

ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



Parish Priest: Rt Rev Mgr Canon John Moran

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Website: www.stmarysharvington.org.uk

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

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Attendance at all Masses must be booked in advance either by email at any time or by phone, on Friday morning 10.00 - 12.00.

Times of Holy Mass and Intentions

(YEAR B Readings)

Sunday 13 December

8.30am

11.00am

Third Sunday of Advent

Mass intention for: A Private Intention

Mass intention for: The People of The Parish

Monday 14 December

(No public Mass)

Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Mass intention for: Joseph Beddoes R.I.P.

Tuesday 15 December

(No public Mass)

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: Doreen Millard R.I.P.

Wednesday 16 December

(No public Mass)

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: Michael Millard R.I.P.

Thursday 17 December

11.00am

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: Fr Brendan Kelleher R.I.P.

Friday 18 December

11.00am

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: Sarah Millard R.I.P.

Saturday 19 December

10.00am

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: Albert Moore R.I.P.

Sunday 20 December

8.30am

11.00am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

Mass intention for: The People of The Parish

Mass intention for: A Private Intention

Anniversaries in December: Rev Sylvester Jenks (1714), Rev Thomas Atherton (1758), Sir Charles Throckmorton (1840), Charles Spink (1885), Edward Hailes (1912), Elaine Mulroy (1971), Eric Needham (1996), Cyril Hennessey (1999), Margaret Green (2004), Josephine Packwood (2004), Anthony Bashford, Pauline Reeve (2006), James O'Brien (2012), Marilyn Way (2016)

In your prayers please remember parishioners and friends who are sick: Kathleen Clark, Peter Handley, Lucinda Robinson, Lionel Cornish, Pat Taylor, Bob Grant

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Contributions to the Parish:

Weekly Offertory received for the week ending 6th December

Gift Aid Direct Debits	£316.00
Gift Aid Envelopes (inc Nov)	£332.00
Loose cash	£331.40

Whilst not attending church in person, parishioners who normally use Gift Aid envelopes may wish to:

- save donations in cash until they can be handed in at church
- **or** write a cheque and deliver/post your donation to St Mary's
- **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, Parish Secretary (Finance) 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>

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CHARITABLE GIVING

There are many calls on your charity at this time of year. The following have close attachments to our parish and/or have particular need at the moment:



Friends of the Holy Land, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2DH or through the website:
www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/christmas.

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KIDDERMINSTER FOOD BANK

<https://kidderminster.foodbank.org.uk/> Donations of money are always welcomed by this local charity. Cheques made payable to

'Kidderminster Food Bank' may be sent to:

**Mrs Denise Carson, Kidderminster Foodbank Treasurer,
20 Whitehill Rd, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6JJ**



We are very pleased so many people have been attending Masses here at St Mary's during these past few months when restrictions have been in place. On some occasions the church has been full to the restricted capacity currently in place to keep everyone safe from the potential spread of the Covid-19 virus. Consequently, to avoid disappointment, places at **ALL MASSES must be booked in advance**. This may be done by email at any time:

stmarysrc.harvington@gmail.com

or by phone: **01562 777319** on **Friday mornings 10.00 - 12.00**.

Don't forget, **Mass Readings** may be found online:

- <https://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/daily-mass-readings/>
- <http://universalis.com/mass.htm>

Live-streaming of Masses is available from this website:

- <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/west-midlands>



The obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation remains suspended.

All the faithful are asked to make an **Act of Spiritual Communion**:

***My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there,
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.***

Saint Alphonsus Liguori



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE is difficult to conduct in these times of more strict personal distancing. We have always known that an act of contrition with the intention of attending Confession as soon as possible is sufficient for receiving God's forgiveness. Absolution may not be given remotely but if you wish to talk about these circumstances to Fr John in person please telephone him, 01562 777319.

There are a variety of different Acts of Contrition suggested in the Rite of Penance.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/prayers/act-of-contrition.html>

Act of Contrition (traditional)

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Two traditions are celebrated today, once ancient and one modern.



The Third Sunday of Advent is nicknamed **GAUDETE SUNDAY**

from the first word of the entrance chant, or Introit: 'Rejoice'.

Priests at Mass wear pink/rose coloured vestments and the pink candle on the Advent Wreath is lit. Today we relax slightly our penitential focus during Advent. Advent is joyous, but also penitential.

Remember: we fast before our feasts.

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/gaudete-sunday-is-a-glimpse-of-the-joy-that-lies-ahead/>

Parishioners of a certain era may well remember the folk-rock band Steeleye Span when they hear the word '**Gaudete**'! To catch up on old memories or to discover this iconic track here is a link to listen to the hymn and read the lyrics:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTAUnjVomZk>



With younger members of the church in mind, Pope John Paul II, during his papacy, instituted the celebration of **BAMBINELLI SUNDAY** on the Third Sunday of Advent

– a day on which children from Rome bring to St. Peter's

Square the figurine of the Christ Child from their families' Nativity sets. Then, following the Sunday Angelus address, the Holy Father blesses the statues of Baby Jesus which the children take back to homes to be placed under their Christmas trees. Pope Francis continued the tradition, blessing the statuettes which children bring before him in the Square. Parishes around the world now join in the celebration.

We adopted this practice at St Mary's in 2019 but because of the current Covid restrictions this year we ask parishioners to encourage children in their families to take the Christ Child figurine from their nativity set, wrap it carefully and keep it in a safe 'waiting space' until it may be placed in the crib at home on Christmas Day. We will do the same in church at St Mary's so young children, and indeed all of us, make the connection between the Nativity set at home and the church where we worship.