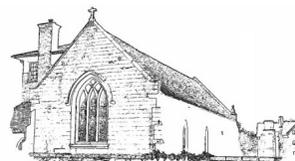


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



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



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.**

Times of Masses, along with all Easter services and booking-in arrangements will be published shortly.

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 March

Third Sunday of Lent

Mass intention for: The People of The Parish

Monday 8 March

Memorial of St John of God, Religious

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

Tuesday 9 March

Memorial of St Frances of Rome, Religious

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

Wednesday 10 March

Lent Feria

Mass intention for: Bernadette Parish

Thursday 11 March

Lent Feria

Mass intention for: Pierce & Juliet Bradley R.I.P.

Friday 12 March

Lent Feria

Mass intention for: Michael Bird R.I.P.

Saturday 13 March

Lent Feria

Mass intention for: Michael Bianco R.I.P.

Sunday 14 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass intention for: The People of The Parish



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.***

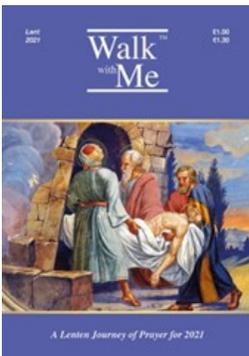
Saint Alphonsus Liguori



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:	£40.00
Loose cash:	£190.00

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

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.



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>
-



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

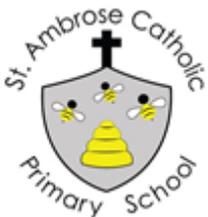
Global Healing! *A series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resources. These sessions take place online over six Thursdays from 18 February to 25 March 7.30pm – 8.30pm.*

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.



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/>

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>

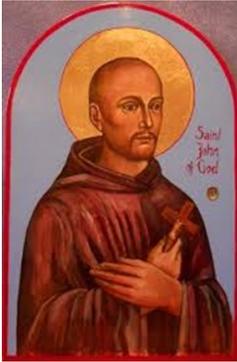
To read the letter in full following this link: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

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.”

COMMEMORATED and CELEBRATED THIS WEEK



Saint John of God (March 8, 1495 – March 8, 1550)

Having given up active Christian belief while a soldier, John was 40 before the depth of his sinfulness began to dawn on him. He decided to give the rest of his life to God's service and headed at once for Africa where he hoped to free captive Christians and, possibly, be martyred.

He was soon advised that his desire for martyrdom was not spiritually well based and returned to Spain and the relatively prosaic activity of a religious goods store. Yet he was still not

settled. Moved initially by a sermon of Saint John of Avila, he one day engaged in a public beating of himself, begging mercy and wildly repenting for his past life.

Committed to a mental hospital for these actions, John was visited by Saint John, who advised him to be more actively involved in tending to the needs of others rather than in enduring personal hardships. John gained peace of heart, and shortly after left the hospital to begin work among the poor.

He established a house where he wisely tended to the needs of the sick poor, at first doing his own begging. But, excited by the saint's great work and inspired by his devotion, many people began to back him up with money and provisions.

Among them were the archbishop and marquis of Tarifa.

Behind John's outward acts of total concern and love for Christ's sick poor was a deep interior prayer life which was reflected in his spirit of humility. These qualities attracted helpers who, 20 years after John's death, formed the Brothers Hospitallers, now a worldwide religious order.

John became ill after 10 years of service but tried to disguise his ill health. He began to put the hospital's administrative work into order and appointed a leader for his helpers. He died under the care of a spiritual friend and admirer, Lady Ana Ossorio.

Saint John of God is the Patron Saint of:

Booksellers, Firefighters, Heart Patients, Hospitals, Nurses, Printers, Sick



*St Francesca Romana Giving Alms, Baciccio
Getty museum, Los Angeles*

Saint Frances of Rome (1384 – March 9, 1440)

Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor.

Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected, and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband.

As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So Frances and

Vannozza, set out together, with their husbands' blessings, to help the poor.

Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household.

The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannozza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society—serving the poorest of the poor.

Saint Frances of Rome is the Patron Saint of: Motorists, Widows

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.