



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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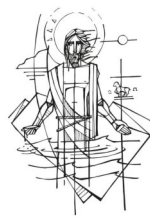
## Dear All,

As we gather on this Second Sunday of Advent, the voice of John the Baptist rings out once again: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Advent invites us into a beautiful time of preparation—not just decorating our homes, but making room in our hearts. It is a season of hope growing stronger, like the second candle that brightens our Advent wreath today.

John's message is both challenging and encouraging. He reminds us that God desires to come close to us, to renew us, and to guide us into a future filled with His peace. This week, we are invited to take a step deeper into that journey—embracing repentance, healing, and new beginnings. Pope Francis reminded us that Advent is the time we can be "shaken out" of lethargy and awakened "from our slumber" to be vigilant always.

May this Advent season help us to clear away whatever holds us back from fully welcoming Christ. As we move through busy days and joyful gatherings, let us remember what truly matters: God is drawing near. Let us prepare the way for Him in our hearts, our homes, and our parish community. Come, Lord Jesus—may your peace be our light.

**Fr John**



## Liturgical Calendar Dec 2025 Yr A Psalter Wk 2

Sat 6th	10.30am	St Nicholas, Bishop	Raymond Barry RIP
Sat 6th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 6th	6.00pm	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP
Sun 7th	8.00am	2ND SUNDAY	Sanilmon Antony RIP
Sun 7th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY	Doreen Giles RIP
Mon 8th	9.30am Rosary 9am	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Our Lady's Intention
Tue 9th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30		
Wed 10th	1.00pm	2nd Week of Advent	Forgotten souls in purgatory
Thu 11th	9.30am	2nd week of Advent	Aleyamma Dominic RIP
Fri 12th	1.00pm	2nd Week of Advent	Holy Souls
Sat 13th	10.30am	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	Annam Varghese
Sat 13th	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 13th	6.00pm	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP
Sun 14th	8.00am	3RD SUNDAY	The Parish
Sun 14th	10.00am	3RD SUNDAY	Socrate Bisconti RIP

Fr James and Fr John have a Christmas Card for all parishioners today. Don't forget to take yours with all the details of services and other events taking place during Advent and Christmas.

These include: SFX Parish Celebration next Sunday 14th December after 10.00am Mass.

Carols on the Steps 22nd December at 12.30pm

### SFX Parish WhatsApp

If you have not yet discovered our own parish WhatsApp channel then now is the perfect time. In the Narthex there is a poster with this QR code on it just scan code and away you go!

Find all the Christmas events and news.



We welcome into God's family Imani Andres who will be baptised this Sunday at 12 noon. We warmly welcome Imani and all his family into the parish.

### We remember all who have died

**Anniversaries:** James Fleming, Richard Price, Terence Goldrick, Josephine MacDonell, Mary Grisewood, Peter Nelson, Danny West, Maria Meschi, Leslie Prosser, Patrick John King.

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



**The pink concertina for your Christmas cards** has made its annual appearance on the baptismal font! Please check it to see if you have any cards in it!

**Pray for the Sick:** Ania Kuzba, Jan Beavan, Robbie Bell, Meg Furber, Ann Currie, Midad Jasari, Lynne Howells, Katherine Melia, Christina James, Sarah, Ana Rudnicki, Nicola Merrick, Martin O'Connor, Patricia Moroney, Margaret Davis, Carola Morton, Margaret Skelding, James Spradbery, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Vera McHale, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Ann Marie Hughson, Ann Orchard.



## ADVENT – CHRISTMAS

This is the time of the year when we begin to receive Christmas cards. One of the popular scenes is that of the Annunciation. We're familiar with Mary's response to the

Angel Gabriel's momentous announcement to the young girl: 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' (Luke 1:38) Mary said yes to the invitation to be the Mother of God. It is understandable that many artists have depicted the scene in beautiful works of art.

I'm sure you will have noticed the picture in the narthex. The young Mary is often painted kneeling with an angel hovering over her delivering a message. In our picture we see a young angel holding out a hand to a young girl. The angel is delivering a message. The message is the most important message ever given. The young girl and the angel face each other. Mary is in deep thought and prayer; she stretches out her hand in acceptance. Before she accepts to be the Mother of God, St Luke records that she was greatly troubled. She was greatly troubled and didn't understand what was happening, but she made a great act of faith and responded with those momentous words, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' She accepted the invitation to be the Mother of God and did so with faith and love. Mary's reply was given not once but repeatedly as Jesus' earthly life unfolded. It was a mirror to Jesus' yes to his Father. In his earthly life we see how he listened to the Father in his moments of prayer and then acted.

With the many distractions we all face in our daily lives, it's difficult to have that peace in our hearts that makes room for the beauty and light of Jesus' presence. May we, during these days of Advent, open our hearts and listen with that attentiveness and stillness to God's voice, 'Let it be to me according to your word.' **Fr James**

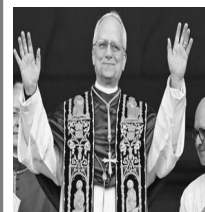
**Poor Clare Carol Service** is on Saturday Dec 13th at 6.30pm. Refreshments. Home made crafts for sale. All welcome! Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8PS.

**A very big thank you** to all who worked so hard to make our Advent Bazaar last Saturday such a success! And to all who came along on the day. We raised a grand total of **£2153.55**.

Well done! The winners of the Christmas hampers were Sharon and Stuart, Tracey Buckley, Sheila Payne, Jo and Gareth, Mary & Madelene S.



Ministers of the Eucharist	Ministers of the Word
6pm Wendy Winterburn Jane Gennard Vigeetha Joseph	6pm Mary Schiavon Helen Booth
8am Cecilia Balestra Frances Hetterley	8am Stephen Cleeve James Morris
10am Mia Brennan Moses Obanimoh Gerald Okafor	10am Liz Symonds Val V Williams



## Great News!

**We are organizing a Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.**

It will run from Monday 5th—Friday 9th October 2026 - 5 days/4 nights. Cost: £1,029 pp. half board; coach return fare to Heathrow is extra. Travel insurance included.

There will a presentation evening in January with a cut-off date of 14th February 2026 for signing up.

Come and find out more.

Spiritual leader: **Fr. John George** Fully guided tour to include the following highlights:

Papal Audience; visit to St Peter's Basilica with Mass, tour & visit to the Dome; visit to and Mass in the Catacombs. Visit to the Trevi fountain and the Venerable English College. To sign up please e-mail the office. More information to follow.

**Parish 200 Club.** We are pleased to announce the winners of **October Draw**. 1st Sylvia Cockroft £30; 2nd Holly Ball £20; 3rd Ian and Mary Roberts £10. Winners of **November Draw**. 1st Arlene Ferrer £30; 2nd Lorraine Lloyd-Williams £20; 3rd Francis Britto £10. Winners of **December Draw**. 1st Elizabeth Wilson £30; 2nd Maggie Daron £20; 3rd Shema Lagat £10.

**Congratulations** to the Winners, who can collect their letters from the Sacristy.

**Winter STAR DRAW** Winner Tracey Buckley **£100**

If you would like a chance to win one of these monthly prizes, **subscriptions for 2026** are now due. **Speak to Paul and Brenda.**

**There will be a retiring collection** at all Masses next weekend for Christmas flowers. Help us make the church even more beautiful this Christmas. Thank you.



**Thank you** to all who came to Mass on the feast day of St Francis Xavier, our patron and those who joined us for a celebratory lunch. A big thank you too to all who helped with catering on the day.

**Youth Retreat Cardiff** - "2 Sundays ago I and some other people went on a youth retreat. It was amazing, I made some new friends and had a great time sharing my faith. We listened to some talks and then had Mass led by the Archbishop which was incredible. We then had lunch and had more talks then options for confession or other activities. it was a brilliant trip, great fun." James

**Welcome to new parishioners and visitors.** Do introduce yourselves to the welcomers and **come along after 10.00am Mass for coffee and cake.**



**Collection 30/11/2025**

**The Parish £1052.81**



## What's on in December 2025

Sun 14th	11.15am	Parish Celebration after Mass in Kemble Hall
Mon 15th	10.30am	The Word of the Lord in Advent, in Kemble Hall
Wed 17th	7.00pm	The Word of the Lord in Advent, in Kemble Hall
Mon 22nd	12.30pm	Carols on the Steps