



ST. JOHN KEMBLE DEANERY

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2026

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEART TO HEART EASTERTIDE PROGRAMME – GATHERING THE FRUITS

The groups were not large, but the experience was rich and has helped to light the way forward for Catholics in Herefordshire, showing how to become more missionary and synodal. That was, in sum, the report from the parishes who took part in the “Heart to Heart” six-week Eastertide programme when they met to share their experiences at an eve-of-Pentecost gathering at Belmont Abbey.

The deanery-wide “harvesting the fruits” meeting on the morning of 23rd May was held to hear back from our parishes and hear what the Holy Spirit might be saying to them. Abbot Brendan began the meeting with a 20-minute meditation on the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. Then five parishes fed back their reports: two from Belmont Abbey parish (whose groups had been joined by some from Ledbury), plus St. Francis Xavier in Hereford, Our Lady’s in Belmont, St. Thomas’ in Weobley and St. Ethelbert’s in Leominster. The gathering of around 50 people then divided into small groups of four and five to reflect on what had been said, and to make some proposals for how the deanery might vary forward the synodal and missionary conversion of the Church. Abbot Brendan concluded, promising to reflect on the proposals and to take them forward.

The programme of six weekly meetings were designed in response to a series of talks by Archbishop Mark O’Toole, video-recorded and available on the diocesan website. Our deanery programme began with listening to his talk, but rather than simply discuss his questions, each group moved through two prayerful experiences of sharing. The first, group lectio divina, involved a meditative reading of a Scripture passage from the following Sunday, with those taking part sharing what had resonated with them. The second, conversation in the Spirit – the key method that emerged from the worldwide synod on synodality (2021-2024), allowed the groups to grapple with the challenge of the Archbishop’s questions in a way that encouraged careful mutual listening and an awareness of spiritual motions.

Although proportionally speaking, few attended the sessions – SFX, for example, had about 60, Belmont Abbey perhaps 25 – the experience was very rich. People were struck by the methods, which built communion and allowed for all to speak, and came away committed to “this way of doing things”, embedding prayer, listening and discernment into the culture of parish life.

In response to the challenges the Archbishop placed before the parishes, there was broad recognition that our congregations fail to be missionary and evangelizing, and that a focus needs to develop that what we do and how we act needs to be better to communicate God’s love to those outside. We need to be better at speaking about our faith to each other, and our activities and service need to flow from prayerful discernment in response to concrete needs. We need more formation, and more relational parishes that are genuine communities. This is a long-term, deep-seated conversion that Pope Francis and now Pope Leo are urgently calling on us to make in response as our society moves from a world where Christianity is supported by culture to a missionary context, in which we must learn to “break out” as the early disciples did, given courage and clarity by the Spirit.

The meeting settled on a number of proposals: to study synodality more deeply; to arrange training in facilitation for leaders of Conversation in the Spirit groups in parishes; to consider a programme of talks and renewal for the same time next year; and finally, a “mission team” in the deanery to take all

this forward. Many of those taking part in the “gathering the fruits” day stayed for a Cafod lunch to raise funds for Sudan, and people left – it is fair to say - in joy and hope, ready for Pentecost.



MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS



Pope Leo XIV has released his first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence. It is a profound document on what it means to be human in this age of rapid technological development, reminding us of our God-given dignity and the importance of working towards the common good. Pope Leo warns against the increased inequality that AI could bring and urges us to put human beings, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable at the heart of all that we do. He reminds us of our Christian vocation to look beyond the confines of our own interests and commit ourselves to the common good, saying: “*For the*

Christian community, social justice is a concrete way of following Jesus and remaining faithful to the Gospel.” He asks us to build a “*civilisation of love*” and to work together with one another to create a better world, which reflects the Kingdom of God.

To read the full encyclical – *Magnifica Humanitas* – please use the following link: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (CCO)

Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) - a group from Canada - have been invited to run a mission throughout the Archdiocese, **19th June to 5th July 2026**.

They are a Canadian based Catholic movement raising up Christ-centred, Spirit-filled leaders with the aim to evangelise the world one person at a time. Two events which are taking place in Hereford are:

- 'Learning to Pray' taking place at **Belmont Abbey on 27th June 2026**. This is a day for everyone interested in deepening their prayer life, led by the CCO founder, Andre Regnier.
- Parish Evangelisation Day at **St Francis Xavier's, Hereford on 28th June 2026**. A day of formation and evangelisation for those in Herefordshire.

EVENTS IN JUNE

HEREFORD POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR
ANNUAL CONCERT
 FRIDAY 26TH JUNE, 2026 - 7PM
 ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, HEREFORD

WITH GUESTS:
 MARCHES MILITARY WIVES CHOIR
 AND GUEST SOPRANO
 LAUREN ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

militarywives
Choirs

TICKETS:
 ADULT £12, UNDER 18 FREE

WWW.HEREFORDPOLICECHOIR.ORG
 ANDYSCHOLAR69@GMAIL.COM
 07796 722 854

SUPPORTING Prostate Cancer UK
 Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company 02653887
 Hereford Police Male Choir Charity 515177

Wednesday 3 rd June @ 7pm friends	Conquest Theatre, Bromyard	Can Muslims & Jews be again? Talk by Francis Ghiles
Wednesday 3 rd June @ 2.00pm	St. Thomas', Weobley	Parish Bible Reading Group
Friday 5 th June, 6.45pm – 7.30pm	Belmont Abbey, Hereford	A Service of Healing Prayer
Saturday 6 th June – 9.30am with to 12.15pm	St. George's Parish Centre Worcester	How Jesus Catechised Dr. Christine Dodd
Sunday 7 th June @ 5.55pm - 7.00pm	Belmont Abbey, Hereford	Corpus Christi Procession

Wednesday 10 th June @ 7.00pm	Belmont Parish Centre Council	Deanery Pastoral Advisory
Friday 12 th June from 5.30pm to 14 th June, 2.00pm	Belmont Abbey, Hereford	Two Apostles, One Gospel: Peter & Paul in the Life of the Early Church
Saturday 20 th June, 2.00pm - 5.00pm	Belmont Abbey Gardens	Belmont Abbey Garden Fete
Friday 26 th June @ 7.00pm	St. Francis Xavier, Hereford	Hereford Police
Male Voice Choir		Annual Concert
Saturday 27 th June @ 2.00pm	St. Ethelberts, Leominster	Parish Fete
Saturday 27 th June – day event	Belmont Abbey	Learning to Pray – CCO
Sunday 28 th June – day event CCO	St. Francis Xavier, Hereford	Parish Evangelisation –
Sunday 28 th June @ 2.30pm	St. Thomas', Weobley	Parish Strawberry Tea

Don't Forget: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Hereford hold a Coffee Morning on the second Tuesday of every month starting at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome!

"How Jesus Catechised"

Formator: Dr Christine Dodd



A Special Formation Session for Catechists

Event Details

Date: Saturday, 6th June 2026 Time: 9:30 am – 12:15 pm

Venue: St George's Parish Centre, Worcester WR1 1UG (Car Park (WR1 1UT))

Join us for an inspiring morning as we gather in prayer, discussion, and reflection. We hope to strengthen and enrich our catechetical mission and encourage one another in the ministry to which we are called.

Programme:

- 9.00 am Mass in honour of Our Lady, the Mother God
- 9.30 am Refreshments
- 10:00 am Session on "**How Jesus Catechised**"
- 10.45 am - Tea break
- 11.00 am Session on "**How Jesus Catechised**"
- 12:15 pm End of the sessions
- 12.30 pm Vigil Mass, you are very welcome to join us.

Please confirm your attendance by Tuesday 2nd June 2026 by contacting Canon John Bathula at

FUTURE EVENTS

Retreats and Events at Belmont Abbey

- 20th July 10am – 25th July 2.00pm Beginners Icon Workshop
- 27th July 10am – 1st August 2.00pm Beginners/Intermediate Icon Workshop
- 3rd August 10am – 8th August 2.00pm Intermediate/Advanced Icon Workshop

For more information, visit: www.belmontabbey.org.uk/more-retreats
www.belmontabbey.org.uk/online-retreats/information

CONGRATULATIONS!

Huge congratulations to Clare Davies of St. Joseph's, Bromyard who has been elected Mayor of Bromyard



"Almighty and eternal God, give us the grace and strength to carry out the work entrusted to us in this diocese. Bless our families and our parishes. Open our hearts to the prompting of the Holy Spirit so that, strengthened in faith, growing in hope, and living in charity, we may be missionary disciples making your name known and loved. Guide our Bishop and Clergy and grant us all things necessary for our common life, that we may be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"