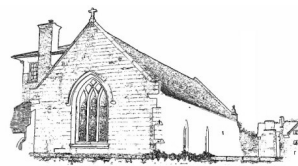


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



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 7 February | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i> |
| Monday 8 February | Memorial of St Jerome Emiliani Memorial of St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin Day for Victims of Human Trafficking <i>Mass intention for: Sally Millard R.I.P.</i> |
| Tuesday 9 February | Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: Holy Souls</i> |
| Wednesday 10 February | Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin <i>Mass intention for: Stan Robson R.I.P.</i> |
| Thursday 11 February | Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention</i> |
| Friday 12 February | Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Mass intention for: Mary Beth Turner R.I.P.</i> |
| Saturday 13 February | Memorial of Our Lady on Saturday <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention</i> |
| Sunday 14 February | Sixth 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 :

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

[IDMF=90f11d7d-ebb4-4d07-b64e-9f38e324225b](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



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.



In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Canon Giles Goward, 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.

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



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 *led by Dom Brendan Thomas*

It has been called the 'Cinderella' of the Gospels, standing in the shadows of its sisters, the more familiar Matthew, Luke and John. But in recent years Mark's Gospel has come into its own as the first of our Gospels to be written. It is so intriguing: marked by enigmas, parables and mysteries, it leaves us wanting to know more. As our Gospel for Sunday's in 2021 it repays closer inspection.

The Art of Listening *led by Dom Brendan Thomas*

Wednesdays mornings 10am to 1pm from 24th February, or online afterwards "Christianity is above all a discipline of listening, an art of listening." So writes Enzo Bianchi, echoing the experience of St Benedict and the monastic tradition to describe the path of spiritual growth. How do we begin to keep that two-fold commandment of love? We begin by listening - to God and to each other. We grow in love as we begin to listen. In a world where people are increasingly shouting at each other it is quite a challenge. But it is worthy of our attention this Lent.

<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:

*A series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource '**Global Healing**'. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action. 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>



COMMEMORATED and CELEBRATED THIS WEEK



Saint Josephine Bakhita **(c. 1869 – February 8, 1947)**

For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave, but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed.

Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

Reflection

Josephine's body was mutilated by those who enslaved her, but they could not touch her spirit. Her Baptism set her on an eventual path toward asserting her civic freedom and then service to God's people as a Canossian Sister. She who worked under many "masters" was finally happy to address God as "master" and carry out everything that she believed to be God's will for her.



Saint Jerome Emiliani (1486 – February 8, 1537)

A careless and irreligious soldier for the city-state of Venice, Jerome was captured in a skirmish at an outpost town and chained in a dungeon. In prison Jerome had a lot of time to think, and he gradually learned how to pray. When he escaped, he returned to Venice where he took charge of the education of his nephews and began his own studies for the priesthood.

In the years after his ordination, events again called Jerome to a decision and a new lifestyle. Plague and famine swept northern Italy. Jerome began caring for the sick and feeding the hungry at his own expense. While serving the sick and the poor, he soon resolved to devote himself and his property solely to others, particularly to abandoned children. He founded three orphanages, a shelter for penitent prostitutes and a hospital.

Around 1532, Jerome and two other priests established a congregation, the Clerks Regular of Somasca, dedicated to the care of orphans and the education of youth. Jerome died in 1537 from a disease he caught while tending the sick. He was canonized in 1767. In 1928, Pius XI named him the patron of orphans and abandoned children. St. Jerome Emiliani shares his liturgical feast day with St. Josephine Bakhita on February 8.

Reflection

Very often in our lives it seems to take some kind of “imprisonment” to free us from the shackles of our self-centeredness. When we’re “caught” in some situation we don’t want to be in, we finally come to know the liberating power of Another. Only then can we become another for “the imprisoned” and “the orphaned” all around us.

Saint Jerome Emiliani is the Patron Saint of:

Orphans

Abandoned Children

Saint Scholastica (c. 480 – February 10, 542)



Twins often share the same interests and ideas with an equal intensity. Therefore, it is no surprise that Scholastica and her twin brother, Benedict, established religious communities within a few miles from each other.

Born in 480 of wealthy parents, Scholastica and Benedict were brought up together until he left central Italy for Rome to continue his studies.

Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery. The twins visited each other once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. They spent these times discussing spiritual matters.

According to the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day.

He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey. Benedict cried out, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favour of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it."

Brother and sister parted the next morning after their long discussion. Three days later, Benedict was praying in his monastery and saw the soul of his sister rising heavenward in the form of a white dove. Benedict then announced the death of his sister to the monks and later buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

Reflection

Scholastica and Benedict gave themselves totally to God and sacrificed some of the opportunities they would have had to be together as brother and sister in order better to fulfil their vocation to the religious life. In joining a religious community, they did not forget or forsake their family but rather found more brothers and sisters.

Saint Scholastica is the Patron Saint of Nuns.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, on February the 11th marks the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernade (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25th she said to the little shepherdess, who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is a call to personal conversion, prayer, and charity. [<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2020-02-11>]



THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee,

O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

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.