



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear All, Tomorrow is the feast of St Thomas the Apostle and I particularly want to wish our Keralans a very happy feast day.

According to ancient tradition St Thomas took the faith to India and was martyred there. He is the only apostle said to have gone beyond the borders of the Roman Empire to evangelize. Today as many as 5 million Indian Catholics belong to the Syro-Malabar Church or the Syro-Malankara Church, two of 23 'Oriental' or 'Eastern' churches in full communion with the Catholic Church. The 'Syro' part of the name means that their liturgy and tradition come originally from Syria, a very ancient and distinctive branch of Christianity.

Let us pray for the Church in India and thank God for the Keralan presence in this parish. And let us ask the prayers of St Thomas for us all. Although we think of him as 'Doubting Thomas,' the Apostle gives us the greatest expression of faith with the New Testament when he cried out before the Risen Lord in the Upper Room "My Lord and my God!" St Thomas, pray for us!

It is lovely to have the children from St Francis Xavier School, Key Stage 1, with us this weekend at the 10am Mass. We pray for all the children of the parish. Have a blessed week, Fr Brendan

Liturgical Calendar July 2023 Year A Psalter week 4

Sat 1st July	10.30am	Votive Memorial of Our Lady	Michael and Maureen Baldrev
Sat 1st	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 1st	6.00pm	13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Jiva Varghesi (Birthday)
Sun 2nd	8.00am	13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Parish
Sun 2nd	10.00am	13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Andrew and Sue Forder
Mon 3rd	9.30am	ST THOMAS, APOSTLE (FEAST)	Holy Souls
Tue 4th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30am		
Wed 5th	1.00pm	Feria	Marcin Bogacz
Thur 6th	9.30am	Feria	Sarah Summers
Fri 7th	1.00pm	Feria	Dennis Francis RIP
Sat 8th	10.00am	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

Tea, Coffee and Cake

Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass.



We welcome into God's family Rowan Pope who will be baptised this Sunday at 12 noon.



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE - ABERGAVENNY PARISH. Our Lady and St. Michael's Parish, Abergavenny, is planning a pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 1st October - 5 nights, returning Friday 6th, with Tangney Tours, from Bristol Airport. £605 shared, £730 single. If interested please contact Fr. Matthew at fr.matthew@live.co.uk or on 01873 851051.

Remembrance

Francis Eamon O'Grady, Josef Lambert, Maria Sanchez, Bernadette Ann Johnson, Mary-Ann Doverman, Dennis Francis, Frederick Billingham, Zofia Maria Kucharska



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.

SS. Peter and Paul

TWO TOUCHSTONES



Everything that happens in the Bible is there for a purpose. Similarly, the people in the Bible are deliberately chosen. The recent solemnity St Peter and St Paul celebrates the two foundation stones of the church. Both men are markedly different.

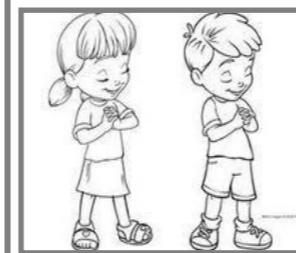
Peter was a fisherman from Capernaum in Galilee, Paul an intellectual from Tarsus. If Peter was a rough, pragmatic character, Paul, by contrast, rejoiced in the life of the mind. Hard to imagine two less suited to take forward the gospel of Our Lord. For both men had failed Christ. Peter denied his saviour three times in the courtyard as Jesus stood trial before the Sanhedrin. Paul persecuted the early church with zeal.

Yet Peter went on to become the first Pope and Paul, often in chains, bequeathed us a series of letters which enlighten our faith to this day.

Peter still speaks for all disciples struggling to understand Jesus. To whom shall we go? You have the keys to eternal life. Paul writes to all believers, that the imperfection or sin that separates us from God has been taken away by the death of Jesus.

In his earthly ministry Jesus did not choose influencers or nobles to build his fellowship. As Paul, with customary bluntness pointed out, face it brothers none of you were wise by this world's standards.

This explains Christ's odd choice of Peter to be his rock. The believer does not need to be educated. Peter shows us we can be strong in our faith drawing upon the wellspring of grace. In simple language Paul explains the gospel, reassuring us that our strength is made perfect in weakness. Both men roll away the rock from our own sepulchres of doubt and despair. Peter and Paul stand together, an enduring testimony to the eloquence of divine grace. AM



We welcome Key Stage 1 pupils and staff from SFX School to the 10am Mass this weekend. The children will participate in the Mass today with welcoming, readings and prayers.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

6pm Jane Gennard
Angela Holmes
Sarah Slancauskas

8am Frances Hetterley
Vera McHale

10am Noel Elegado
Gerald Okafor
Thomas Kottappullil

Ministers of the Word

6pm

8am

10am

Concert In Aid of World Youth Day



This was a magnificent evening, so thank you to the Hereford police Choir. £1188.05 was raised to help fund those hoping to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon. Well done everyone.

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

Invitation-A concert by 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 Saint Francis Xavier Church. Cash or cheque on the door £10. Refreshments.



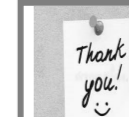
Poetry for Pleasure

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.

Sea Sunday Next weekend there will be a retiring collection in support of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea). Seafarers play a vital role in our lives and the work is tough and often hazardous. The proceeds from Sea Sunday will support them physically and spiritually. Gift aid envelopes available.



Collections for 24/25th June
1st Collection £524.41
2nd Collection £351.11



Parish Calendar

3rd July	7.00pm	SVP in Parish Hall
5th July	6.30pm	Bible study group. (Open to All)
11th July	2.30pm	Ledbury Singers Concert
20th July	10.30am	Poetry for Pleasure
20th July	7.00pm	PAC Meeting in Parish Hall
25th July	11.00am	Longworth Mass