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

MASSES THIS WEEK (with YEAR A Readings)

Sunday 1 November **Solemnity of All Saints**
8.30am Mass intention for: *The People of the Parish*
10.30am Mass intention for: *Oliver Donaghey R.I.P.*
There will be a second collection on this day for the Johnson Association

Monday 2 November **The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed / All Souls Day**
11.00am Mass intention for: Private Intention
Followed by the blessing of graves and memorials in our churchyards.

Tuesday 3 November **Memorial of St Martin de Pores, Religious**
Memorial of St Winifride, Virgin

Wednesday 4 November **Memorial of St Charles Borromeo, Bishop**
10.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Thursday 5 November **Feria in Ordinary Time**
11.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Friday 6 November **Feria in Ordinary Time**
11.00am Mass intention for: *Private Intention*

Saturday 7 November # **Memorial of St Willibrord, Bishop**
10.00am Mass intention: *Private Intention*

Sunday 8 November **Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Remembrance Sunday
8.30am Mass intention for: *The People of the Parish*
10.30am Mass intention for: Private Intention

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available following Mass on Saturdays and by appointment at other times.

Anniversaries in October: Rev Robert Heydon (1718), Rev Charles Fitzwilliams (1750), Mary Brownlow (1852), Anne Spink (1894), Mary Leonie Pedley (1957), Betty Grant (1970), Sidney Rochford (1979), Dermot Higgins (1983), Bernard Campbell (2001), Dorothy Green (2001), Maureen Riley (2002), David Phillips (2005),Stanley Robson (2009), Betty Sanders (2012), Albin Gordon (2012) Ian Challand (2013), Maria Costanzo (2013), Michael Grant (2015), Doreen Millard (2016), Michael Butler (2017), James Arbuthnott (2018), Paul Hoban (2018), Maureen Ribbins (2018), Denis Conway (2020), Josephine Hardwick (2020), Kathleen Clark (2022), Bernard Millard (2022), Rudi Tschak (2022), Bob Grant (2022), Keith Mercer (2024)

In your prayers, please remember those who are sick and asked for our prayers: Marian Boultbee Brooks, Deirdre Brookes, Steve Collins, Averil Crofton, Norma Fox, Shirley Grant, Jane Handley, Columb and Merryn Howell, Elizabeth Howell, Darren Jaye, Angela Magaro, Ann Murphy, Ellen Mottram, Catherine Neale, Kevin O'Connor, Bozenna Tommy.



… for all your offerings and donations.

Contributions to the Parish: 25 Oct-1 Nov 2026:

Regular, weekly Gift Aid Direct Debit: ……………...	£405.00
** Gift Aid Envelopes: …………………………….	£75.00
Loose cash: ……………………………………………	£210.95
Kidderminster Food Bank: ……………………………	£168.70

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.

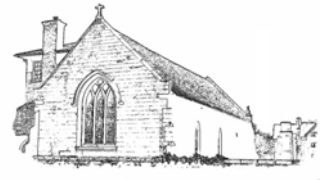
PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: Peter Boszko: stmary.harvington@rcaob.org.uk

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.



We are pleased to say that the restoration of our large and beautiful **EAST WINDOW** above the altar is now complete. Please take a moment if you are able, to view it from the outside and you will see what a splendid job has been done by a local joinery firm, C R Hobby & Son from Kidderminster. They have even matched the grey paint colour on the inside plaster where it has been repaired! But it has come at a cost and that is almost £14000!

So, if you are minded to, please think about donating towards this cost. Any donation will be gratefully received. Just put your donation in an envelope and post in Fr John's letter box making sure you state that it is a donation for the window. If our funds are sufficient, then next year, we would like to restore the three windows along the north side of the Church which you will notice are also badly in need of attention. P.B.

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During the **MONTH OF NOVEMBER,** we pray for all our deceased family members and friends. If you wish to have those names remembered at Masses during the month of November, please write them on paper and place in an envelope marked 'Holy Souls' or use the envelopes and inserts available in the Church Porch and leave them in the basket provided. This is a general list for the Holy Souls; **no money is necessary.**

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Monday 2 November All Souls Day: The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed. On this day, the parish remembers deceased members of our community and our deceased relatives and friends. Following 11.00am Mass in the morning, and if the weather allows, Fr John will bless the graves and memorials in both churchyards at St Mary's. **Volunteers are needed from 10.00am onwards to help light and place the lanterns around the graves.**

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The H**ARVINGTON BOOK GROUP** are reading *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco. This remarkable novel is perhaps the first detective story set in medieval times to have achieved global success - indeed, having gained huge popularity and great critical acclaim it is an amazing chronicle of the Middle Ages.

If you've read the book already, or would like to do so, you'll be very welcome to join us for the conversation when we next meet in the Stable, on Thursday 12 November at 9.00am.



MESSAGE FROM FR RICHARD.

Following discussions with Peter Boszko we suggest the "first tentative steps" that we could take:

Although we have been aware for some time that due to the shortage of priests in our Diocese, parishes would in future have to cluster together, the meeting at St Wulstan's led by Canon John Batthula, our Dean, on Saturday 10th October brought these facts to our attention: there are currently 223 parishes in the Archdiocese and by 2030 there will be about 20 fewer priests and 10 fewer deacons. The diocesan aim is for there to be 50 parishes/clusters by 2030. In the Wyre Forest area Harvington parish will join Stourport-on-Severn together with Bewdley, Kidderminster and Tenbury Wells.

Following the synodal pathway, we are all asked to consider the implications of these changes and to contribute our suggestions on how to make these adjustments work for the benefit of all.

As I am the parish priest at Harvington and also at Stourport, one of the first things we can think about as we begin to consider our 'Cluster' is the week-end Mass times at Harvington and Stourport. At present there are four regular weekend Masses between the two Churches, that's 8:30am and 10:30am on Sunday at Harvington and 5:30pm on Saturday and 10am on Sunday at Stourport. Currently there is a Mass celebrated in Bewdley on the last Sunday of the month, at 12 noon. Suppose one of our Priests was to become unwell or unavailable for a few weeks. It would seem sensible to have a plan in place, a 'Plan B', of how we would deal with this if just one priest was available to say all the weekend masses.

How would we arrange a 'Plan B'?
One proposal could be to have a single Sunday Mass at Harvington at 9:30am and a single Sunday Mass at Stourport at 11am? The 5.30pm Saturday Mass at Stourport would be unchanged.

What do you think of the proposal? Do you have a different or better idea?
Comment slips will be placed at the back of the Church for you to fill in. You can use the slips to ask any other questions if you wish but please be aware that this process is at a very early stage and our ability to answer your questions is limited!