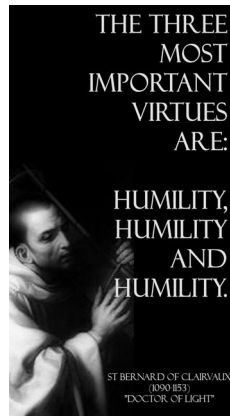
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Dear All, As we gather on this 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Word of God invites us to reflect on one of the most beautiful yet most challenging virtues: humility. Saint Augustine wrote that "it was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels". In the Gospel today, Jesus reminds us that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. True greatness in the Kingdom of God does not come from seeking recognition, honour, or reward, but from lowering ourselves in service to others.

We are also reminded that our generosity should mirror God's own — freely given, without calculation or expectation of repayment. To welcome those who cannot repay us, to serve those who may never thank us, is to love as Christ loves. The first reading identifies greatness with humbleness. Humility is a recognition of the truth. Its foundation is self-knowledge and a realization of our proper relationship with God. As we come to this Eucharist, we bring before the Lord our pride, our ambitions, our self-interest, and ask for the grace to become humble disciples — content with the "lowest place," knowing that in Christ we find our true dignity and our eternal reward. **Fr John**



Liturgical Calendar Aug/September 2025 Yr C Psalter Wk 2

Sat 30th	10.30am	MASS OF OUR LADY	<i>Souls in purgatory</i>
Sat 30th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 30th	6.00pm	22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<i>Louis Williams RIP</i>
Sun 31st	8.00am	22ND SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 31st	10.00am	22ND SUNDAY	<i>John Moroney RIP</i>
Mon 1st	9.30am Rosary 9am	Feria	<i>Veronica Hyde RIP</i>
Tue 2nd	NO PUBLIC MASS. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30		
Wed 3rd	1.00pm	St Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church	<i>Eileen & Ray Cotterell 70th Wedding Anniversary</i>
Thu 4th	9.30am	St Cuthbert Bishop	<i>For Vocations</i>
Fri 5th	1.00pm	Feria	<i>Souls in purgatory</i>
Sat 6th	10.30am	MASS OF OUR LADY	<i>Bernard Gilepsy RIP</i>
Sat 6th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 6th	6.00pm	23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<i>Ajit Singh RIP</i>
Sun 7th	8.00am	23RD SUNDAY	<i>The Parish</i>
Sun 7th	10.00am	23RD SUNDAY	<i>Socrate Bisconti</i>

Volunteers needed for Welcomers at Mass First impressions really do count

We are very blessed to have so many visitors to our church and more than a few people are coming for instruction and thinking about becoming a catholic. The first impression, the welcome they receive is so important. We have a few volunteers at the weekend Masses who do a really good job in welcoming and giving out the hymn books and leaflets and being on hand to guide new people into church. We are desperately short of volunteers for the 6.00pm and the 8.00am Mass and 2 more people are needed for the 10.00am Mass.

Can you step up and volunteer? Full training given, just need a bright friendly approach and smile. If you can please contact the office or speak to the welcomers on duty.



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

Anniversaries:

Bette Bodenham, Vincent Edwards, Sarah Keavney, Kit Gundy, Winifred Turvey, Winifred Garrett, Patricia Lauria, Bridget Gregg.



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, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Sarah, Ann Marie Hughson, Patricia Marongiu, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Rita Rees, Didit Buhain, Margaret Davis, Sarah James, Kath Feely.

THE RECEPTION OF GUESTS – THE RULE OF SAINT BENEDICT

Many parishioners attended the Opening of the new guest facilities at Belmont Abbey on Thursday 27th August. We all came away feeling we had experienced Benedictine Hospitality. St Benedict devotes a chapter (53) to the Reception of Guests. In the opening verses St Benedict writes that all who arrive should be received as Christ, for he himself will say, I was a stranger and you took me in. In the first half of this beautiful chapter we're told that guests should be received as we would receive Christ himself. The first task is to pray with the guest. We welcome the guest warmly to seal one's encounter in the peace of Christ and go to the Oratory, the Church, to pray and listen to scripture. This is a reminder to the guest that Christ lives in his heart and that he is being welcomed in the manner that Christ would be welcomed. The scriptures are read and prayed. Here all encounter the Living Word. Before sharing a meal with the guests the abbot washes their hands and the whole community washes their feet. It would seem strange for us to welcome a guest by pouring water and washing their feet. Christ himself washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, a task that slaves carried out. In today's busy world many guests who arrive at a monastery come for a rest, to pray and to encounter the Lord. Often guests arrive at the door of the guest house feeling tired and flustered from a complicated journey. The warm and spiritual encounter is at the heart of monastic hospitality. The quality St Benedict wishes the person in charge of the guest house to possess is that he should be 'God fearing'; this means someone whose soul the fear of God possesses. In the Book of Genesis, chapter 18, we encounter Abraham showing hospitality to three visitors by the Oaks of Mamre, who are later understood to be God in human form and two angels. This divine encounter fulfils God's promise to Abraham, with one of the visitors announcing that his elderly wife, Sarah, would bear a son named Isaac within a year. The story highlights themes of divine promise, hospitality, and faith, and is often interpreted as the Holy Trinity. Abraham's guests were unexpected. Many of our guests will have booked their accommodation in good time. Whatever the circumstances, let us keep those beautiful words we sang on Thursday at the Blessing of the Chapterhouse, Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est, Where true love is dwelling, God is present there, in our hearts and minds. **Fr James**



Ministers of the Eucharist		Ministers of the Word	
6pm	Jane Gennard Vigeetha Joseph Angela Holmes	6pm	Philip Dixon Stuart Fox
8am	Vera McHale Cecilia Balestra	8am	Tracey Buckley Lorraine L Williams
10am	Lorena D.L. Aeur Moses Obanimoh Gerald Okafor	10am	Gabriel Gillick Iola Gillick



Our Own What's App

Is now up and running and we have 70 subscribers so far. No cost, no contracts, no password to remember just interesting and up to date info and news on what is going on in your parish. To join in just scan the code on the left with your phone camera. Please do ask if you need help.

Thursday Club

This is a very informal and friendly parish social club which meets on the first Thursday of the month. We will be resuming after the summer break, with the next meeting being on **Thursday 4th September 1.30-3.00 pm in the Parish Hall.** Come and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with friends (old and new). Everyone is welcome .

Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting is on Thursday 18th September 1030-1200 in the Parish Library (in the Presbytery). The theme will be "Some of our favourite poems". Bring a few of your favourites to share with the group. Absolutely no specialist knowledge is required, just a shared enjoyment of poetry. Everyone is welcome to join this friendly group.

Wednesday 17th September 7.00pm is our next parish pastoral council meeting. We are looking for 2/3 new members. If you would like to be considered or to nominate someone please put names in the suggestion box at the back of the church or email the office. **Parish AGM meeting Wednesday 15th of October 7.00pm. Open to Everyone**



Parish 200 Club. We have pleasure in announcing the winners of the **July Draw.** 1st Sylvia Cockroft £30; 2nd Val Vaughan Williams £20; 3rd Vera McHale £10. **The SUMMER STAR DRAW prize of £100 goes to Jo Cole.** Congratulations to the Winners, who can collect their letters from the Sacristy. *Paul & Brenda*

Welcome to new parishioners and visitors. Do introduce yourselves to the welcomers and **come along after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake.**



Collections 24/08/2025
1st £478.47 The Parish
2nd £332.79 Renovation



What's on in September 2025

Thurs 4th	1.30pm	First Thursday club
Wed 17th	7.00pm	Parish council meeting
Thurs 18th	10.30am	Poetry for pleasure, in the library (presbytery)