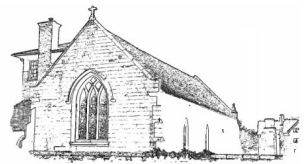


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



Parish Priest: Fr Richard Sharples
Priest in Residence: Fr John Moran
Telephone: 01562 777319
e-mail: stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk
Website: www.stmarysharvington.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 234216 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

MASSES THIS WEEK (with YEAR B Readings)

Sunday 17 December

8.30am

10.30am

Third Sunday of Advent

Mass intention for: *People of The Parish*

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

Monday 18 December

No public Mass today

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Tuesday 19 December

10.00am

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Wednesday 20 December

10.00am

10.30am #

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: *Mr & Mrs Susan Fairman*

Discussion Group in the stable

Thursday 21 December

11.00am

Advent Feria

Mass Intention for: *Julia Keogh R.I.P.*

Friday 22 December

11.00am

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: *Joyce Collins R.I.P.*

Saturday 23 December

10.00am

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

Advent Feria

Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Sunday 24 December

8.30am

10.30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass intention for: *People of The Parish*

Mass Intention for: *Ronald Kearney R.I.P.*

Every **Wednesday after the 10 o'clock Mass**, you are all warmly invited to come to the stable at **St Mary's Harvington**, for an informal, friendly group meeting where, lead by Fr John we will do as Pope Francis suggests by focussing on the basics of prayer using the words the Lord gave us in the ***Our Father***.

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 those who are sick and asked for our prayers:

Deirdre Brookes, Stephen Brown, Beth Downing, Shirley Grant, Peter Handley,
 Annick Harvey, Elizabeth Howell, Angela MacGarrow, Ann Murphy, Paul Morrison,
 John & Ellen Mottram, Patricia Newton, Kevin O'Connor, Ann Parry, Bridget Rochford,
 Jeanne Round, Karen Wright.

.....

... for all your offerings and donations.



Contributions to the Parish: 3-10 December

Regular, weekly Gift Aid Direct Debit:	£316.00
Gift Aid Envelopes:	£80.00
Loose cash:	£441.86
Second collection for the poor parishes of the Diocese: £391.13	

Direct Debit, gift aid forms are available from the folder on the notice board in the church porch. Please complete and either hand to Fr John or post through his house letterbox.



PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE MONEY OR ENVELOPES CONTAINING MONEY IN THE PORCH. If you wish to make a donation when Mass is not taking place and the church is otherwise empty, please post your offering (in an envelope) in the letterbox in the door of the Priest's House.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Rep is **Valerie Nolan**. She can be contacted at: sg.stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on: 0121 2306240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: Peter Boszko - stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

PARISH HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER: Peter Boszko hs.stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

PARISH SECRETARY (Finance): Amalia Costanzo - stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

PARISH SECRETARY (Admin): Maggie Skinner - stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

The emergency exit from the church is via the sacristy and through the house.



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

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th December

8.30 am Mass
10.30 am Mass

Christmas Day
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Monday 25th December

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



CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Home-Start Wyre Forest

The huge number of new toys donated by St Mary's parishioners were delivered to the Home Start centre in Kidderminster this week. The staff were overwhelmed by your generosity as this year has seen a reduction in donations and at the same time, an increase in the number of families needing and benefiting from the support given by this charity.

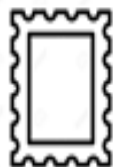


CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS to Fr John.

Labelled envelopes are available from the table in the porch should you wish to make an offering either with the collections at Mass or given directly to Fr John.



A HAMPER OF CHRISTMAS TREATS can be won in the raffle being organised by parishioner Leeza Odell who will be on hand to sell tickets in the porch on Sunday mornings. The draw will take place after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 17th.



If you receive Christmas Cards through the post you may be interested to know the **ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE for the BLIND** collect used stamps (trimmed with a 1cm border) and sell them for £20 per kilo to raise funds for their work. There will be a **collection box in the porch in January** and we will ensure all donated stamps will be forwarded to the RNIB on your behalf.



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.