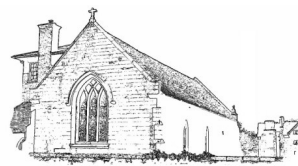


# ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



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Registered Charity No: 234216 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

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**Times of Holy Mass and Intentions**  
**(YEAR A Readings)**

- Sunday 13 September**      **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Education Day*  
8.30 am **\*Please email to book a place IN CHURCH** *The People of the Parish*  
10.30 am Mass IN THE GARDEN *Michael Bird R.I.P.*  
(No appointment necessary. **Please bring a chair**)
- Monday 14 September**      **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
11.00 am Mass IN CHURCH (No appointment necessary) *Private Intention*
- Tuesday 15 September**      **Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows**  
*Doreen Millard R.I.P.*
- Wednesday 16 September**      **Memorial of Ss Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**  
*Private Intention*
- Thursday 17 September**      **Memorial of St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**  
11.00 am Mass IN CHURCH (No appointment necessary) *Stan Robson R.I.P.*
- Friday 18 September**      **Feria in Ordinary Time**  
*Mary O'Connor R.I.P.*
- Saturday 19 September**      **Memorials of St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop: St Januarius, Bishop: Our Lady of Saturday**  
10.00 am **\*Please email to book a place IN CHURCH** *Private Intention*
- Sunday 20 September**      **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Home Mission Day*  
8.30 am **\*Please email to book a place IN CHURCH** *Private Intention*  
10.30 am Mass IN THE GARDEN *The People of the Parish*  
(No appointment necessary. **Please bring a chair**)

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**EVERY DAY IS SUNDAY!**

During these times of restriction, the obligation to attend Mass each Sunday is suspended. We are encouraged by the Church to stagger our attendance at Mass to include weekdays to avoid over-capacity on Sunday.

**Anniversaries in September:** Rev William Thompson (1726), Rev Francis Parker (1779), Rev Richard Cornthwaite (1803), William Parkes, Thomas Parkes (1895), Ellen Ryan-Ferris(1955) Rev John Love (1961), Bernard McKay (1985), Catherine Dawson (1992), Patrick Dawson (1998), Faye Bullock (1999), Violet Grove (1999), Joseph Haydon (2000), Mgr James Crighton (2001), John Keenan (2002) Michael Broadbent (2006), Leonard Bernard Myerscough (2010), Frank Verlic (2014), Peter Stubbins (2016)

**In your prayers please remember parishioners and friends who are sick:**

Michael Bird, Kathleen Clark, Denis Conway, Peter Handley, Lucinda Robinson, Lionel Cornish.

In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of

**Michael Bird**

Who died on Tuesday 8th September.

May he Rest In Peace

**Contributions to the Parish:**

**Weekly Offertory received for Sunday 6th September**

Gift Aid Direct Debits	£426.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£242.00
Loose cash	£383.85

Whilst not being able to attend St Mary's in person, parishioners who normally use Gift Aid envelopes may wish to:

- save donations in cash until we return
- **or** write a cheque and deliver/post your donation along with the remaining Gift Aid envelopes for this financial year
- **or** set up a standing order using the form on the Diocesan website . Download, print, complete and sign by hand then send it for the attention of Amalia Costanzo, St Mary's RC Church, Harvington Hall Lane, Harvington Worcs. DY10 4LR

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=90f11d7d-ebb4-4d07-b64e-9f38e324225b>

**KIDDERMINSTER FOOD BANK** thank St Mary's parishioners for not forgetting the needs of our local community in sending generous donations of cash during the past few month when our usual gifts of food and household necessities have been curtailed by Covid restrictions. Donations may always be sent to: **Mrs Denise Carson, Kidderminster Food-bank Treasurer, 20 Whitehill Road, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6JJ**



**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** begins on Wednesday 23rd September.

You are invited to the Kick-off event on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September in the Upper Cloister Room at The Oratory 141 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8UE starting at 3 pm prompt.



For well over one hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. Since 2016, it has been celebrated on the second Sunday in September, coinciding with the start of the school year (prior to this it was celebrated on the ninth Sunday before Easter). It is a National Day of Prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education.

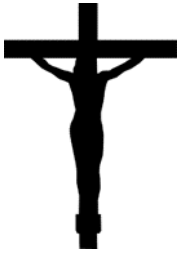
The theme is devised by an ecumenical steering group representing different Christian denominations and organisations. **The theme for 2020 is "A learning people in a time of change".**

This year Education Sunday takes place at a time when many children, young people and staff have been away from schools, colleges and universities and have been working in different ways. Churches, too, have had to learn and adapt, whilst still maintaining a pattern of worship. This is a time to think about what we have learnt about ourselves, about our communities and about God.



**THANK YOU** everyone for patiently observing the guidelines that allow us to gather inside the church or in the garden at St Mary's. To comply with the '1 metre plus' advice for safe social distancing please:

- maintain a **one metre distance** from members of other households
- **wear a face mask or similar face covering**
- **use the hand sanitiser provided on entry.**
- When planning any visit to St Mary's in the coming weeks please be aware, **we are unable to allow the use of the lavatory.**
- In order to track and trace, should a case of Covid-19 be found, **all visitors** to either the inside of St Mary's or the garden **will be asked to leave their name and contact details with us.** These will be held securely in accordance with GDPR rules.
- Everyone who attends Mass in the garden is asked to please
  - **not arrive before 10.00am**
  - **provide their own chair**, preferably with a low back to avoid blocking sight lines. Visitors may wish to stand or sit on the ground/their own rug or mat. For reasons of hygiene, **no parish seating will be provided.**
  - maintain the appropriate **distance from other 'households'**
- As space is limited, please book in to attend Mass **IN CHURCH** on **Saturday and Sunday** only. ([stmarysrc.harvington@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrc.harvington@gmail.com)). For these two Masses you will be allocated a place on a seating plan.
- For Masses in church on other days or in the garden there is no need to book advance.



## The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Saviour's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on that spot.

During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

### *Reflection*

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewellery. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/exaltation-of-the-holy-cross/>