

So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only that 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus; people fail to recognise him for what he is: there's the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus in the night, Mary Magdalene beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake. We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can provide the solution to them, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective - blocking or diverting the way we have chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time. It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light. How can I find Jesus in the crowded events of my busy life? He often comes in unexpected ways. Is he in the quiet voice of a friend? Is he in the anger of someone I have annoyed? Is he in the rebuke of someone who knows me better than I know myself? Is he in my failures and frustrations?



Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

[http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish\\_docs/507-A-Advent-3-2017.pdf](http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish_docs/507-A-Advent-3-2017.pdf)

### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

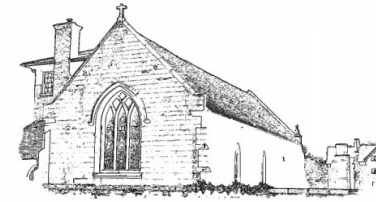
**EMERGENCY EXIT:** This is via the sacristy and through the house

**GIFT AID:** Miss Amalia Costanzo 01562 751657

**SAFEGUARDING:** Mrs J Lloyd 01562 754448

**HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER:** Mr M Dawson 01562 743776

## 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.co.uk  
**Registered Charity No:** 234216

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

### Times of Holy Mass and Intentions (YEAR B Readings)

<b>Sunday 17 December</b> 8.30 am - 10.30 am - <i>There will be a second collection today for the Poor Parishes in the Diocese</i>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> For the people of the Parish Val & Margaret Lewis R.I.P.
<b>Monday 18 December</b> 8.30 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 19 December</b> 8.30 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday 20 December</b> 8.30 am - 9.00 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Stan Robson R.I.P. <i>#Discussion Group in The Stable</i>
<b>Thursday 21 December</b> 11.30 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Holy Souls
<b>Friday 22 December</b> 11.30 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 23 December</b> 10.00 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Holy Souls
<b>Sunday 24 December</b> 8.30 am - 10.30 am - 9.30 pm - <b>Carols</b> 10.00 pm - <b>Solemn Mass of Christmas (Formerly Midnight Mass)</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Rosemary Villiers R.I.P. For the people of the Parish  Holy Souls
<b>Monday 25 December</b> 8.30 am - 10.30 am -	<b>Solemnity of The Nativity of The Lord</b> For the people of the Parish Holy Souls

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE THE NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS AS FROM 25.08.17**

**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)

**Prayers for Sick:**

Trudy Woodall, Anthony Mitchell, Veronica Mitchell, Philip Edwards, Julia Comber, Anne Hiron, Kathleen Clarke, Maureen Ribbins, Anthony Francis-Floris, James Arbuthnott, Susannah Michaels, Maria Lurdes Diogo, Joao Carvalho, Francisco Carvalho, Helena Carvalho, William Tweddell Jnr, Mo Trow, Terry Mulroy, Jan Sewell, Caroline Bradley.

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

**Sunday 17 December** Eddie Picardo, Bridget Robson  
Mary Meese, Jean Lloyd  
**Sunday 24 December** Greg Kelly, Paul Walmsley  
Elizabeth Mountford, Denise Grant

**Readers:**

**Sunday 17 December** Anne Carter  
Marie Rochford  
**Sunday 24 December** Pat Van Zyl  
Frances Rimmer

**Church Cleaners:**

**Friday 22 December** Annick Harvey & Sheila Fernihough

**Money Counters:**

**For the 17 Dec collections:** Mr & Mrs T Greenfield

**Contributions to the Parish:**

**Weekly Offertory taken on Sunday 10 December**

Gift Aid Direct Debits	£ 253.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 45.00
Loose cash	£ 19.00
Second collection of the Poor Parishes in the Diocese £ 28.63	

# **The Wednesday Word Trust leaflets** are available from the table in the porch or may be downloaded from: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm> (click on The Parish Version) either for your personal use at home or in anticipation of the group discussion on Wednesday mornings. The informal discussion group is led by Fr John and is open to everyone. Do come along for a cup of coffee and an exchange of ideas!



Last Sunday 10 December, was our day for our **FOOD BANK COLLECTION** If you were unable to bring your donations last week they will be gratefully received this week as well. If you would prefer to donate cash rather than groceries and toiletries please hand this in using the envelopes provided at the back of church to Jane or Peter Handley or to Father John. Thank you.



**Home Start TOY APPEAL:** Today's the day that NEW TOYS donated by our parishioners will be taken by Home-Start Wyre Forest in order to help families in need in our area.

There are children in the Wyre Forest who are relying on you. THANK YOU!



The rotas for January - June for Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Money Counters and Church Cleaners are in named envelopes and available for collection from the box on the table in the Church Porch.

**Please note that since the originals were published on Sunday 3rd December the rotas for 8.30 Readers, 8.30 Eucharistic Ministers and also Money Counters have been updated. The new versions have been printed on yellow paper and again are in the named envelopes addressed to those affected.**

As ever, the parish is very grateful to everyone who volunteers for these and many of the other roles not listed!

The Archdiocese of Birmingham has asked us to highlight the following:

**Safeguard the future of Catholic Schools**

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**Deanery Advent Services of Penance** all at 7.30pm:

**Monday, 18 December** - Mount Carmel, Redditch  
**Tuesday 19 December** - St Ambrose, Kidderminster  
**Wednesday 20 December** - Church of The Sacred Heart, Droitwich



The dates and times of our **Christmas Services** are detailed on the cards available from the table in the porch.