



During his homily on Christmas Eve **POPE FRANCIS** spoke about the need for everyone to strive toward living a life of greater simplicity. He reflected on how Christ shows the way to overcome the excessive consumerism and selfishness that is ever present in society today: *“The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving.”* *“Standing before the manger, we understand that the food of life is not*

material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity.” The pope also added that one cannot await Christ lying on a couch, sleeping. However, like the Shepherds, who left their flock to see Baby Jesus, one must *“set out, to risk, to recount the beauty.”*

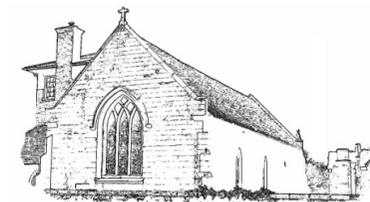
The following day, as is tradition, the pope also gave his **Urbi et Orbi** message and blessing for the whole world. Pope Francis expressed that his wish for Christmas was for greater fraternity: *“Fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture. Fraternity among people with different ideas, yet capable of respecting and listening to one another. Fraternity among persons of different religions. Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek him.”* Pope Francis asked for Israel and Palestine to *“resume dialogue and undertake a journey of peace”* in order to put an end to a 70-year conflict in the Holy Land. He also asked for greater international assistance to help bring peace, political and socially, to countries such as Syria, Yemen and Africa; and encouraged the work toward reconciliation in the Korean peninsula, Venezuela as well as Nicaragua in bringing about greater unity.

The pope reiterated this message of forgiveness also during his Angelus the day after Christmas. He used the example of St. Stephen whose feast day it was and who was the first Christian martyr. *“We are called to learn from him to forgive, to always forgive, and it is not easy to do, we all know. Forgiveness enlarges the heart, generates sharing, gives serenity and peace.”* He said this forgiveness must be cultivated through prayer.

This is because St. Stephen was able to forgive his killers because he was filled with the Holy Spirit and had his eyes directed toward God.

ST MARY'S CHURCH HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR

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Registered Charity No: 234216

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Times of Holy Mass and Intentions (YEAR C Readings)

Sunday 30 December
8.30 am -
10.30 am -

Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth
Deceased members of the Cantillon Family
For the People of The Parish

Monday 31 December
10.00 am -

Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
Anthony Francis-Flores R.I.P.

Tuesday 1 January
10.00 am -

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Private intention

Wednesday 2 January
10.00 am -

Memorial of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church
Ivan & Molly Charuk

Thursday 3 January
11.30 am -

Christmas Feria
Holy Souls

Friday 4 January
11.30 am -

Christmas Feria
Susan's intention

Saturday 5 January
10.00 am -

Christmas Feria
Doreen Millard R.I.P.

Sunday 6 January
8.30 am -
10.30 am -

Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord
For the People of The Parish
Betty Grant R.I.P.



"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). The Wednesday Discussion Group are taking a break for the Christmas season and will resume their regular meetings in January.

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), Hennessey (1999), Margaret Green (2004), Josephine Packwood (2004), Bashford, Pauline Reeve (2006). James O'Brien (2012), Marilyn Way (2016)

Rev
Cyril
Anthony



This year's Crib Offerings will be sent to FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND.



Prayers for the sick:

Denis Conway, Kathleen Clarke, Ray Fogg, Anthony Mitchell, Jeannie Morrison, Charles Paice, Michael Bird.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Sunday 30 December

Stephen Fox, Helen Raphael
John Charuk, Steve McWalter
Eddie Picardo, Bridget Robson
Mary Meese, Jean Lloyd

Sunday 6 January

Readers:

Sunday 30 December

Pat Van Zyl
Anne Taylor
Geoff Summers
Terry Mulroy

Sunday 6 January

Church Cleaners:

Friday 4 January

Anne Carter & Brian Hogg
Anne Quinn & Pauline Teare

Friday 11 January

Money Counters:

For the 30 Dec collection

Dr M Bird & Mrs J Waterhouse
Mr & Mrs S Brown

For the 6 Jan collection

Contributions to the Parish:

Weekly Offertory taken on Sunday 23 December

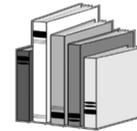
Gift Aid Direct Debits	£259.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£213.90
Loose cash	£169.68

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS to Fr John.

Fr John wishes to express his sincere thanks to everyone for the Christmas gifts and offerings you have given to him. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Do check the **CORRESPONDENCE BOX** on the table in the porch, it may hold something for YOU! There are still some letters regarding the new rotas for **READERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, CHURCH CLEANERS AND MONEY COUNTERS** for January - June 2019 and there are some CHRISTMAS CARDS you have sent to one another in there too.



If you are looking for an enjoyable pursuit as a 'New Year's Resolution' how about joining our **BOOK GROUP**? Everyone is welcome to attend our get-togethers when we discuss the chosen book face-to-face but your input online would also be welcomed sent to: stmarysrc.harvington@gmail.com with 'Book Group' in the subject heading.

We will meet again on **Monday 14 January** at 9.30am in the Stable to discuss *Dissolution* by C J Sansom, the first of his Shardlake novels. Further novels in the series will also be discussed. We have chosen to read *The Soldier's Return* by Melvyn Bragg during the following month.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs J Lloyd - 01562 754448

- If you would like to speak to someone about Diocesan safeguarding and the Church's work, please call **0121 230 6240**.
- If you would like to speak to someone independent of the Church you can contact the NSPCC on **0800 800 5000**.

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER: Mr M Dawson

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