

ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



Parish Priest: Fr Richard Sharples
Priest in Residence: Fr John Moran
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Registered Charity No: 234216 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

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MASSES THIS WEEK (with YEAR A Readings)

Sunday 11 December

8.30am
10.30am

Third Sunday of Advent

Mass intention for: People of the Parish
Mass intention for: John Newton R.I.P.

Monday 12 December

No public Mass today

Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mass Intention for: Private Intention

Tuesday 13 December

10.00am

Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Mass Intention for: Mary Donaghy R.I.P.

Wednesday 14 December

10.00am
12.30pm

Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Mass Intention for: Barrie Millard R.I.P.
Funeral Service for Ian Frith R.I.P.

Thursday 15 December

11.00am

Advent Feria

*Mass Intention for: Deceased members of the
Pakes & Taylor families*

Friday 16 December

11.15am

Advent Feria

Requiem Mass for Andrea Barker R.I.P.

Saturday 17 December

10.00am

Advent Feria

Mass Intention for: John Townsend R.I.P.

The **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)** is available in church following this Mass and by appointment at other times.

Sunday 18 December

8.30am
10.30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers
Mass intention for: Andrea Barker R.I.P.
Mass intention for: People of the Parish

Anniversaries in December: Rev Sylvester Jenks (1714), Rev Thomas Atherton (1758), Sir Charles Throckmorton (1840), Charles Spink (1885), Edward Hailes (1912), Elaine Mulroy (1971), Eric Needham (1996), Cyril Hennessey (1999), Margaret Green (2004), Josephine Packwood (2004), Anthony Bashford, Pauline Reeve (2006), James O'Brien (2012), Marilyn Way (2016), Greg Kelly (2020), Christopher Morrissey (2020)

In your prayers please remember parishioners and friends who are sick:

Deirdre Brookes, Lionel Cornish, Shirley Grant, Jane & Peter Handley, Elizabeth Howell, Ann Murphy, John & Ellen Mottram, Clare Saich, Patricia Newton, Ann Parry, Karen Wright.

In your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of recently deceased parishioners:

Ian Frith

(Ian's funeral will be held at St Mary's on Wednesday 14 December at 12.30pm)

Andrea Barker

(Andrea's Requiem Mass will be held at St Mary's on Friday 16 December at 11.15am)



... for all your offerings and donations.

Contributions to the Parish: 27 November – 4 December

Regular, weekly Gift Aid Direct Debit:	£316.00
Gift Aid Envelopes:	£147.00
Loose cash:	£263.76
Second collection for Poor Parishes of the Diocese	£305.72

Direct Debit, forms are available from the table in the porch. Please complete and either hand to Fr John or post through his house letterbox.

OFFERTORY DONATIONS on **SUNDAYS** will be taken in the pews. On **OTHER DAYS OF THE WEEK** offerings may be placed **in the basket on the sanctuary step in front of the altar.**

COVID PRECAUTIONS: Whilst there is no legal requirement to wear a face covering the government suggests that we still 'Consider wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces'. In addition, if members of the congregation would like to ensure social distancing they may use a 'Please Leave Space' sign (available in the porch) and place it on the seat beside them in their pew.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Valerie Nolan, sg.stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

If you would like to speak to someone about Diocesan safeguarding and the Church's work, please call 0121 230 6240. If you would like to speak to someone independent of the Church you can contact the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

PARISH HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER:

Peter Boszko, hs.stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

EMERGENCY EXIT: This is via the sacristy and through the house.



This weekend we are completing our **CHRISTMAS APPEAL** on behalf of **Home-Start Wyre Forest** by donating to them **NEW (unwrapped)** presents for young people aged 0-18 years to be distributed to families in need in our area.

Wyre Forest

If you would prefer to make a **monetary donation**, please put it in an envelope marked 'HOME START' and place it in the Offertory Collection basket .

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE MONEY IN THE PORCH!



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

We have received a kind invitation from **St Cassian's, Chaddesley Corbett** parish to join them for **Evensong on Sunday 11th December at 6.30pm lead** by The Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge. There will be an opportunity to socialise afterwards whilst enjoying a glass of wine and a mince pie!



The **BOOK GROUP** are reading *Fen, Bog & Swamp* by the renowned American author Annie Proulx and will meet to discuss the book on **Monday 12th December at 9.30am in the Stable**. Do go along and give the Group a try! Choose a book you would like to read!



To help you plan ahead for **CHRISTMAS**, these will be the services at St Mary's:

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December

- 10.00 am Mass
- 6.30 pm Carol Service
- 7.00 pm Solemn Mass of Christmas (Formerly Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday 25th December

- 8.30 am Mass (with carols)
- 10.30 am Mass (with carols)



In preparation for the birth of Our Lord please visit the dedicated **Advent and Christmas webpage of the Archdiocese of Birmingham**. It will be regularly updated with activities, resources and prayers suitable for individuals, parish and schools use over the coming weeks.

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/advent>



GAUDETE SUNDAY is the third Sunday of Advent named from the first word of the Introit at Mass (Gaudete i.e. Rejoice).

The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin, 12 November, whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"-- a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century.

The introduction of the Advent fast cannot be placed much earlier, because there is no evidence of Christmas being kept on 25 December before the end of the fourth century and the preparation for the feast could not have been of earlier date than the feast itself. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, the first allusion to the shortened season being in a letter of St. Nicholas I (858-867) to the Bulgarians, and by the twelfth century the fast had been replaced by simple abstinence. St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Masses for the Sundays of Advent. In both Office and Mass provision is made for five Sundays, but by the tenth century four was the usual number, though some French churches observed five as late as the thirteenth century. Notwithstanding all these modifications, however, Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential seasons which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday. On it, as on Laetare Sunday, the organ and flowers, forbidden during the rest of the season, were, permitted to be used; rose-coloured vestments-- were allowed instead of purple (or black, as formerly). All these distinguishing marks have continued in use and are the present discipline of the Latin Church. Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a breaker like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.