

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour out your power upon all your children in the Middle East. Let hatred be turned to love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation. Grant that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces and peace and justice be experienced by all. Amen

Gracious Mary, Mother of God and Our Lady of Kiev, we humbly ask for you to intercede for the people of Ukraine, for the people, their government, and all who suffer because of war. Be with them as you stood beside your son at Calvary. Give them strength and courage through faith, hope and justice. Grant, through your prayers, that peace may come to that troubled land. Amen

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. Amen

Prayer for Our Parish

Loving God, all you desire is our wholeness and wellbeing. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time. We grieve for precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbours, standing before an uncertain future. We pray: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good. Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, for you, the God who does not abandon your people. Amen

FOR THE SICK AND DECEASED OF OUR PARISH

We pray for the sick of our parish both at home and in hospital. For those who have died, and all those whose anniversaries of death are at this time and those known only to God. We pray for those affected by the war in Ukraine, and the Middle East.



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

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Hospital visits: Fr Patrick Lobo 07922 323603

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Charity Number 242380

Safeguarding Reps: Jan Winter & Leigh Brazewell
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Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs Aga Przybylska
Telephone: 01432 274814

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026

		10:00am	Kathleen Garrity RIP
		6.30pm	Pro Populo
Monday 27th July	Feria	9.30am	For Peace
Tuesday 28th July	Feria	9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 29th July	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass
Thursday 30th July	Feria	6.00pm	Holy Souls
Friday 31st July	St Ignatius Loyola	9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 1st August	St Alphonsus Liguori	10.00am	Exposition and confessions
		11.00am	Mass: Peace
		10:00am	Barbara Johnson
		6.30pm	Pro Populo

Collection at Our Lady's for Week Ending 19th July

Last week's Statistics

Attendance: 198 (Numbers are approximate)

Plate Collection: £178.80

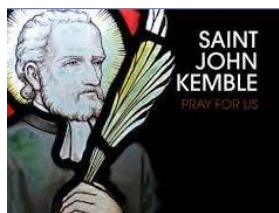
Hall Renovation Fund: £195.20 Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

Lost Property

In the narthex there are several lost items including assorted umbrellas hats, jumpers, coats and even a baby's bib. If you have lost something like that in the last few weeks, please check if they are yours. Anything left behind at the end of this week will be disposed of.



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School currently has **places** available in nearly all year groups. Families seeking a caring, nurturing environment with high expectations, excellent teaching, and a strong Catholic ethos are warmly invited to visit. Our recently published Ofsted report recognises that "*A positive and inclusive culture is at the heart of Our Lady's RC Primary,*" reflecting a school where children are safe, valued, and supported to achieve their very best. If you are considering a place for your child, or would simply like to find out more about everything Our Lady's has to offer, please contact the school office on **01432 274814** or email admin@our-ladys.hereford.sch.uk to arrange a personal tour of the school.



Annual Pilgrimage to the Grave of Saint John Kemble

The annual pilgrimage to the grave of St John Kemble will take place on **Sunday 23 August**. Leaving St Mary's RC Church, Monmouth at 10.15a.m we will walk to Welsh Newton, where there will be Rosary, Readings & Prayers at 3.00 - 4.15pm. All are welcome. Please bring a

packed lunch. Benediction follows here at St Mary's, Monmouth. Afterwards tea will be served in the garden. Enquiries to: The Pilgrimage Secretary: Mrs M Walsh 01600 713316.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS- Due to a couple of cancellations we now have on offer 5 places for you to join the SFX church Rome pilgrimage from Mon 5th -9th October. Fully escorted pilgrimage with expert guides and staying in a 4 * hotel right by the Vatican. For further details please contact the SFX office on hereford2@cardiffmenevia.org

Reflection

All of us are searching for that one thing that would make us truly happy, that would make our lives complete. If society is to be believed happiness lies in wealth and material possessions and the more, you have the happier you will be. I am reminded of a poster I used to have on my bedroom wall at university which simply said, "I wish someone would give me the chance to prove that money can't make me happy". In today's Gospel we have two people who have found that one thing which would make them truly happy, the man who finds treasure in a field and the one who finds the pearl of great price. Both of these are willing to give up everything they own to have that one thing that they have spent their lives searching for and now have found. To an outsider this seems like madness, but they know that their course of action is the only one that makes sense for they have discovered the one thing that will make their lives complete. Jesus equates this treasure with the Kingdom of God and challenges us to ask whether we are truly seeking out the Kingdom and if so what are we willing to give up to own it? Life is nothing without God; a relationship with God is a real treasure. Only God can give us what we are truly looking for, only God can make our lives complete. If there is one message that comes over loud and clear from today's Gospel it is that we are called to give up everything to own the very thing that will bring us true joy. To embrace the Kingdom is to hold fast to the one who loves us more that we can ever know. In these two parables Jesus gives us a choice; are we willing to give up everything to have him or are we happier to cling on to the things of this world? Jesus challenges us to be open and honest before him so that he can bring about healing, wholeness and peace. For Jesus there are no half measures he doesn't want anything, he wants everything and it is only through our total self-giving that can bring about change in our lives. He calls us back a renewed faithfulness, a single heartedness to the one who loves us and who pours out his graces upon us despite our unworthiness, but this means letting go and that can be frightening. To let go is to take a risk and all too often we are more willing to settle for second best, to fix our eyes on the field rather than on the pearl hidden in it. The merchant and the treasure hunter sold everything they had in order to have the one thing that would make them truly happy, and they did so despite the cost the question is; are we prepared to do the same? *Louise Bowen*



Message from Chris: The Mighty Hike

Last Saturday, I completed the **Peak District Mighty Hike** covering a distance of 24km (14.9 miles) in 5 hours 49 minutes. With the kind generosity of family, parishioners and other friends £712 was raised for Macmillan. So, a big thank you to everyone for your kindness and support. Chris