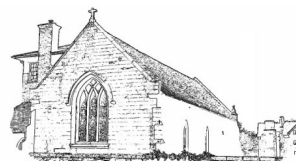


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



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 14 February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>
Monday 15 February	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: Pauline Jack R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday 16 February	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: Holy Souls</i>
Wednesday 17 February	Ash Wednesday <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention.</i>
Thursday 18 February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention</i>
Friday 19 February	Friday after Ash Wednesday <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention</i>
Saturday 20 February	Saturday after As Wednesday <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention</i>
Sunday 21 February	First Sunday of Lent <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>



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.***

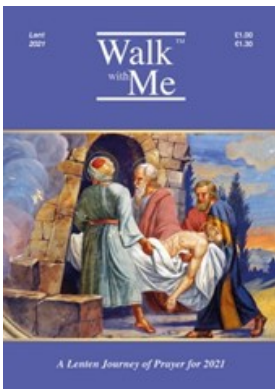
Saint Alphonsus Liguori



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE is difficult to conduct in these times of 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.

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)

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



WALK WITH ME booklets and children's calendars for Lent are now available at no charge to all St Mary's parishioners. As they cannot be collected whilst the church is currently closed you are invited to **send a stamped, self addressed envelope** to us with your request and booklets/calendars will be sent to you asap.

**St Mary's RC Church, Harvington Hall Lane,
Harvington, Worcs. DY10 4LR**

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 :

Thank you for the financial support of the parish received between 25th January and the 8th February:

Gift Aid Envelopes:	£85.00
Loose cash:	£125.00

Each week you kindly donate **£316.00 via Direct Debit** to St Mary's and this money attracts the benefit of Gift Aid, a government scheme which returns the tax you had paid on the money you give to St Mary's. For example, tax on income of 25% results in a quarter of a donation being returned to us:



Our weekly income is substantially lower during our closure but at the same time our expenditure has only partly reduced. If you have not already set up a planned giving arrangement to St Mary's would you consider doing so now by setting 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> Once the form is downloaded please print, complete and sign it then send it for the attention of: **Amalia Costanzo, Parish Secretary (Finance), St Mary's RC Church, Harvington Hall Lane, Harvington Worcs. DY10 4LR**

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



BELMONT ABBEY

... not only offer live streaming of Mass but also the opportunity to take part in online Retreats. The current programme includes:

- **The Mysteries of Mark.** Currently online
- **The Art of Listening** on Wednesdays mornings 10am to 1pm from 24th February, or online afterwards

<https://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/online-retreats/register>



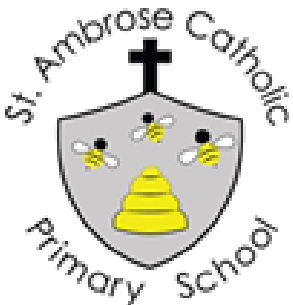
THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

The Archdiocese website is also a rich source of online resources to keep you informed and to support your prayer life. Current events include:

- **'Global Healing'.** *A series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resources. These sessions take place online over six Thursdays from 18 February to 25 March 7.30pm – 8.30pm.*

For further information and to register in order to take part follow this link:
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/global-catholic-movement-global-healing-session-1>

Calling families, friends and neighbours of pre-school and primary school aged children.



St Ambrose Catholic Primary School in Kidderminster is currently able to offer places to children of all faiths and warmly welcome you to get in touch. For further information, in the first instance please contact the school office on: [01562 823568](tel:01562823568) and please also take a look at their website for a flavour of what the school has to offer.

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. Please contact the parish office if you would like to join the group discussion.



In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed **ST. VALENTINE** from the General Roman Calendar, because so little is known about him. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the February 14 spot of Roman Martyrology. The legends attributed to the mysterious saint are as inconsistent as the actual identification of the man.

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love." Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test.

St. Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision.

Judge Asterius was humbled and obeyed Valentine's requests. Asterius broke all the idols around his house, fasted for three days and became baptized, along with his family and entire 44-member household. The now faithful judge then freed all of his Christian inmates.

St. Valentine was later arrested again for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity. He was sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II). According to the popular hagiographical identity, and what is believed to be the first representation of St. Valentine, the Nuremberg Chronicle, St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during Claudius' reign. The story tells that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. A relationship between the saint and emperor began to grow, until Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became enraged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269. However, other tales of St. Valentine's life claim he was executed either in the year 269, 270, 273 or 280. Other depictions of St. Valentine's arrests tell that he secretly married couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war.

Another variation of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine."

Pope Julius I is said to have built a church near Ponte Mole in his memory, which for a long time gave name to the gate now called Porta del Popolo, formerly, Porta Valetini.

The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have derived during the Middle Ages, when it was believed that birds paired couples in mid-February. According to English 18th-century antiquarians Alban Butler and Francis Douce, Valentine's Day was most likely created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia.

Whoever he was, Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honour of his martyrdom.

Relics of St. Valentine can be found all over the world. A flower-crowned skull of St. Valentine can be found in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. In 1836, other relics were exhumed from the catacombs of Saint Hippolytus on the Via Tiburtina and were identified as Valentine's. These were transported for a special Mass dedicated to those young and in love.

Fr. John Spratt received a gift from Pope Gregory XVI in 1836 containing a "small vessel tinged" with St. Valentine's blood. This gift now stands placed in Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Other alleged relics were found in Prague in the Church of St Peter and Paul at Vysehrad; in the parish church of St. Mary's Assumption in Chelmino Poland; at the reliquary of Roquemaure in France; in the Stephansdom in Vienna; in Balzan in Malta and also in Blessed John Duns Scotus' church in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, Scotland.

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, beekeepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14.

