

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, This week we had a new novice monk clothed at Belmont – Br Alban. At Mass on All Saints Day two novices – Br Meinrad and Br Gildas - made their first vows and we sang: *"The love of Christ has gathered us together in one. Let us rejoice and be glad in him."* These were wonderful moments for us. Pray for them and for vocations to Belmont as well as vocations to the Archdiocese.

Some of you may have noticed that I have been using a larger host at Sunday Masses. Why? The instructions we have say that the Eucharistic Bread "be fashioned in such a way that the Priest at Mass...is truly able to break it into parts and distribute these to at least some of the faithful" In other words it is a sign of our communion with each other that we share of the same loaf. "The gesture of the fraction or breaking of bread, which was quite simply the term by which the Eucharist was known in apostolic times, will bring out more clearly the force and importance of the sign of the unity of all in the one bread, and of the sign of charity by the fact that the one bread is distributed among the brothers and sisters" [GIRM 321]. As St Paul says: "The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf." It is a reminder that we are "one bread, one body, in the one Lord" as the hymn puts it. The liturgy is full of these small signs that convey a deeper meaning. The words of Consecration in the new translation of the Mass say: "Take this, all of you, and eat of it." That word 'of' seemed strange to me at first, we don't generally say we are going to eat 'of' something. But in fact we are partaking of the one loaf, sharing the one bread. Holy Communion is a communion not just with God, but with each other. A sign of unity and charity. We too can sing: *"The love of Christ has gathered us together in one."*
Fr Brendan

Liturgical Calendar November 2023 Yr A Psalter Wk 3

Sat 4th	10.30am	St Charles Borromeo	English Benedictine Congregation
Sat 4th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 4th	6.00pm	31ST SUNDAY (VIGIL)	Parish
Sun 5th	8.00am	31ST SUNDAY	Peace for Ukraine
Sun 5th	10.00am	31ST SUNDAY	Parish
Mon 6th	9.30am <i>Rosary at 8.55am</i>	Feria	Thomas McCourt 9th Anniversary
Tues 7th	No public mass here. Mass at OL at 9.30am		
Wed 8th	1.00pm	Feria	Anna Rogers Birthday
Thu 9th	9.30am	THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (Feast)	Holy Souls Amboory Landslide
Fri 10th	11am	Funeral of Leonard Mason	
Fri 10th	1.00pm	St Leo the Great	18th death Anniv.
Sat 11th	10.30am	St Martin of Tours	Holy Souls
Sat 11th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 11th	6.00pm	32ND SUNDAY (VIGIL)	Elikkutty Kuriakose
Sun 12th	8.00am	32ND SUNDAY	Parish
Sun 12th	10.00am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Holy Souls Intentions

WE REMEMBER all those parishioners who have died during this last year.

Michael Flynn, Florence Brown, James Joynt, Tadeusz Sapięcha, Kenneth Foulkes, Donal Kenny, Josephine Kelly, Mary Halls, Nadia Humphreys, Edna Toolsy, Terence Houston, John MacGregor, Stephanie West, Stanley Howard, Catharina Wales, Mary Barnacle, Carmela Langford, Leonard Mason and Molly Clark.
...and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time.
Vera Barrington-Hopkins, Shirley Gutowski, Paula McQuillan, Katie Meakin, Noah Bolt, Ann Lock, John McSherry, Tom McCourt, Jim Baskerville, Harold Welch, Katherine Hammond, Mary Daniels.

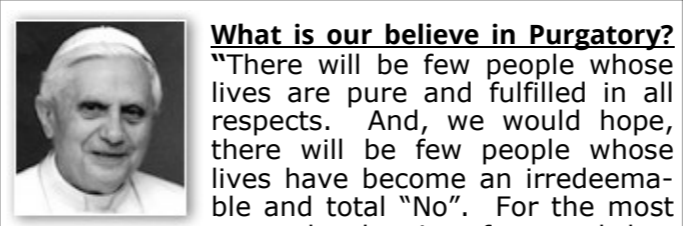
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



November dead list envelopes are available at the back of church. They will be placed on the altar throughout the month of November.



Pray for the Sick:
Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Malcolm Darke, Fr Keith, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Maureen Tye, Sarah, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola and Finley Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, Dennis Schiavon, David John Warr, Stephen Booth, Rory Williams.



What is our believe in Purgatory?
"There will be few people whose lives are pure and fulfilled in all respects. And, we would hope, there will be few people whose lives have become an irredeemable and total "No". For the most part, the longing for good has remained, despite many breakdowns, in some sense determinative. God can pick up the broken pieces and make something of them. In any case, we need a final cleansing, a cleansing by fire, to be exact, in which the gaze of Christ, so to say, burns us free from everything, and only under this purifying gaze are we, as it were, fit to be with God and able, then, to make our home with him... I think it is something very human. **I would go so far as to say that if there was no purgatory, then we would have to invent it, for who would dare say of himself that he was able to stand directly before God.** And yet we don't want to be, to use an image from Scripture, "a pot that turned out wrong," that has to be thrown away; we want to be able to be put right. Purgatory basically means that God can put the pieces back together again. That he can cleanse us in such a way that we are able to be with him. Purgatory strips off from one person what is unbearable and from another the inability to bear certain things, so that in each of them a pure heart is revealed, and we can see that we all belong together in one enormous symphony of being.

Why pray for souls in Purgatory? No one lives alone. No one sins alone. No one is saved alone. The lives of others continually spill over into mine: in what I think, say, do and achieve. And conversely, my life spills over into that of others: for better and for worse. So my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death. In the interconnectedness of Being, my gratitude to the other—my prayer for him—can play a small part in his purification. And for that there is no need to convert earthly time into God's time: in the communion of souls **simple terrestrial time is superseded.** It is never too late to touch the heart of another, nor is it ever in vain. In this way we further clarify an important element of the Christian concept of hope. **Our hope is always essentially also hope for others."**

Extract-Pope Benedict XVI. "The Role of Purgatory." *God and the World: Believing and Living in Our Time* (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2002)

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Kathy Weston Sarah Williams Sarah Slancauskas	6pm Philip Dixon
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Helen Booth
10am Mia Brennan, Mary Cook Gerald Okafor	10am Liz Symonds

Second Collection for Sick & Retired Clergy Fund: at all Masses weekend of 4th/5th November
Our sick and retired clergy have been there for us. Now it's our turn to give back.
The Sick & Retired Clergy Fund provides essential financial support to retired clergy members who no longer have a parish community to support them. It helps to cover housing costs and daily living expenses, ensuring that these servants of the Church and members of our Diocesan family can live with dignity and security. This weekend we will be holding a special collection for the **Sick & Retired Clergy Fund** at all Masses. Your donation is a tangible way to express gratitude for the many years of service given by these priests, who have been by our side in times of joy and sorrow. We hope you enjoy an interview that the Archdiocese conducted with retired priest, Monsignor Bob Reardon on the subject of retirement. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACNPzt5qGAc>

What happened at the Synod and why it matters for the future of the Church. Talk & discussion with Dr Austen Ivereigh, participant in the Oct 4-29 synod assembly in Rome. There are two opportunities to hear this talk.
1. **Saturday November 4th** 10.30am-12 Noon at Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey, Hereford.
2. **Wednesday 22nd** November 7pm SFX Church .

Parish 200 Club. Winners for the **September Draw 2023** 1st Dorothy Kennedy £30; 2nd Mary Perris £20; 3rd David Ling £10. **October Draw 2023** 1st James Ling £30; 2nd Vera McHale £20; 3rd Sylvia Cockroft £10. Please collect from the Sacristy.



We welcome into God's family **Esme Lewandowska** who will be baptised this Saturday at 4.00pm and **Sunny Zeniuk** on Sunday at 12noon. We warmly welcome **Esme** and **Sunny** and families.



A pastoral letter of Bishop Mark Davies about Christian funerals. <https://catholicherald.co.uk/bishop-urges-catholics-to-hold-fast-to-tradition-of-church-funerals-amid-rise-of-direct-cremations/>



Tea, Coffee and Cake Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass. Come along and bring a friend.



Parish Calendar - November

Mon 6th	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
Wed 15th	6.30pm	Bible for All (formerly ABC)
Thur 16th	10.30 am	Poetry for Pleasure
Thur 16th	6.00pm	Choir practice