

# St Mary's Church Harvington



## CHRISTMAS

Newsletter

20th December 2020-3rd January 2021



Because of the restrictions imposed for social distancing in an effort to reduce the chances of infection from the Covid-19 virus, the number of available places in St Mary's is greatly reduced.

To accommodate everyone fairly, attendance at all Masses must be booked in advance.

**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are now fully booked.**

**To reserve a place at Mass on Sunday 27th Dec, Thursday 31st Dec, Friday 1st Jan, Saturday 2nd Jan and/or Sunday 3rd Jan please email at any time or by phone, on MONDAY 21st December between 10 o'clock and 12 noon.**

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**Times of Holy Mass and Intentions 20th December –3rd January**

**(YEAR B Readings)**

<b>Sunday 20 December</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
8.30am	Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers
11.00am	<i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>
	<i>Mass intention for: A Private Intention</i>
<b>Monday 21 December</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b>
(No public Mass)	<i>Mass intention for: A Private Intention</i>
<b>Tuesday 22 December</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b>
(No public Mass)	<i>Mass intention for: The Holy Souls</i>
<b>Wednesday 23 December</b>	<b>Commemoration of St John of Kanty, Priest</b>
(No public Mass)	<i>Mass intention for: Donaghey Families R.I.P.</i>
<b>Thursday 24 December</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b>
4.00pm	<i>Mass intention for: Stan Robson R.I.P.</i>
<b>Friday 25 December</b>	<b>Solemnity of the Nativity of The Lord</b>
8.30am	<i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>
11.00am	<i>Mass intention for: Private Intention.</i>
<b>Saturday 26 December</b>	<b>Feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr</b>
(No public Mass)	<i>Mass intention for: Delma Doherty R.I.P.</i>

**Sunday 27 December**

8.30am

11.00am

**Monday 28 December**

(No public Mass)

**Tuesday 29 December**

(No public Mass)

**Wednesday 30 December**

(No public Mass)

**Thursday 31 December**

11.00am

**Friday 1 January**

11.00am

**Saturday 2 January**

10.00am

**Sunday 3 January**

8.30am

10.30am

**Feast of the Holy Family***Mass intention for: The People of The Parish**Mass intention for: Ronald Kearney R.I.P.***Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs***Mass intention for: The Holy Souls***Feast of St Thomas Beckett,  
Bishop Martyr***Mass intention for: Norman & Pauline White***Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas***Mass intention for: Gallagher Families R.I.P.***Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas***Mass intention for: Anthony Francis-Flores R.I.P.***Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God***Mass intention for: Dr P Riley R.I.P.***Memorial of St Basil the Great and St Gregory  
Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church***Mass intention for: Joe Doherty and family***Second Sunday after The Nativity***Mass intention for: Private Intention.**Mass intention for: The People of The Parish*

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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*



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**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)**

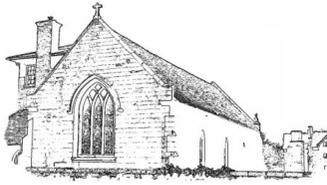
**O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love.**

**I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.**

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**Anniversaries of Parishioners and friends who have died in the month of 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 charity please pray for the repose of the soul of  
**Greg Kelly** who died recently  
**May he Rest In Peace**

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



**THANK YOU for your contributions to the Parish:**

**Weekly Offertory received for the week ending 13th December**

Gift Aid Direct Debits	£316.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£184.00
Loose cash	£136.20

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.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/christmas](http://www.friendsoftheholyland.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**

## A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

...to stretch you memory and test your knowledge, just for fun!

- ☆ Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the nation (in 1932)? .....
- ☆ Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 & 1660? .....
- ☆ In what country was Christmas banned from 1960 until 1997 when it was reinstated to commemorate a papal visit? .....
- ☆ Which diarist noted on 25th December 1662, " Had a pleasant walk to White Hall, where I intended to have received the communion with the family, but I have come too late..."? .....
- ☆ The Christmas period of 1813-14 saw the last what in London? .....
- ☆ Which Pope died on Christmas Day 795? .....
- ☆ On which date is Epiphany celebrated in the traditional Western calendar? .....
- ☆ What is the English title of the carol written in 1818 by Austrian priest Josef Mohr originally called *Stille Nacht*? .....
- ☆ Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus? .....
- ☆ Who are the four ghosts in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*? .....
- ☆ How many gifts are given in total in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*? .....
- ☆ The words "Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes of life, of gathering gloom..." come from which Christmas carol? .....
- ☆ What animal is Snowball in George Orwell's book *Animal Farm*? .....
- ☆ What liqueur goes into making a 'snowball' cocktail? .....
- ☆ The Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square is an annual gift from which country? .....

## THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

The representation of the scene of the nativity is a tradition that is almost a thousand years old. In the year 1223 St Francis decided to celebrate the feast of Christmas in a new way. His aim was to help people to better call to mind the poor surroundings in which Jesus was born and to make the wondrous event of the incarnation more real to the people of the time. In the town of Greccio, with the help of a local landowner, a nativity scene was set up with a stable, animals and straw. People came at night from the town with candles and torches to attend holy Mass by the crib and seeing the scene, be reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in the poverty of a manger.

<https://www.cenacle.co.uk/content-christmascrib>



A picture to colour in!

**Wishing you all a very  
Happy and Holy Christmas**



**From Fr John**

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**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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*A note from the Parish Office:*

*During Christmas week there will be a separate collection 'bin' in the church porch should you wish to make a traditional Christmas Offering to Fr John.*