



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, Thanks everyone for your generous contribution to the priest training fund appeal last weekend. Investing in the education of priests in our Archdiocese ensures that future generations will enjoy the support and guidance of a priest. Let us also keep praying for vocation so the vineyard of the Lord can never cease to get shepherd to take care of. Praying for vocations is very importance since I can see we have shortage of priest in our Archdiocese and in the country at large. My country Tanzania has a lot of vocations. Sometimes 20 deacons can be ordained at one Mass. Parents and the whole community in Tanzania have a crucial responsibility to ensure that young men and women discern properly the voice of God and encourage them not to give up. But some years we have the drought vocation even in Africa. What is important is not to despair but to keep praying for vocations.



Thanks a lot for attending the talks about " How to sow peace at war." Unfortunately, the expected guest speaker Dr Maria Power had a sudden illness and could not come. We decided to have a look and explore the Church in Tanzania. I offered a brief background of how Christianity or religious at large is connected intimately with African culture. I also shared a brief overview of my Abbey and how we preach the gospel by reaching to the vulnerable and needy in various ways. Although it was not something we expect, it was extremely nice. Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to John and the whole group who spent sometimes creatively preparing the venue and other entertainments. Let's keep praying for one another and God bless us all. **Fr. Gregory**

Liturgical Calendar April/May 2024 Yr B Psalter Wk 1			
Sat 27th	10.30am	4th week of Easter	Margreth Euanice
Sat 27th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 27th	6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Rob Brodie RIP
Sun 28th	8.00am	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Ancy Shajan
Sun 28th	10.00am	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	The Parish
Mon 29th	9.30am Rosary before Mass	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA PATRON OF EUROPE FEAST	Kathleen Hanna RIP 2nd Anniversary
Tues 30th	No public mass here. Mass at OL at 9.30am		
Wed 1st	1.00pm	St Joseph the Worker	Kathleen Hanna RIP
Thu 2nd	9.30am	St Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor	Nino and Maria Meschi
Fri 3rd	1.00pm	STS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES (FEAST)	Mr J.W. Grimes RIP
Sat 4th	10.30am	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS (FEAST)	Rose Jose RIP Anniversary
Sat 4th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 4th	6.00pm	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Thomas Diath
Sun 5th	8.00am	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Henry John
Sun 5th	10.00am	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	The Parish

First Holy Communion Group at St Francis Xavier's Church raise £199.88 for CAFOD.
During Lent, the children are asked to think about children and their families throughout the world who do not have enough to eat and drink. During their course for First Holy Communion the children are taught about the importance of Food and Drink, especially our Spiritual Food and Drink (Holy Communion). The children are challenged, to see if they can give up some of their treats and put in a collection box the money they have saved. Some of the children take on extra tasks at home to earn some money to add to the box. I am delighted to say that the group of 25 children have this year raised £199.88 which will be sent to CAFOD, with the request that the money be spent on providing food and water for those less fortunate than ourselves. Brenda Williams, Catechist.

We remember all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.
Joan Miller, James Knowles, Shiela Few?
Norah Hanley, John Lennon,
Kathleen Hanna, Peter Finnegan,
Margarethe Seibold, Fr Peter Fell,
Sylvia Rame, Stanley Howard.



Lately Dead
Robert Brodie.
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, Teresa Loftus, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, David Warr, James Spradbery.

Why should we learn about the saints?
A history lesson, yes...interesting, yes...but more importantly **WE TOO** are all called to be saints. "To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone." *Pope Francis.*
We study and reflect on our great treasure of saints in the Church as a guide and inspiration. What can I admire and learn from their lives that would help me to be a more saintly person?



Our saint for this week on Monday is St Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church. Patron of Europe.

St. Catherine was born during an outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. She was the 25th child born to her mother. She often visited hospitals and homes where the poor and sick were found. Her activities quickly attracted followers who helped her in her mission to serve the poor and sick.
From 1375 onwards, St. Catherine began dictating letters to scribes. She petitioned for peace and was instrumental in persuading the Pope in Avignon to return to Rome. She also established a monastery for women in 1377 outside Siena. She is credited with composing over 400 letters, her Dialogue, which is her definitive work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is one of the most influential and popular saints in the Church.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZSblkcm-ME>

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."
- St. Catherine of Siena

Two Baptisms to celebrate
We welcome into God's family **Dominic Wisniewski** who will be Baptised this Saturday at 4.00pm and **Oliver Fluderska** who will be baptised at 4.30pm. We warmly welcome **Dominic** and **Oliver** and their families to our parish.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Sarah Williams Jane Gennard	8pm Stuart Fox
8am Frances Hetterley Cecilia Balestra	8am Dorothy Kennedy
10am Mia Brennan Mary Cook, Noel Elegado Peter Cunningham	10am Liz Symonds

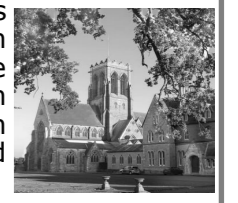
LOURDES PILGRIMAGE - Monday 23rd - Saturday 28th September 2024.



Led by Fr. Matthew Carney - Our Lady & St. Michael's, Abergavenny Parish. Flying from Stanstead, direct to Tarbes/Lourdes Airport. Organised by Tangney Tours, 5 nights Full Board in Hotel Alba, £708 Sharing, £858 single. Coach travel from Abergavenny, 5.30am on 23rd, returning approx. 4pm on 28th. Cost of coach extra, depends on number of pilgrims, between £60-£100 per person. Info available by e-mailing Fr. Matthew at fr.matthew@live.co.uk/01873 851051 or on the Abergavenny parish website www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk

Diary Date- Wed 15th May
9.00pm Torchlight procession, Belmont Abbey. This is a beautiful event to celebrate the month of Mary.

Available in the shop at Belmont Abbey are a variety of First Holy Communion cards, rosaries, and other items which would make suitable gifts for those receiving this Sacrament in 2024. Please come along and see what is available. The shop is open Monday to Saturday 2-4pm and on Sundays from 8.30-9.15am and 10.30am-12.15pm. Fr James.



CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Emergency Appeal
Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis - extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. You can also text **CAFODSUDAN** to **70450** to donate £10.



A Cup of Tea/Coffee and Cake
Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass. A great way to make new friends and meet with Fr Gregory.



Collections 20/21st April
1st £ 458.89 The Parish
2nd £ 398.71 Renovation
Priests Training Fund £681.47



Parish Calendar- May 2024

Wed 1st	6.30pm	ABC Bible Study
Thurs 2nd	1.30pm	Thursday Social Club
Wed 15th	9.00pm	Torchlight procession, Belmont