

Feast of the English Martyrs by Fr John S. Hogan

“You are those who have stood by me in times of trial” (Lk22:28)



This feast commemorates the heroic offering of men and women from all walks of life: priests, religious, laymen and women; humble and noble; simple workers like St Nicholas Owen, great personages like Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury and Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel; housewives like Margaret Clitherow and servants women, Margaret Ward. Teachers like Richard Gwyn a layman and Edmund Campion a Jesuit; a poet, farmers, knights, a bookseller and his grandson. All of these, a great tapestry of holiness, stood faithfully by the Lord in a time of trial and have been found worthy to share in his kingdom.

Perhaps when faced with large groups of martyrs we may be inclined to forget that it is made up of individuals, each martyr was a person who came from a family, a place, and had to make a personal decision to stand for Christ and face the dreadful consequences of that decision. While the grace of martyrdom sustained them and conferred serenity and even joy upon them, there was a struggle, the awareness of painful loss: they knew they were making a sacrifice, one for love of God. Indeed, we might better understand their deaths as an oblation, an offering made in union with the oblation of Jesus Christ in that mysterious way taught by St Paul in his Letter to the Colossians when he says, “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church” (Col 1:24).

Of course, the Lord’s passion and death were more than enough to save all of us, but the sufferings of these martyrs, and the sufferings of all the disciples of Christ can be added to his so the fruits of his redemption can be applied to the souls of all men and women. And the deaths of these holy martyrs have proved fruitful for the Church and will continue to be fruitful. Tertullian’s famous and often quoted phrase that “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church” is true and obvious. Their heroism inspires us, their love sets us on fire, their merciful love towards their oppressors offers us an example to follow; their blood and sufferings grace the spiritual treasury of the Church making intercession for all of us so we, like them, may come to know and love Christ.

May the Holy Martyrs of England and Wales, our brothers and sisters, watch over all of us and guide us on our earthly pilgrimage.

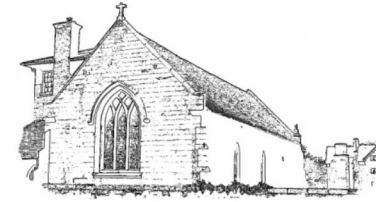
May their prayer for reconciliation be fulfilled.

May their desire that all men and women be united under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ be satisfied, and may we take up their mantle, in prayer, suffering and evangelical work to make it happen.

1 Apologeticus, Chapter 50

<http://ctscatholiccompass.org/feast-of-the-english-martyrs>

ST MARY’S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR



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The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Times of Holy Mass and Intentions (YEAR B Readings)

Sunday 29 April

8.30 am -
10.30 am -

Fifth Sunday of Easter

For the People of The Parish
Laurence Rochford R.I.P.

Monday 30 April

8.30 am -

Easter Feria

Doreen Millard R.I.P.

Tuesday 1 May

8.30 am -

Easter Feria

Stan Robson R.I.P.

Wednesday 2 May

8.30 am -
9.00 am -

Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Doreen Millard R.I.P.
#Discussion Group in The Stable

Thursday 3 May

11.30 am -

Feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles

Jean Wilcox R.I.P.

Friday 4 May

11.30 am -

Feast of the English Martyrs

Doreen Millard R.I.P.

Saturday 5 May

10.00 am -

Easter Feria

(At Harvington Hall in the Georgian Chapel)
Bernard Myerscough R.I.P.

Sunday 6 May

8.30 am -
10.30 am -

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Private Intention
For the People of The Parish

Anniversaries in April: Rev Clement Harris (1905), Edward M Hailes (1955), Charles Cantillon (1985), Bridget Needham (1991), Michael Brown (1992), Elizabeth Eardley (2002), Mary Murray (2003), Piers Thompson (2004), Franz Tschak (2005), Mary Dolores Lloyd-Jones (2007), George Oakes (2009), Laurence Rochford (2011), Leonard Eynsham (2016)

Prayers for Sick:

Trudy Woodall, Anthony Mitchell, Veronica Mitchell, Philip Edwards, Julia Comber, Anne Hiron, Kathleen Clarke, Maureen Ribbins, James Arbuthnott, Susannah Michaels, William Tweddell Jnr, Mo Trow, Jan Sewell, Oliver Ronan, Paul Hoban, Margaret Bradley

Eucharistic Ministers:

Sunday 29 April Eddie Picardo, Bridget Robson
Steve McWalter, John Charuk
Sunday 6 May Greg Kelly, Paul Walmsley
Mary Meese, Jean Lloyd

Readers:

Sunday 29 April James Arbuthnott
Joan McKay
Sunday 6 May Martin Dawson
The Brown Family

Church Cleaners:

Friday 4 May Annick Harvey, Sheila Fernihough
Friday 11 May Peter & Marie Hesketh

Money Counters:

For the 29 April collection: Dr M Bird & Mrs J Waterhouse
For the 6 May collection: Mr & Mrs S Brown

Contributions to the Parish:

Weekly Offertory taken on Sunday 22 April

Gift Aid Direct Debits £ 259.00
Gift Aid Envelopes £ 164.86
Loose cash £ 196.50
Second collection for the Clergy Training Fund £281.71



"Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."

Matt 18:20

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!



The **100 CLUB** for 2018-19 starts on 1 May. In order to be in with a chance of winning cash prizes in the coming year please complete and return application form/s, together with remittance asap.



Our next collection for the local **FOODBANK** will be on Sunday 20 May



Couples are invited to attend a **Marriage Preparation Weekend** run by Worldwide Marriage Encounter from Friday 29th June (8pm) until Sunday 1st July (4.30pm) at Maryvale Institute, Old Oscott Hill B44 9AG. Bookings can be made online (booking fee of £50) at <https://www.wme.org.uk/weekends/residential-engaged-encounter-weekend-oscott-birmingham>.

For further information please contact Phil & Rita Jackson 0121 244 7762 or visit the website <https://www.wme.org.uk/>

CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE of OUR LADY at Walsingham have written and reminded us of the many reasons why The Shrine is a place of interest and a site of pilgrimage. Please see the booklets pinned on the notice board in the porch for further information or refer to their website: www.walsingham.org.uk



EVERYONE IS INVITED ...

After both Masses each Sunday Morning coffee, tea and biscuits are served in the



stable. It is an opportunity to meet one another and socialise. Please do join in!

ESSENTIAL PARISH 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