



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, In today's Gospel we hear about the primacy of love. The ability to love is what makes us human, and true love, the type of love that finds its roots in God, is what makes us truly human. The tremendous truth about God is not that he loves us, although that is wonderful in itself, but that his very nature is love. God can do no other than love because that is who God is. He is the very act of love itself and because love by its nature isn't static, God's love spills over into all creation. God, by his very nature, gives and shares his innermost self and we are caught up in God's very act of love. God is dynamism of love that encompasses everything and everybody. Because each one of us is made in the image and likeness of God, each one of us has an innate capacity to love. But we can only love because God loved us first; to love is to know God, even if we don't acknowledge him, for where love is God is because God is love. God's love brought us into being, it sustains us and it strengthens us in times of pain as well as times of joy. It is love that impels us to go out into the world with joy and hope, and bring others to the knowledge and love of God. Loving others as God loved us is the heart of Christian discipleship. "For God loved the world so much, God loved you and me so much, that he gave his only begotten son to the end that all who believe in him may have eternal life." Let us go out into his world loving as he did passionately and without fear, and if we can do this we can change the world. **Fr Andrew**

Liturgical Calendar November 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 3

Sat 2nd	10.30am	ALL SOULS DAY	All the Faithful Departed
Sat 2nd	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 2nd	6.00pm	31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Henry John RIP
Sun 3rd	8.00am	31ST SUNDAY	Ahudyiza (Birthday)
Sun 3rd	10.00am	31ST SUNDAY	Audrey Hill
Mon 4th	9.30am Rosary 0900	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop	Birthday Anniversary
Tue 5th	No Mass here. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 6th	1.00pm Adoration 12 noon	Feria	Anna Rodgers
Thu 7th	09.30am	Feria	Deceased relatives and friends of Mills and Philips
Fri 8th	6.00pm	Feria	Peter Lynch RIP
Sat 9th	10.30am	DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA, FEAST	Holy Souls
Sat 9th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 9th	6.00pm	32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	MacGregor, Gleeson and O'Brian deceased members
Sun 10th	8.00am	32ND SUNDAY	Forgotten Souls
Sun 10th	10.00am	32ND SUNDAY REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Requiem Mass for departed of war

Fr James Hood & Fr John George

If you were away last weekend you may have missed the exciting news that as of The 1st Sunday of Advent, 1st December, we will welcome our new parish priests Fr James and Fr John, Benedictine priests from the Community of St Gregory the Great, formerly at Downside. **Fr James and Fr John will be visiting SFX next Friday 8th November and will be here for the 1.00pm Mass.**

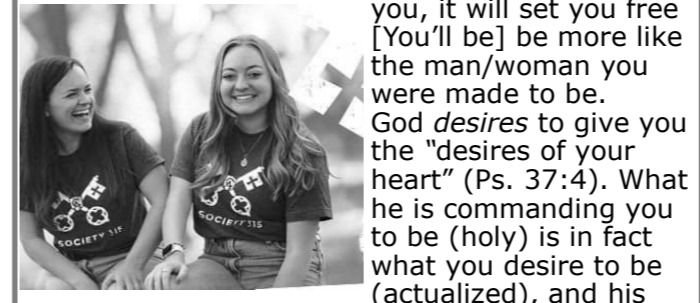
There will be a retiring collection at all Masses **this weekend** 2nd/3rd November for the **Sick and Retired Clergy Fund.** This annual collection is for the support of clergy in the diocese who have given their lives to be there for us as our priests.

We remember all who have died: Bridget Barton.
And those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Paula McQuillan, Noah Bolt, Katie Meakin, Ann Lock, John McSherry, James Baskerville, Harold Welch, Thomas McCourt, Mary Daniels.
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, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Roy Pigou, Ann Marie Hughson, Teresa Bord. John Moroney

Why be a Saint?

Leon Bloy once wrote, "The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only *great tragedy* in life, is not to become a saint." Why? Because to be anything less than holy is to remain unactualized. *Huh?* Let me offer an illustration: Suppose you went out and bought a flower pot containing one daffodil bulb buried in rich soil. You take the pot, put it in a closet, and for the next two weeks feed the bulb nothing but Coca-Cola. This is a sad thought, but why is it sad? Isn't it because the potential for this bulb to become a beautiful daffodil was not actualized? To put it less formally, that it didn't become what it could have become? So, too, with us. You and I have the potential for sanctity, for holiness, which is, simply stated, the full flowering of our personality. Many people believe, if only implicitly, that to be holy is to be stifled, less free, less themselves. They think it's hell all the way to heaven and heaven all the way to hell. As Christians, it's vital that we understand this to be mammothly fallacious! God is good. He is not holding out on us—as Satan suggested to Eve (Gen. 3:1-5)—he is *for* us (Rom. 8:31). He is love (John 4:8,16)! In the words of the band Mumford and Sons: Love; it will not betray you dismay or enslave you, it will set you free [You'll be] be more like the man/woman you were made to be. God *desires* to give you the "desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4). What he is commanding you to be (holy) is in fact what you desire to be (actualized), and his commands, therefore, do not necessitate the repression or deflation of your deepest desires but rather call for their expansion. **C. S. Lewis** understood this well, writing: It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. "Be a saint! What else is there?"



Catholic Answers Magazine-By Matt Fradd

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Sarah Williams Kathy Weston, Ancy Shajan	6pm Philip Dixon
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Helen Booth
10am Mary Cook, Noel Elegado, Gerald Okafor, Moses Obanimoh	10am Gwenfair Gillick



ADVENT FAIR 30TH NOVEMBER 2024

The first Parish Bazaar since Covid needs your support. All hands on deck to make this a great success! **Christmas Hamper Raffle:** Many thanks to everyone who has pledged items for the Christmas Hamper Raffle. Your support is much appreciated. Please bring items in to church and put them in the marked box in the Sacristy. All items are needed by Saturday 23rd November
Parish Raffle: Raffle tickets are enclosed in newsletters this weekend (£1 per ticket, £5 per book) Please take books to buy yourself or to sell to others. From next weekend onwards (2nd/3rd November) raffle ticket stubs and money can be returned after any Mass. Do you have any new good quality gift items that would be suitable as additional raffle prizes? If so, please label and leave in the sacristy.
Bottle Stall: A lot of bottles are needed! Any donations of bottles (alcoholic or soft drinks) will be very gratefully received. Bottles can be placed in the labelled boxes in the Sacristy from now onwards. Please note: do not leave any donations in the Narthex.

Filipino Mass @ St. Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic Church on 24/11/2024 12 noon with a shared lunch afterwards in the hall. Bring food and drink to share. Our celebrant is Fr. Francisco Cruz, CM. Do pass this invitation on. Spread the word!

Open Morning—St Francis Xavier's RC Primary School If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 please come along to our open morning on Tuesday 19th November 9.30 - 10.30 am. Come along and meet our Headteacher, Mrs Christopherson and our Reception Class teacher, Miss Smail. Mrs Christopherson will give an introductory talk at 9.30 am and this will be followed by a tour of the school from our Yr 6 pupils. There is no need to book.

Welcome to any new or visiting parishioners. Do come and introduce yourselves to the welcomers and **come along to the hall after the 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake** to meet the parishioners and parish priest.

Collections 27t/28th Oct
1st £579.67 The Parish
2nd £424.50 Renovation
Fr Brendan £780

Parish Calendar— October/November 2024

Mon 4th	7.00pm	SVP
Thurs 7th	1.30pm	Thursday social club
Sat 24th	10.00am	Talk on the Synod at Belmont
Sat 24th	12noon	Filipino Mass

