



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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**Dear All,** Over the last few weeks we have been counting the Mass attendance numbers as the Archdiocese asks us to do. It is incredible that the numbers have increased by a third since last year! This year's count was 384 compared to 288 last year. The figure is averaged over 4 weeks, as the numbers do fluctuate from week to week.



First of all, a warm welcome to new parishioners! It is always lovely to see new faces. Many people introduce themselves to me, but if you haven't do say 'hello.' We do have parish registration forms if you would like to fill one in. A question came up at the AGM – how might we be more welcoming to new parishioners? Let us reflect on that and do offer me any suggestions.

Others may have been gradually returning after covid. I am so pleased that many people join us on livestream, particularly the sick and the housebound. But it is great that others are back in person. Your physical presence makes a difference! Out of interest it is clear that covid affected Mass numbers. Before covid that Mass count was 323 (2019), and more recently 220 (2020), 270 (2021) 288 (2022). Last year there were 19 deaths and 33 baptisms in the church.

The Friday Mass this week will be a special Mass for Peace. We have all watched the terror that unfolded in Israel last weekend. Let us pray intensely for the peoples of Israel and Palestine as we continue to pray for Ukraine. **Fr Brendan**

## Liturgical Calendar Oct 2023 Year A Psalter Wk 4

Sat 14th	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Peter Millin, Thomas McCourt
Sat 14th	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 14th	6.00pm	28TH SUNDAY	Peace in Ukraine
Sun 15th	8.00am	28TH SUNDAY	Parish
Sun 15th	10.00am	28TH SUNDAY	Izahaak George & Anjaly Abraham (Birthday)
Mon 16th	9.30am <u>Rosary at 8.55am</u>	Feria	Sick of the Parish
Tue 17th	No public Mass here. Mass at OL 9.30am		
Wed 18th	1.00pm	ST LUKE EVANGELIST (FEAST)	Fr Michael Evans
Thu 19th	9.30am <u>Rosary at 8.55am</u>	Feria	Holy Souls
Fri 20th	1.00pm	Mass for Peace	Peace
Sat 21st	10.30am	Mass of Our Lady	Special Intention
Sat 21st	11.00am	Confessions and Adoration	
Sat 21st	6.00pm	29TH SUNDAY	Peace
Sun 22nd	8.00am	29TH SUNDAY	Peace
Sun 22nd	10.00am	29TH SUNDAY	Parish

## Correction! The Missio Collection will take place

after all masses **NEXT** week-end **not** this weekend! Proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission, Missio ignites God's love by helping local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need.



**NOVEMBER dead list envelopes** are now available at the back of church. Place the names of your loved ones in the envelope with your Mass offering. Kindly put the envelope in collection or through presbytery door. Their names will be placed on the altar and Masses said for them throughout the month of November.



**Remembrance** Patricia Winterburn, Celia Pritchard, Malcolm Clark, Michael Clear, Sadie Hawksworth, Anne McManus, Patricia Mills, Norman Hunt, Peter Gunter.  
**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

## Pray for the Sick:

Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Malcolm Darke, Sarah, Ian Power, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, David Madgen, Lynne Howells, Christina James, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Fr Keith, George Mecina, Margaret Skelding, Ana Rudnicki, Dennis Schiavon, David John Warr, Stephen Booth, Katherine Melia

OCTOBER 18 IS THE FEAST OF

# St. Luke, the Evangelist



St. Luke is quite special. Not only was he the only Gentile to write books of the Bible, but he was a close companion of St. Paul. If St. Paul succeeded in evangelizing the western Roman empire, Luke may have had more to do with it than we know. It is likely that God used his medical skills to keep St. Paul alive some of those times when he was beaten, stoned, or half-drowned.

St. Luke is special, too, because he is the first Christian physician on record. Untold thousands have followed in his steps. Physicians can look to St. Luke as an example, but so can historians, because his writings are very much in the Greek tradition. Painters claim him for their brotherhood, too, because tradition holds he painted a picture of the Blessed Virgin which hung in Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.

As a physician, Luke must have been curious about the medical conditions behind Christ's miracles. As a matter of fact, Luke uses more medical terms than any other New Testament writer. For example, he doesn't just say Publius' father was sick: he tells us he suffered from fever and dysentery. The apostle Paul told us that Luke was a doctor. In fact, he called him "dear doctor Luke." Given his use of medical detail in the two books he wrote for the Bible, The Gospel According to Luke and The Acts of the Apostles, we might have guessed it ourselves.

Luke pulled back the curtain on the young Jesus more than any other gospel writer. Without him we would not know anything about the boy Jesus's thinking. It is a pretty safe bet that Luke interviewed the Blessed Virgin Mary and got most of the details from her. Perhaps he even heard the Magnificat, recorded in his gospel alone, from her very own lips. This Wednesday, October 18th is the great doctors feast day.



**St Luke Pray for us.**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
<b>6pm</b> Kathy Weston Sarah Williams Sarah Slancauskas	<b>6pm</b> Philip Dixon
<b>8am</b> Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	<b>8am</b> Helen Booth
<b>10am</b> Mary Cook Jaimol James Moses Obanimoh	<b>10am</b> Liz Symonds

**Fire, Fire.** What would you do if there was a fire during Mass and we all had to leave the Church in a hurry? A small group of parishioners have volunteered to assist with any evacuation during Mass, but we need more named people to help the less mobile. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Fire Warden please come to the Hall on Thursday 19th October at 7.00pm and find out how you could help. Thanks.



## Parish walk Sunday 22nd October

The final parish walk of the year is planned for next Sunday. It is a 4 mile walk around Breinton covering a variety of terrain including farmland, woodland and quiet country roads. The walk involves some ascents and descents, but all the slopes are gentle. Having completed the practice walk, I can confirm that there are 4 stiles. One track in particular is liable to be muddy so walking boots/ sturdy footwear is required. Meet at the National Trust car park at Breinton Springs ready to start walking at 2.30 pm. If you would like a lift please phone Dorothy on 07733 174681 **Sat Nav HR4 7PG- Start point**



**Poetry for Pleasure** The next meeting is Thursday 19th October 1030-1200 in the Parish Hall. The theme is Poets Laureate (John Dryden to Simon Armitage and any in between!) All are Welcome.

## The Hereford Fire Choir Concert at SFX Friday 27th October 7pm

**£6 on the door**

A special concert from the acclaimed Hereford Fire Choir celebrating 30yrs of singing! Singing a whole variety of songs. Proceeds to the fire fighters charity and SFX Church.



## Choir practice on Thurs 6.00pm

New members always welcome (and old). You don't have to be a Maria Callas or a Pavarotti to join.

**Tea, Coffee and Cake** Everyone is invited to come along to the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass.



**Collections 30th/1st Oct**  
**1st Collection £438.50**  
**2nd Collection £337.37**  
**Cafod Family Fast Day £183**



## Parish Calendar - October

Mon 16th	9.30am	SFX School admissions talk
Mon 16th	7.00pm	SVP Meeting
Thur 19th	10.30am	Poetry for pleasure
Thur 19th	7.00pm	Fire Warden Meeting
Thurs 19th	6.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 22nd	2.30pm	Parish Walk, Breinton
Fri 27th	7.00pm	Hereford Fire Choir Concert