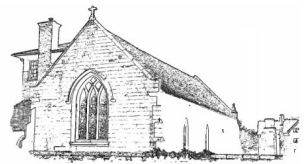


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



Parish Priest: Fr Richard Sharples
Priest in Residence: Fr John Moran
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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 March** **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments
Dementia Prayer Week
8.30am Mass intention for: *People of The Parish*
10.30am Mass Intention for: *Private Intention*
- Monday 18 March** **Memorial of St Cyril of Jerusalem,**
NO MASS TODAY **Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
- Tuesday 19 March** **Solemnity of St Joseph,**
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Dementia Prayer Week
10.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*
- Wednesday 20 March** **Lent Feria**
10.00am Mass intention for: *Stan Robson R.I.P.*
10.30am # Discussion Group in the stable
- Thursday 21 March** **Lent Feria**
11.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*
- Friday 22 March** **Lent Feria**
11.00am Mass intention for: *Anthony Francis-Flores R.I.P.*
Followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 1.00pm.
- Saturday 23 March** **Commemoration of St Turibus of Mongrovejo,**
Bishop
10.00am Mass intention for: *Thomas & Maria Costanzo R.I.P.*
The **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)** is available in church following this Mass and by appointment at other times.
- Sunday 24 March** **Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord**
Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments
Dementia Prayer Week
8.30am Mass intention for: *John Weston R.I.P.*
10.30am Mass Intention for: *People of The Parish*

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), Tony Davenhill (2022), Jane Young (2022), John Weston (2023), Bishop David McGough (2023)

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of

Karen Wright who died on Saturday 24th February.

Jeanne Round who died on Thursday 29th February.

Anne Sharples, Fr Richard's sister.

John Harvey, Annick's husband, who died on Thursday 14th March.

May they Rest In Peace.

- ◇ Karen's Requiem Mass will take place at St Mary's at 10.00am on Tuesday 26th March followed by her committal in the graveyard at St Mary's.

In your prayers please remember those who are sick and asked for our prayers:

Deirdre Brookes, Stephen Brown, Beth Downing, Norma Fox, Shirley Grant, Peter Handley, Elizabeth Howell, Angela MacGarrow, Ann Murphy, John & Ellen Mottram, Patricia Newton, Kevin O'Connor, Ann Parry.



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 ... for all your offerings and donations.

Contributions to the Parish: 3-10 March:

Regular, weekly Gift Aid Direct Debit:	£316.00
Gift Aid Envelopes:	£87.00
Loose cash:	£248.47

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 Representative 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.

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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.



CAN YOU SING? If you have sung in a Choir before St Mary's choir would welcome some additional members to sing with us at the Sunday 10:30 Mass and on other occasions such as Christmas, Easter and the annual Pilgrimage Mass. If you are interested talk with one of the Choir or just pop up to the choir loft after the 10:30 Sunday Mass for a chat.

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The **HARVINGTON CRAFT GROUP** will be selling their hand crafted goods in the **Stable after both Masses on Sunday 24th March.** An ideal opportunity to buy presents or to treat yourself!

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Schools will soon be breaking up for the Easter holiday. For families on restricted incomes this causes extra pressure on tight budgets as free school meals are only offered to eligible children during term time. It is likely our local **FOOD BANK** will experience increased demand for their services in the coming weeks.

If you would like to donate food and other essentials please bring them to church and we will be deliver them on your behalf to the Kidderminster Food Bank collection point on **Monday 25th March.**

If you would prefer to donate money this will also be delivered on your behalf directly to the collection point. Please put cash or cheques (made payable to 'The Kidderminster Foodbank') in an envelope marked '**KIDDERMINSTER FOOD BANK**' and put it in the Offertory collection at Mass or, at other times, post through the letter box in the door of the Priest's House.

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION



Children who will be **8 years old by June this year, who regularly attend Mass at St Mary's and do not go to a Catholic School,** are eligible to be prepared by a parish catechist to take the **sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.** The children will receive each of the sacraments for the first time on the weekend of 1st & 2nd of June this year.#

Children who will be **11 years old by September this year, who regularly attend Mass at St Mary's and do not go to a Catholic School,** are eligible to be prepared by a parish catechist to receive the **sacrament of Confirmation.**

Parents or guardians of these children are invited to complete a relevant form, available from the table in the porch. As the forms will give personal details about children please post these in the labelled, secure, slotted box on the same table. #To allow sufficient time for preparation, applications must be received by Easter



Tuesday 19 March

Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture. We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the sceptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be

purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25).

When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22)

We know Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary and going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man. Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general. There is much we still wish we could know about Joseph -- exactly where and when he was born, how he spent his days, exactly when and how he died. But Scripture has left us with the most important knowledge: who he was -- "a righteous man" (Matthew 1:18).