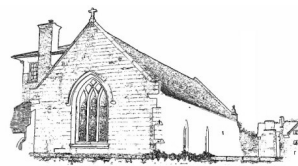


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



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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In the light of 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. National and local circumstances have improved to such an extent we will be able to reopen **St Mary's for public worship on Sunday 21st March**. (Booking-in arrangements have been sent by email to parishioners)

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 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass intention for: The People of The Parish

Monday 15 March

Lent Feria

Mass intention for: Margaret Pakes R.I.P.

Tuesday 16 March

Lent Feria

Mass intention for: Private Thanksgiving

Wednesday 17 March

Feast of St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland

Mass intention for: Neil Jack R.I.P.

Thursday 18 March

**Memorial of St Cyril of Jerusalem,
Bishop, Doctor of the Church**

Mass intention for: John Sweeney R.I.P.

Friday 19 March

**Solemnity of St Joseph,
Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mass intention for: Stan Robson R.I.P.

Saturday 20 March

Lent Feria

Mass intention for: Peter & Jane Handley

Sunday 21 March

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.30am (booking-in essential)

Mass intention for: The People of The Parish

10.30am (in the garden)

Mass intention for: Jean & Tom Wilcox R.I.P.



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.***

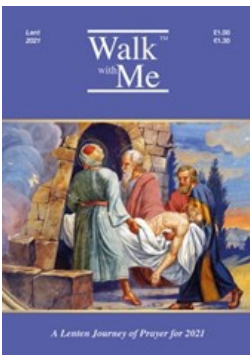
Saint Alphonsus Liguori



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 March: Rev John Marsden (1824), Ann Parkes (1863), Joseph Chare (1865), Rev John Brownlow (1888), Philip Alfred Haskew (1897), William Benedick Oakley (1908), Henry Mercer (1974), Anna Newton Keenan (1992), Ernest Godwin (1993), Ann Kiley (2004), Martin Amphlett (2013) Geraldine Pritchard (2017), Aubrey Campbell (2018), Tom Wilcox (2018), Anthony Francis-Flores (2018), Vincent Glynn (2019), Michael Bianco (2019)

In your prayers please remember parishioners and friends who are sick: Kathleen Clark, Jane and 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 22nd Feb -1st March:

Gift Aid Envelopes:	£120.00
Loose cash:	£160.00

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.

Those of you who are already in the scheme will be awaiting their usual, annual certificates of donation from the Archdiocese. We have been advised by their Gift Aid office they are unable to produce these letters this year. If you are unsure of the amount you have donated to St Mary's in the year 2019-2020 please contact the Parish Office and we will be able to provide you with that figure.

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**

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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

stations
of the
CROSS



ON OUR WEBSITE: www.stmarysharvington.org.uk

To assist your Lenten journey one of our parishioners, professional photographer Michael Jones, has captured the images of the Stations of the Cross, displayed on the walls at St Mary's and collated them with the prayers by St Alphonsus Liguori. They may be found on a tab recently added to our parish website to assist anyone wishing to recite the Stations of the Cross privately.

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BELMONT ABBEY

... offer live streaming of Mass and 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.



The year 2020 was earmarked as a focus on the Bible and 'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS'.

The campaign is now continuing throughout 2021.

We are encouraged to celebrate, live and share God's word throughout this exciting Scripture initiative led by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Bible Society.

2020 was chosen as it was the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini, Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' - and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death.

The focus in March is on the Holy Family: [godwhospeaks.uk/the-holy-family](https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-holy-family)

Lent at Home:

A dedicated space with lots of great online resources for this

Lent: [godwhospeaks.uk/lent-at-home](https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/lent-at-home)

Top Ten:

- Top Ten Angels: different depictions of angels in art and explore the Bible passages that inspired them: [godwhospeaks.uk/our-top-ten-angels-in-the-bible](https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/our-top-ten-angels-in-the-bible)
- Top Ten Home Quotes: Having spent much more time at home over the last year, we've turned to the Bible to find our top ten quotes about the home: [godwhospeaks.uk/our-top-ten-home-quotes](https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/our-top-ten-home-quotes)

Home school RE Resources

- Aimed at 5-11 year olds, these focus on the parables of Jesus and how he used them to teach people about God and about themselves. There are a range of activities, games, puzzles and ideas for going deeper with the parables.

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/homeschool-resources/>

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>



What is the difference between a Solemnity, Feast and Memorial?

SOLEMNITIES are the celebrations of the greatest importance in the Church's Liturgical calendar. Each Solemnity begins on the previous evening with Evening prayer of the Church and some of the Solemnities have their own Vigil Mass. Both the Gloria and the Creed are recited on Solemnities. Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation are observed as Solemnities.

FEASTS in the Church's Liturgical calendar follow Solemnities as next in importance and are celebrated on a specific day. These feasts unlike the Solemnities do not have Evening Prayer of the Church or Vigil Mass on the previous evening. An exception would be the Feasts of the Lord which occur on Sundays in Ordinary Time and Sundays in the Christmas season. For example, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on the 2nd of February has its own Evening Prayer. On these days, the Gloria is recited but not the Creed.

The next in importance are the **MEMORIALS**, which can be either obligatory or optional. Memorials commemorate the Saints. Obligatory memorials have to be observed whereas the optional memorials do not. Only the Memorials of the Saints of "universal significance" are observed by the whole Church. Local churches, religious communities celebrate the Memorials of Saints of special significance to them.

The celebration of Memorials is also governed by the Liturgical season. For instance, obligatory Memorials occurring in Lent are only celebrated as Optional Memorials.

On Saturdays, when there is no Obligatory Memorial, it has been the tradition to celebrate a Votive Mass of Our Blessed Lady.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops publishes an annual Ordo which outlines the proper celebrations and their particulars throughout the liturgical year.

COMMEMORATED and CELEBRATED THIS WEEK



17th March

Saint Patrick (c. 386 – 461)

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble, and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales.

He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland.

Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.



After six years Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the good news to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north—where the faith had never been preached—obtained the protection of local kings and made numerous converts.

Continued

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission.

In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe.

Patrick was a man of action, with little inclination toward learning. He had a rocklike belief in his vocation, in the cause he had espoused.

One of the few certainly authentic writings is his *Confessio*, above all an act of homage to God for having called Patrick, unworthy sinner, to the apostolate. There is hope rather than irony in the fact that his burial place is said to be in County Down in Northern Ireland, long the scene of strife and violence.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-patrick>

Reflection

What distinguishes Patrick is the durability of his efforts. When one considers the state of Ireland when he began his mission work, the vast extent of his labours, and how the seeds he planted continued to grow and flourish, one can only admire the kind of man Patrick must have been. The holiness of a person is known only by the fruits of his or her work.

Saint Patrick is the Patron Saint of:

Engineers

Ireland

Nigeria





18th March

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (c. 315 – March 18, 386)

The crises that the Church faces today may seem minor when compared with the threat posed by the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ and almost overcame

Christianity in the fourth century. Cyril was to be caught up in the controversy, accused of Arianism by Saint Jerome, and ultimately vindicated both by the men of his own time and by being declared a Doctor of the Church in 1822.

Raised in Jerusalem and well-educated, especially in the Scriptures, he was ordained a priest by the bishop of Jerusalem and given the task during Lent of catechizing those preparing for Baptism and catechizing the newly baptized during the Easter season. His Catecheses remain valuable as examples of the ritual and theology of the Church in the mid-fourth century.

There are conflicting reports about the circumstances of his becoming bishop of Jerusalem. It is certain that he was validly consecrated by bishops of the province. Since one of them was an Arian, Acacius, it may have been expected that his “cooperation” would follow. Conflict soon rose between Cyril and Acacius, bishop of the rival nearby see of Caesarea. Cyril was summoned to a council, accused of insubordination and of selling Church property to relieve the poor. Probably, however, a theological difference was also involved. He was condemned, driven from Jerusalem, and later vindicated, not without some association with and help from Semi-Arians. Half his episcopate was spent in exile; his first experience was repeated twice. He finally returned to find Jerusalem torn with heresy, schism and strife, and wracked with crime. Even Saint Gregory of Nyssa, who was sent to help, left in despair.

They both went to the Council of Constantinople, where the amended form of the Nicene Creed was promulgated in 381. Cyril accepted the word consubstantial—that is, Christ is of the same substance or nature as the Father. Some said it was an act of repentance, but the bishops of the Council praised him as a champion of orthodoxy against the Arians. Though not friendly with the greatest defender of orthodoxy against the Arians, Cyril may be counted among those whom Athanasius called “brothers, who mean what we mean, and differ only about the word consubstantial.”



19th March

Saint Joseph

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “just” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts.

When the Bible speaks of God “justifying” someone, it means that God, the all-holy or “righteous” one, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God’s own holiness, and hence it is really

“right” for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.

By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage. It is no contradiction of Joseph’s manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this “quietly” because he was “a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame” (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

Saint Joseph is the Patron Saint of:

Belgium : Canada : Carpenters : China : Peru : Russia : Vietnam

Fathers : Happy death : Social Justice : Travelers : Universal Church : Workers

The month of MARCH is traditionally dedicated to ST JOSEPH. In the days leading up to the Feast of St Joseph on the 19th March, the Archdiocese of Birmingham invites us to pray the novena for the evangelisation of the Archdiocese to be prayed over nine days between 10th-18th March. To sign up for the daily novena prayers to be sent to you by email go to this address:

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/join-the-novena-of-st-joseph



In December 2020 Pope Francis issued the Apostolic Letter, 'Patris Corde', 'With A Father's Heart'. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St. Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

<https://www.lpij.org/posts/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph-in-new-apostolic-letter.html>

To read the letter in full following this link: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

In a footnote, Pope Francis adds:

Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph:

"Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. 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 *Waiting for Sunrise* by William Boyd and will be discussed on Monday 15th March. Please contact the parish office if you would like to join the group discussion.