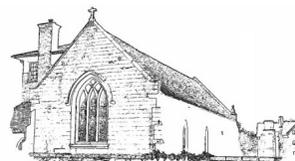


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



Parish Priest: Rt Rev Mgr Canon John Moran
Telephone: 01562 777319
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Website: www.stmarysharvington.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 234216 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham



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. We hope to reopen on Sunday 21st March. Please see further information on the next page of this newsletter

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 21 February	First Sunday of Lent <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>
Monday 22 February	Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle <i>Mass intention for: Michael Millard R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday 23 February	Commemoration of St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr <i>Mass intention for: Neil Jack R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday 24 February	Lent Feria <i>Mass intention for: Jean Wilcox R.I.P.</i>
Thursday 25 February	Lent Feria <i>Mass intention for: The Wilson family</i>
Friday 26 February	Lent Feria <i>Mass intention for: Stan Robson R.I.P.</i>
Saturday 27 February	Lent Feria <i>Mass intention for: Katherine Moore R.I.P.</i>
Sunday 28 February	Second 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, Jane and Peter Handley, Lucinda Robinson, Lionel Cornish, Bob Grant



Following careful consideration of the health and safety issues particular to our church premises, we are pleased to announce, **St Mary's will reopen for public worship on Sunday 21st March.** Details of the times of Masses along with services during Easter week will be confirmed next month when booking-in arrangements will resume. If and when the weather permits, we hope to use the garden of The Priest's House for some Masses and services during the next few months.

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 9th-15th February:

Gift Aid Envelopes:	£190.00
Loose cash:	£120.00

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**

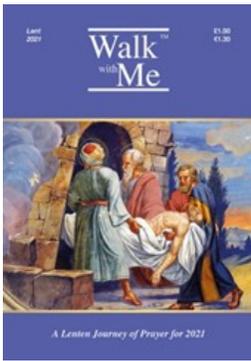
CHARITIES WITH A SPECIAL CONNECTION TO OUR PARISH:



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



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

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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>

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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>

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news, information and online events from across the Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email.

Please visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news to sign up.

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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 *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.

COMMEMORATED and CELEBRATED THIS WEEK



22nd February:

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, APOSTLE.

The Lord said to Peter, “You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church” Matthew 16:18, and “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” Matthew 16:19. St. Peter’s life is so important to the Church that he has more than one feast day during the year. Today’s feast is another way the Church celebrates this.

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER is a symbol of authority, as Jesus refers to this in Matthew 23: 2, when he commands and warns the crowd and his disciples, “The Scribes and Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses”. The “chair” is metaphorically referring to the teaching and judging office that Moses held in the Name of God. The name that Jesus gives to Peter is a second metaphor for an office of teaching and judging, and to drive the point home, Jesus uses a third metaphor by speaking of the “Keys of the kingdom of Heaven” Mathew 16:19. The “power of the keys” is used in many ways; some are specific to the Office of St. Peter the Papacy, others are shared with those ordained to priestly ministry, the Sacrament of Confession. We pray for these human leaders of the Church chosen by God, so they are faithful ministers of God’s grace to us.

This feast day is an anniversary and celebration of the “authority” of the Papacy, and the particular mission entrusted to St. Peter by Jesus. The Roman Missal explains, the symbol of the chair, and emphasizes the mission of teacher and pastor of Christ conferred upon Peter, to whom He formed in His person and in St. Peter’s successors, a visible foundation of unity of the Church. The chair, literally is a fixed seat of the supreme Pontiff and the Bishops, permanently placed in the Mother Church of the Diocese – Cathedral and is the symbol of the Bishop and his ordinary magisterium in the local church. The Chair of St. Peter indicates his position in the Apostolic College, established by the express will of Jesus, who assigned the task of “feeding” the flock, to lead the People of god, the Church.

<http://www.newmanconnection.com/faith/saint/feast-of-the-chair-of-saint-peter-the-apostle>

* Christ Handing the Keys to St. Peter by [Pietro Perugino](#) (1481-82) Fresco, Sistine Chapel, Vatican.

23rd February:

COMMEMORATION OF ST POLYCARP

Saint Polycarp (c. 69 – c. 155) bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome, a major controversy in the early Church.

Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia.

At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 155.

Reflection

Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians, a strong fortress of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: "Father... I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour..." (Acts of Martyrdom, Chapter 14).

