



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH HEREFORD

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Dear Friends,

Today, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. It's particularly appropriate to have a feast in honour of the Holy Family as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. It's a time of the year when families spend time together. Families and friends exchange gifts and Christmas cards, reminding us of the great gift of Jesus coming into our world, a world of darkness and sin, to bring us his light, peace and beauty. Today's gospel from St Matthew tells us of the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt. The Holy Family, like so many families in today's world, had to flee their homeland to find safety and security. This is a day to pray that the beauty of family life may shine in our country. It's also a day to pray for all who feel lonely and rejected from their families.

Fr James

Liturgical Calendar Dec 2025/Jan 2026 Yr A Psalter Wk 1

Sat 27th	10.30am	ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST (FEAST)	Alena RIP
Sat 27th	11.00am	NB No Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 27th	6.00pm	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (FEAST)	Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP
Sun 28th	8.00am	THR HOLY FAMILY	Souls in Purgatory
Sun 28th	10.00am	THE HOLY FAMILY	The Parish
Mon 29th	9.30am Rosary 9am	ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR (FEAST)	Anna & Tadeusz Kania RIP
Tue 30th	No public Mass. Mass at Our Lady's 9.30		
Wed 31st	1.00pm	Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas	Joseph Cheriayath
Thur 1st	9.30am	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD (SOLEMNITY)	Private Intention
Fri 2nd	1.00pm	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	Philip Cook RIP (anniv.)
Sat 3rd	10.30am	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	Thanksgiving
Sat 3rd	11.00am	Confessions & Adoration	
Sat 3rd	6.00pm	2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Dwarka Prasad
Sun 4th	08.00am	2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	The Parish
Sun 4th	10.00am	2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Catherine



Fr James and Fr John would like to say thank you to parishioners for your Christmas cards, kind gifts and generous donations and to wish everyone **A Happy and Peaceful New Year.**



A resolution for your New Year?
One of our parishioners, Owen Jenkins has set up and runs a marvellous Parish WhatsApp that you install On your phone and it gives you lots of really interesting and up to date information, Over 100 followers so far. Do ask if you need help to install.



Come and visit the crib and bring your children and grandchildren. Crib offerings this year are for Aid to the Church in Need and the homeless. "See within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies."



We remember all who have died
Anniversaries: Patrick Jeffers, Pierina Gallagher, Alena Liskova, Rhys Clement, Angela Rosier, Joseph Lauria, Vera Franklin, Patrick John King, Wanda Jones, Philip Cook, James Joynt
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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 Spradberry, Teresa Bord, Patricia Marongiu, Sarah James, Vera McHale, Pauline and David Day, Mark Edmunds, Kath Feely, Ann Marie Hughson, Ann Orchard.

THE HOLY FAMILY: THE ORIGINAL PROTOTYPE



The Feast of the Holy Family invites us to pause and reflect on the simple yet profound life shared by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In a quiet home in Nazareth, God chose to dwell within an ordinary family, sanctifying family life itself. In their love, patience, work, and faithfulness, the Holy Family shows us that holiness is most often lived out not in extraordinary moments, but in the everyday rhythms of home life. "The most extraordinary thing in the world," as G.K. Chesterton said, "is an ordinary man and an ordinary woman and their ordinary children." At the heart of the Holy Family's life was trust in God. Mary pondered all things in her heart, Joseph listened and acted on God's word, and Jesus grew "in wisdom and age and favour before God and others." Their home was shaped by prayer—by attentiveness to God's presence and openness to God's will. This reminds us that prayer is not something added on to family life; it is what gives family life its deepest meaning and strength.

Family prayer, in all its forms, is a powerful way of keeping Christ at the centre of the home. It need not be complicated or lengthy. A simple grace before meals, a short prayer at bedtime, the Rosary, or reading a few lines of Scripture together can become sacred moments. In prayer, families learn to give thanks, to ask forgiveness, to share hopes and worries, and to place their trust in God together. As Pope Francis said: "The family is alive if it is united in prayer."

To help foster this prayer, please do take one of the little leaflets in the narthex entitled 'Prayers for my family.' Inspired by the Holy Family, may our homes be places where prayer is lived simply and faithfully, and where love is strengthened day by day. **Fr John**

Ministers of the Eucharist | Ministers of the Word

6pm Jane Gennard
Angela Holmes
Kathy Weston

8am Cecilia Balestra
Vera McHale

10am Mary Cook
Noel Elegado
Maria Brennan

6pm Mary Schiavon
Stuart Fox

8am Stephen Cleeve
James Morris

10am Liz Symonds
Valerie. V. Williams



Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.

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.

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.
Booking forms are now available from the office

Confirmations The 2026 confirmation course for pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 (or older if you have not made your Confirmation) will begin in the New Year. To register please contact with your name and DOB to hereford2@cardiffmenevia.org



Carols on the steps
Many Thanks to the band of volunteers who came out for the carol singing on the steps on Monday. They were raising money for the homeless in Hereford and giving great Christian witness. A veritable chorus of Angels!



St Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him we humbly pray:
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

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



Collections 21/12/2025

The Parish £793.30



What's on in January 2026

Mon 5th 7.00pm **SVP in Kemble Hall**

Wed 7th 6.30pm **ABC Scripture group**

There will be NO 1st Thursday Club in January