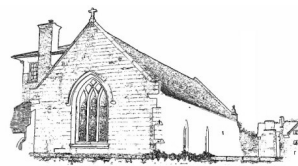


ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



Parish Priest: Rt Rev Mgr Canon John Moran
Telephone: 01562 777319
e-mail: stmarysrc.harvington@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysharvington.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 234216 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

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In the light of instructions from HM Government and guidance from their Medical Advisers regarding the serious and increasingly rapid spread of the Covid virus, the decision was taken to close St Mary's for public Masses temporarily from 12th January.

National and local circumstances have improved to such an extent we will be able to reopen **St Mary's for public worship on Sunday 21st March.**

Times of Masses, along with all Easter services and booking-in arrangements will be published next week.

Fr John celebrates Mass privately each day and honours the Intentions attached to these Masses. Please continue to request Mass Intentions by email, phone call or post. Donations may be sent later at your convenience.

MASSES THIS WEEK (with YEAR B Readings)

Sunday 28 February	Second Sunday of Lent <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>
Monday 1 March	Feast of St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales <i>Mass intention for: Sally Millard R.I.P.</i>
Tuesday 2 March	Feast of St Chad, Bishop <i>Mass intention for: Private Intention</i>
Wednesday 3 March	Lent Feria <i>Mass intention for: Timothy O'Sullivan R.I.P.</i>
Thursday 4 March	Lent Feria <i>Mass intention for: Liam Buckley R.I.P.</i>
Friday 5 March	Lent Feria <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i> <i>Mass intention for: Tony Canty R.I.P.</i>
Saturday 6 March	Lent Feria <i>Mass intention for: Mary Beth Turner R.I.P.</i>
Sunday 7 March	Third Sunday of Lent <i>Mass intention for: The People of The Parish</i>



The obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation remains suspended. All the faithful are asked to make an Act of Spiritual Communion:

***My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there,
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.***

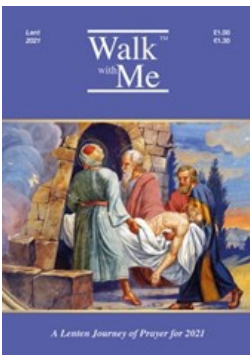
Saint Alphonsus Liguori



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE is difficult to conduct in these times of strict personal distancing. We have always known that an act of contrition with the intention of attending Confession as soon as possible is sufficient for receiving God's forgiveness. Absolution may not be given remotely but if you wish to talk about these circumstances to Fr John in person please telephone: 01562 777319.

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)

In your prayers please remember parishioners and friends who are sick: Kathleen Clark, Jane and Peter Handley, Lucinda Robinson, Lionel Cornish, Bob Grant



WALK WITH ME booklets and children's calendars for Lent are now available at no charge to all St Mary's parishioners. As they cannot be collected whilst the church is currently closed you are invited to **send a stamped, self addressed envelope** to us with your request and booklets/calendars will be sent to you asap.

**St Mary's RC Church, Harvington Hall Lane,
Harvington, Worcs. DY10 4LR**

THANK YOU!

... for all your offerings and donations. They are always gratefully received and enable Fr John to maintain our parish and to minister to our community.

Contributions to the Parish :

Thank you for the financial support of the parish received 16th-21st February:

Gift Aid Envelopes:	£120.00
Loose cash:	£75.00

Each week you kindly donate **£316.00 via Direct Debit** to St Mary's and this money attracts the benefit of Gift Aid, a government scheme which returns the tax you had paid on the money you give to St Mary's. For example, tax on income of 25% results in a quarter of a donation being returned to us:



Our weekly income is substantially lower during our closure but at the same time our expenditure has only partly reduced. If you have not already set up a planned giving arrangement to St Mary's would you consider doing so now by setting up a standing order using the form on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=90f11d7d-ebb4-4d07-b64e-9f38e324225b> Once the form is downloaded please print, complete and sign it then send it for the attention of: **Amalia Costanzo, Parish Secretary (Finance), St Mary's RC Church, Harvington Hall Lane, Harvington Worcs. DY10 4LR**

CHARITIES WITH A SPECIAL CONNECTION TO OUR PARISH:



Our local **FOOD BANK** appreciate monetary gifts to buy supplies on behalf of the service users. www.kidderminster.foodbank.org.uk. If you wish to make a donation by sending supermarket gifts cards and/or a cheque made payable to 'The Kidderminster Foodbank' post it to: Mrs Denise Carson, Kidderminster Foodbank Treasurer
20 Whitehill Road, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6JJ



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND, need your help to support Christians living in the Holy Land. To find out more visit: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk To make a contribution please send it to FHL, Farmer Ward Rd, Kenilworth, Warks CV8 2DH



BELMONT ABBEY

... not only offer live streaming of Mass but also the opportunity to take part in online Retreats. The current programme includes:

- **The Mysteries of Mark.** Currently online
- **The Art of Listening** on Wednesdays mornings 10am to 1pm from 24th February, or online afterwards
<https://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/online-retreats/register>



The Archdiocese website is also a rich source of online resources to keep you informed and to support your prayer life. Current events include:

Global Healing! *A series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resources.*

These sessions take place online over six Thursdays from 18 February to 25 March 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

For further information and to register in order to take part follow this link:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/global-catholic-movement-global-healing-session-1>

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news, information and online events from across the Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email.

Please visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news to sign up.

stations
of the
cross



ON OUR WEBSITE: www.stmarysharvington.org.uk

To assist your Lenten journey one of our parishioners, professional photographer Michael Jones, has captured the images of the Stations of the Cross, displayed on the walls at St Mary's and collated them with the prayers by St Alphonsus Liguori. They may be found on a tab recently added to our parish website to assist anyone wishing to recite the Stations of the Cross privately.



Calling families, friends and neighbours of pre-school and primary school aged children.

St Ambrose Catholic Primary School in Kidderminster is currently able to offer places to children of all faiths and warmly welcome you to get in touch. For further information, in the first instance please contact the school office on: [01562 823568](tel:01562823568) and please also take a look at their website for a flavour of what the school has to offer.

stations
of the
cross



The **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** or the **Way of the Cross**, also known as the **Way of Sorrows** or the **Via Crucis**, refers to a series of 14 images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary.

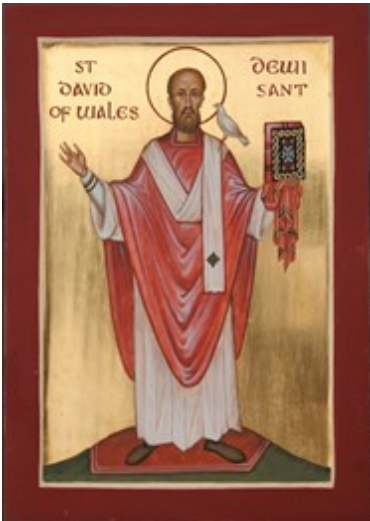
The Stations of the Cross are often found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images and are most commonly prayed during Lent and especially on Good Friday, the day of the year upon which the events actually occurred. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of Jesus's the last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are often used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

The Stations may be of stone, wood, or metal, sculptured or carved, or they may be merely paintings or engravings. They are usually ranged at intervals around the walls of a church, though sometimes they are to be found in the open air, especially on roads leading to a church or shrine. The erection and use of the Stations did not become at all general before the end of the seventeenth century, but they are now to be found in almost every church. Formerly their number varied considerably in different places but fourteen are now prescribed by authority. They are as follows:

- I. Christ condemned to death ;
- II. the cross is laid upon him;
- III. His first fall;
- IV. He meets His Blessed Mother;
- V. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross;
- VI. Christ's face is wiped by Veronica;
- VII. His second fall;
- VIII. He meets the women of Jerusalem ;
- IX. His third fall;
- X. He is stripped of His garments;
- XI. His crucifixion;
- XII. His death on the cross;
- XIII. His body is taken down from the cross; and
- XIV. laid in the tomb.

The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make in spirit, as it were, a pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death, and this has become one of the most popular of Catholic devotions. It is carried out by passing from Station to Station, with certain prayers at each and devout meditation on the various incidents in turn. It is very usual, when the devotion is performed publicly, to sing a stanza of the "Stabat Mater" while passing from one Station to the next.

COMMEMORATED and CELEBRATED THIS WEEK



Monday 1 March

According to tradition, **ST DAVID** was the son of King Sant of South Wales and St. Non. He was ordained a priest and later studied under St. Paulinus. Later, he was involved in missionary work and founded a number of monasteries. The monastery he founded at Menevia in South western Wales was noted for extreme asceticism. David and his monks drank neither wine nor beer, only water while putting in a full day of heavy manual labour and intense study.

Around the year 550, David attended a synod at Brevi in Cardiganshire. His contributions at the synod are said to have been the major cause for his election as primate of the Cambrian Church. He was reportedly consecrated archbishop by the patriarch of Jerusalem while on a visit to the Holy Land. He also is said to have invoked a council that ended the last vestiges of Pelagianism. David died at his monastery in Menevia around the year 589, and his cult was approved in 1120 by Pope Callistus II. He is revered as the **patron of Wales**. Undoubtedly, St David was endowed with substantial qualities of spiritual leadership. What is more, many monasteries flourished as a result of his leadership and good example. His staunch adherence to monastic piety bespeaks a fine example for modern Christians seeking order and form in their prayer life. His feast day is **March 1**.

Tuesday 2 March: St Chad:

The patron saint of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

ST CHAD, was born in Northumbria one of four brothers, all of whom became priests. He was educated partly at Lindisfarne under St Aidan and partly in Ireland. He succeeded his brother St Cedd as Abbot of Lastingham in Yorkshire in 664 and became Bishop of Mercia in 669 when Wulfhere, the first Christian king of Mercia, gave him land to establish his see at Lichfield. Famous for his hard work in spreading the Gospel and helping the poor, he was a humble man who chose to travel everywhere on foot. The story goes that Archbishop Theodore had to persuade him to ride by lifting him bodily on to a horse. He died of the plague on 2 March 672 and pilgrims soon began coming to his grave in Lichfield. Eventually his bones (or relics) were transferred from the graveyard to a magnificent tomb in Lichfield Cathedral and his shrine became one of the great centres of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages. At the time of the Reformation the shrine in Lichfield Cathedral was destroyed but his relics were kept by a Récusant family and now are displayed in a magnificent reliquary above the main altar in St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham.

Prayer of St Chad

God is before us
God is behind us
God's love around us
On our right and on our left.

God there above us
God there beneath us
God's might among us
On our right and on our left.

God all about us
God deep with us
God's peace be with us
Today and forever.



Statue of St Chad, situated in Birmingham Cathedral, holding a model of the Lichfield Cathedral.

WHILE WE ARE AT HOME



- **MASS** can be viewed streamed from churches in our Diocese and further afield via: www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/west-midlands
- **UNIVERSALIS** is a useful Liturgy resource. Some of the content is free on the web and for a one-off fee an app is available for appropriate devices: www.universalis.com/
- The **WEDNESDAY WORD** website provide commentary and reflections on the Readings each week. There are section for Parents, Schools and Parishes: www.wednesdayword.org/
- **BIBLE ALIVE** booklets provide daily reflections written in an accessible and warm style inviting the reader to penetrate and plumb the depths of the scripture reading of the day. The lead features cover a wide array of subjects, topics, profiles and interviews on matters relating to living the Christian faith today. The essays and teaching are drawn from the rich teaching of Vatican II, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the teachings of Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict and Pope Francis; our profile and features explore in depth and detail the life witness of either a beati, a canonized saint or a hero of faith. The booklets are available on subscription from: www.alivepublishing.co.uk/publications/bible-alive
- **ST MARY'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP** meet every Sunday morning at 10.30 via Zoom. Fr John joins them too. The children have great fun learning about the Word of God. For more details about the Group please email the parish office.
- The monthly meetings of the **BOOK GROUP** continue via email conversations. Currently the Group are reading *Waiting for Sunrise* by William Boyd and will be discussed on Monday 15th March. Please contact the parish office if you would like to join the group discussion.