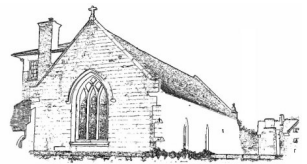


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



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 A Readings)

Sunday 14 December	Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday 8.30am Mass intention for: <i>Private Intention</i> 10.30am Mass Intention for: <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 15 December	Advent Feria No Mass at St Mary's today.
Tuesday 16 December	Advent Feria 11.00am Requiem Mass for <i>Bridget Marie Rochford R.I.P.</i>
Wednesday 17 December	Advent Feria 10.00am Mass intention for: <i>Private Intention</i>
Thursday 18 December	Advent Feria 11.00am Mass intention for: <i>Private Intention</i>
Friday 19 December	Advent Feria 11.00am Mass intention for: <i>Private Intention</i>
Saturday 20 December	Advent Feria 10.00am Mass intention for: <i>Private Intention</i> The SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession) is available following this Mass and by appointment at other times.
Sunday 21 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8.30am Mass intention for: <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass Intention for: <i>John Townsend R.I.P.</i>

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 charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of

BRIDGET MARIE ROCHFORD

May she Rest In Peace.

Bridget's Requiem Mass will be held at St Mary's on Tuesday 16th December at 11.00am

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

Deirdre Brookes, Shirley Burns, Norma Fox, Denise Grant, Shirley Grant, Peter Handley,
Columb and Merryn Howell, Elizabeth Howell, Darren Jaye, Kath Lahive,
Angela Magaro, 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: 30 Nov-7 Dec 2025:

Regular, weekly Gift Aid Direct Debit:	£405.00
** Gift Aid Envelopes:	£100.00
Loose cash:	£202.27
Second collection for Poor Parishes of the Diocese:	£366.60



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.

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.

**** 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 Richard or Fr John or put the Priest's House letterbox.

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: 01212306240 / **safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk** if you have any concerns.

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

PARISH HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER: Neil Summerfield -

hs.stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

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

PARISH SECRETARY (Finance): Valerie Nolan - **stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk**

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

Christmas week at St Mary's 2025:

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December:
4.00pm Vigil Mass with Carols**

**Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December:
8.30am Mass with Carols
10.30am Mass with Carols**



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We enjoyed a wonderful night of carol singing at **The Dog Inn**, Harvington last Monday. 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 funds that will go towards supporting local families in the coming days.

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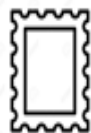
Peter White sent us a message this week:



"Just to let you know that I have arrived in Ukraine via Scandinavia and recently travelled by train (21 hours) to the city of Kharkiv on the eastern front where I called in on a kindergarten and gave out some gifts for Christmas. I have started a fund so that a bomb shelter can be installed on the site to better protect them from the many missiles that are directed at the city."

Please keep Peter in our prayers as he undertakes this humanitarian work under difficult conditions.

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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.



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 25th of 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 when provision was made for five Sundays but by the tenth century four was the usual number. However, Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent with the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday.

On Gaudete Sunday, the pink candle of the Advent wreath is lit and rose coloured vestments are allowed instead of purple, making 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.