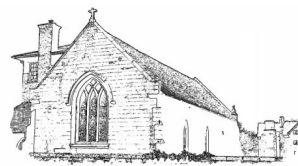


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



Parish Priest: Rt Rev Mgr Canon John Moran
Telephone: 01562 777319
e-mail: stmarysrc.harvington@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysharvington.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 234216 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

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Following recent instructions from HM Government and guidance from their Medical Advisers regarding the serious and increasingly rapid spread of the Covid virus, the decision was taken to close St Mary's for public Masses temporarily from 12th January until further notice.

Fr John celebrates Mass privately each day and honours the Intentions attached to these Masses. Please continue to request Mass Intentions by email, phone call or post. Donations may be sent later at your convenience.

MASSES THIS WEEK (with YEAR B Readings)

Sunday 31 January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>
Monday 1 February	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: Josephine Cristuta R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday 2 February	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord <i>Mass intention for: Holy Souls</i>
Wednesday 3 February	Memorial of St Blaise, St Ansgar, St Werburg <i>Mass intention for: Michael Millard R.I.P.</i>
Thursday 4 February	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: Holy Souls</i>
Friday 5 February	Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention</i>
Saturday 6 February	Memorial of St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs <i>Mass intention for: Diane Harris R.I.P.</i>
Sunday 7 February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>

THANK YOU!

... for all your offerings and donations. They are always gratefully received and enable Fr John to maintain our parish and to minister to our community.

Contributions to the Parish:

Weekly Gift Aid Direct Debits £316.00

Contributions received 11th - 24th Jan:

Gift Aid Envelopes: £205.00

Loose cash: £250.00



As you can see, our weekly income is substantially lower during our closure but at the same time our expenditure has only partly reduced. Whilst not attending church in person, parishioners who normally use Gift Aid envelopes may:

- 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.

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

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

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CHARITIES WITH A SPECIAL CONNECTION TO OUR PARISH:



Our local **FOOD BANK** appreciate monetary gifts to buy supplies on behalf of the service users. www.kidderminster.foodbank.org.uk. If you wish to make a donation by sending supermarket gifts cards and/or a cheque made payable to 'The Kidderminster Foodbank' post it to:
Mrs Denise Carson, Kidderminster Foodbank Treasurer
20 Whitehill Road, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6JJ



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND, need your help to support Christians living in the Holy Land. To find out more visit:
www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk To make a contribution please send it to
FHL, Farmer Ward Rd, Kenilworth, Warks CV8 2DH



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 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: 01562 777319.

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In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Canon Giles Coward, Rector of St Mary's College Oscott,
 who died on Thursday 28th January after a short illness.
 and

Fr Pat Joyce, retired priest of our Diocese,
 who died on Wednesday 13th January
May they Rest In Peace.

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Anniversaries in February: Rev Charles Dodd (1742), Rev James Layfield (1756), Stanhope Pedley (1938), Agnes Drinkwater (1938), Pierce Bradley (1987), Tony Goodyear (1988), Pauline Jack (1992), Jeffrey Nichols(2003), Gertrude Higham (2003), Gerard O'Keeffe (2003), Rose Marie Villiers (2007), Mary Keane (2007), Gerry Costello (2012), Edmund Osborne (2013), Mandy Natalie Bridge (2016), Alan Cox (2016), Liam Buckley (2018), Jean Wilcox (2018), Michael Millard (2019), Vincent Glynn (2019)

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

WHILE WE ARE AT HOME



- **MASS** can be viewed streamed from churches in our Diocese and further afield via: www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/west-midlands
- **UNIVERSALIS** is a useful Liturgy resource. Some of the content is free on the web and for a one-off fee an app is available for appropriate devices: www.universalis.com/
- The **WEDNESDAY WORD** website provide commentary and reflections on the Readings each week. There are section for Parents, Schools and Parishes: www.wednesdayword.org/
- **BIBLE ALIVE** booklets provide daily reflections written in an accessible and warm style inviting the reader to penetrate and plumb the depths of the scripture reading of the day. The lead features cover a wide array of subjects, topics, profiles and interviews on matters relating to living the Christian faith today. The essays and teaching are drawn from the rich teaching of Vatican II, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the teachings of Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict and Pope Francis; our profile and features explore in depth and detail the life witness of either a beati, a canonized saint or a hero of faith. The booklets are available on subscription from: www.alivepublishing.co.uk/publications/bible-alive
- **ST MARY'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP** meet every Sunday morning at 10.30 via Zoom. Fr John joins them too. The children have great fun learning about the Word of God. For more details about the Group please email the parish office.
- The monthly meetings of the **BOOK GROUP** continue via email conversations. Currently the Group are reading *The Glassblower of Murano* by Marina Fiorato and will share their thoughts on the text during the course of Monday 15th February. Next on the schedule is *Waiting for Sunrise* by William Boyd and will be discussed on a date TBC in March.



COMMEMORATED and CELEBRATED THIS WEEK

2ND FEBRUARY

The Story of the Presentation of the Lord

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honour of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later. (Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship.) This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification.

The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas.

At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candle-light procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.



3RD FEBRUARY



ST. BLASE

We probably know more about the devotion to **SAINT BLAISE** by Christians around the world than we know about the saint himself. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. In 1222, the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labour in England on Blaise's feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honour, and for decades many Catholics have sought the annual St Blaise blessing for their throats.

We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheatre stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.

The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused; he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, he was beheaded (d.c.316)

Four centuries give ample opportunity for fiction to creep in with fact. Who can be sure how accurate Blaise's biographer was? But biographical details are not essential. Blaise is seen as one more example of the power those have who give themselves entirely to Jesus. As Jesus told his apostles at the Last Supper, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). With faith we can follow the lead of the Church in asking for Blaise's protection.

Saint Blaise is the Patron Saint of:
Throat Ailments and of English Wool Combers