

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 C Readings)

Sunday 15 December **Third Sunday of Advent**
8.30am Mass intention for: *People of the Parish*
10.30am Mass intention for: *John Townsend R.I.P*

Monday 16 December **Advent Feria**
No Mass today.

Tuesday 17 December **Advent Feria**
10.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Wednesday 18 December **Advent Feria**
10.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Thursday 19 December **Advent Feria**
11.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Friday 20 December **Advent Feria**
11.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Saturday 21 December **Commemoration of St Peter Canisius,
Priest, Doctor of the Church**
10.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*
The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available following this Mass and by appointment at other times.

Sunday 22 December **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8.30am Mass intention for: *Leonard Gilbert R.I.P.*
10.30am Mass intention for: *People of the Parish*

The Wednesday Discussion Group are taking a break until Wednesday 15th January 2025

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, Norma Fox, Shirley Grant, Peter Handley,
 Elizabeth Howell, Angela MacGarrow, Ann Murphy, John & Ellen Mottram,
 Catherine Neale, Kevin O'Connor, Ann Parry.



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 ... for all your offerings and donations.

Contributions to the Parish: 1-8 December:

Regular, weekly Gift Aid Direct Debit:	£316.00
Gift Aid Envelopes:	£45.00
Loose cash:	£175.06
Second collection for the poor parishes of the Diocese:	£221.33

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PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE MONEY OR ENVELOPES CONTAINING MONEY IN THE PORCH. 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. 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.

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Valerie Nolan**. She can be contacted via: **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.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Home-Start Wyre Forest

A huge number of new toys and cash donations given by St Mary's parishioners was delivered to the Home Start centre in Kidderminster this week. The staff were overwhelmed by your generosity as this year they are supporting an every increasing number of families needing befit and support. Your kindness is making a positive difference to improve the lives of many families in our area.



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St Mary's choir lead a wonderful night of carol singing at **The Dog Inn**, Harvington on Tuesday 10th December. It was appreciated by all the customers who were able to join in with the singing of traditional carols, helped in no small part by mulled wine and mince pies generously supplied by the pub management. A collection for the Kidderminster **Food Bank** raised a much needed **£270** that will go towards supporting local families in the coming days.



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Peter White set off on his journey to Ukraine this week. He took with him items generously donated by St Mary's parishioners to deliver to a collection point in that country. He is very grateful for all the support given to him by the parish. He will keep us posted on his travels.



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As it is (nearly!) Christmas, you could be receiving more stamped mail than usual. If so, 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. They accept all stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums but not large gold Post Office labels or pre-printed postage marks as these have no value to RNIB. There is a **collection box in the church porch** and we will ensure all donated stamps will be forwarded to the RNIB on your behalf in January.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS to Fr John.

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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.



Christmas week at St Mary's 2024:

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Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December:
Vigil Mass with Carols at 4.00pm

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December:
Masses at 8.30am and 10.30am



ST MARY'S IS 'OPEN FOR BUSINESS'

despite the difficulties of access. The road leading to the church and the Hall from the Worcester Road direction is still blocked by a fallen tree. It is causing an impasse in more ways than one whilst the ownership of the land from where it fell is established. We have checked with the Land Registry and the Diocesan solicitor, and we know that it neither belongs to the Hall nor to St Mary's. In the meantime, we are unable to remove it ourselves as this would take responsibility and imply liability. We hope these issues can be resolved as quickly as possible but for the time being, access to the Hall and church is only possible from the Bromsgrove Road. Your map will show two lanes from that direction, one more accessible than the other. The very narrow lane leading from the corner near Winterfold School, does not allow for two vehicles to pass and has several deep potholes, one of which caused significant damage to a car recently. The other lane, indicated by a sign board pointing to the Hall, is the better of the two options and, at the time of writing, is not flooded (as it sometimes is).

Until the fallen tree is removed and Harvington Hall Lane is reopened, we suggest to anyone wishing to come to St Mary's should time their arrival and departure with care to avoid congestion on the only viable route from the Bromsgrove Road. With this in mind, we must encourage people to leave promptly after both the 8.30 and 10.30 Masses on Sunday morning, sadly forgoing the chance to have coffee in the stable to allow the flow of traffic in one direction at a time.