



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All,

We have revived the Deanery Advisory Council and had our first meeting recently at Belmont. The aim was to increase co-operation across the parishes in Herefordshire, to see how we can work together and help each other. As well as the clergy there were two representatives from each parish. It was an opportunity to share ideas. There was enthusiasm to have a Deanery Celebration together - so it's planned to have a Deanery Mass and a get-together at Belmont on the Feast of the Holy Cross, 14th September at Belmont 6.30pm. Put a note in your diary.

Also coming up is the annual Mass at the Longworth Chapel, Bartestree on 25th July at 11am, on the feast of St James.

This weekend I have an American monk-friend staying with me. Fr Cuthbert is headmaster of the monastery's school of St Louis, Missouri. He is on his way to give a retreat to the nuns of Stanbrook Abbey. On Tuesday we celebrate the feast of St Benedict, Patron of Europe. There is also a concert by the Ledbury Singers that day in the church.

Have a blessed week, Fr Brendan

Liturgical Calendar July 2023 Year A Psalter week 2

Sat 8th	10.30am	Votive Memorial of Our Lady	Wilson family
Sat 8th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 8th	6.00pm	14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Holy Souls
Sun 9th	8.00am	14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Parish
Sun 9th	10.00am	14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	English Benedictine Congregation
Mon 10th	9.30am	Feria	Holy souls
Tue 11th	9.30am	ST BENEDICT, ABBOT, PATRON OF EUROPE, FEAST.	Gerard and Jeanie Livingstone
Wed 12th	1.00pm	Feria	Holy souls
Thur 13th	9.30am	Feria	Peter Millin and Tom McCourt
Fri 14th	1.00pm	Feria	Holy Souls
Sat 15th	10.30am	St Bonaventure Bishop and Doctor	John, James, and Thomas McSherry
Sat 15th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 15th	6.00pm	15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Holy Souls
Sun 16th	8.00am	15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Parish
Sun 16th	10.00am	15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Marie Therese Grimes

SEA SUNDAY Seafarers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult and hazardous conditions. There is often little opportunity for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard.



On Sea Sunday the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your financial support will greatly help seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church or visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important spiritual and practical work. Thank you for your generosity. Gift Aid envelopes available.

Remembrance

Frank Truman, Angela Cook, Drusilla Ransford, Rosina Gertrude Smith, Ann Forrest, Bernard Newton



Recently Died

Mary Barnacle: Requiem Mass 12.00 noon Thursday 27th July.

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

PRISONERS OF HOPE

If mainstream news revels in man's iniquity, seeking to shock and depress, then this Sabbath Day we have the one perfect and sufficient antidote.

Rejoice daughters of Zion, we are told. See, your king arrives triumphant and victorious. Zechariah is writing after the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon. Physical victories are fleeting and the prophet points to the coming of the Messiah, our redeemer. Empires forged in battle never prevail yet Christ's realm of peace redeems all prisoners of hope. In a puzzled world his message of hope trips into our crumbling fortresses on a donkey. Zechariah predicts with uncanny accuracy the arrival of Jesus on Palm Sunday.

Bad news wears us down. Yet we can build confidence by delighting in friends and family, in each other, the sacraments and the inerrant word of God. Tragedy stalks us and tides of uncertainty threaten to wash us away but they need not define us.

At a funeral at SFX ten years ago the priest urged all who mourned our young friend's death to bring their sorrows and anger to the altar and give them over to God. Afterwards several of us admitted marching up and saying, 'Well, you can have this lot then.' Oddly enough, we agreed, the exercise helped. Jesus grants us a peace the world cannot give. His is the ultimate victory. To trust in him and to take up his yoke is to find rest for our troubled souls.

The word 'gospel' comes from the Old English: 'good' and 'spel' - meaning news. Good news, streaming now, forever defies this present darkness. God is faithful in all his deeds. He hears the cry of our appeal. Jesus reassures us, 'In this world you will have problems, but take heart. I have overcome the world.' AM

The Ledbury Singers Tuesday 11th July 2.30pm-SFX Church



A collection of old and new songs, 'Sacred' and fun pieces sung by the Ledbury Singers. Proceeds to the Arts Society, Hereford and St Francis Xavier Church. Cash or cheque on the door £10. Refreshments.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Jaimol James Imogen Cockcroft Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Stuart Fox
8am Angela Holmes Vera McHale	8am Stephen Cleeve
10am Thomas Kottuppallil Peter Cunningham Dominic Smedley	10am Andrew Milne

SFX FILM NIGHT PRESENTS

"TWO CROWNS"

An acclaimed film about the life of **St. Maximilian Kolbe**
"A martyr of love"
7pm on Friday 14th July at 7pm in Parish Hall. PG rating. Free.
In Polish with English subtitles.

Parish BBQ Sunday 27th August. We plan to hold BBQ in the Parish Garden after the 10.00am Mass. Please look out for further notices over the next few weeks giving details, as we will need to know numbers in advance.

Parish 200 Club. Winners for the **May Draw 2023** 1st Irene Harrison £30; 2nd Marc and Alison Holmes £20; 3rd Mrs J Dykes £10. **June Draw 2023** 1st Mary Kinoulty £30; 2nd Mary Perris £20; 3rd Margaret Booth £10. Congratulations to the Winners who can collect their letters from the Sacristy.

Thanks Paul and Brenda.

Poetry for Pleasure

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20th July 10.30 -1200 in the Parish Hall. This week we look at "Women Poets".



No expert knowledge is required! Just bring a few poems on the theme to share with the group.

Parish Walk Sunday 23rd July 2023

The next Parish walk will be on Sunday 23rd July 2023. It is a 4.5 mile circular route around Hoarwithy via Sellack and King's Caple churches. We will start at the impressive Italianate church of St Catherine in Hoarwithy at 2.30 pm. The route is over fields and along quiet country roads. It includes some steps and 7 styles. **Dorothy.**



Collections for **1st/2nd July**
1st Collection £508.87
2nd Collection £446.67



Parish Calendar

11th July	2.30pm	Ledbury Singers Concert SFX
17th July	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
19th July	6.30pm	ABC Bible Group. All welcome
20th July	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure
20th July	7.00pm	PAC Meeting in Parish Hall
25th July	11.00am	Longworth Mass
27th Aug	After 10.00am mass	Parish BBQ