



On Oct. 4, Roman Catholics celebrate the feast of **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**, the Italian deacon who brought renewal to the Church through his decision to follow Jesus' words as literally as possible.

In a January 2010 general audience, Pope Benedict XVI recalled this "giant of holiness" as a "great saint and a joyful man," who taught the Church that "the secret of true happiness" is "to become saints, close to God."

The future Saint Francis was born on an uncertain date in the early 1180s, one of the several children born to the wealthy merchant Pietro Bernardone and his wife Pica. He originally received the name Giovanni (or John) but became known as Francesco (or Francis) by his father's choice.

Unlike many medieval saints, St. Francis was neither studious nor pious in his youth. His father's wealth gave him access to a lively social life among the upper classes, where he was known for his flashy clothes and his readiness to burst into song. Later a patron of peacemakers, he aspired to great military feats in his youth and fought in a war with a rival Italian city-state.

A period of imprisonment during that conflict turned his mind toward more serious thoughts, as did a recurring dream that suggested his true "army" was not of this world. He returned to Assisi due to illness in 1205, and there began considering a life of voluntary poverty. Three major incidents confirmed Francis in this path. In Assisi, he overcame his fear of disease to kiss the hand of a leper. Afterward, he made a pilgrimage to Rome, where he deposited his money at Saint Peter's tomb and exchanged clothes with a beggar. Soon after he returned home, Francis heard Christ tell him in a vision: "Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin." Francis began to use his father's wealth to restore churches. This led to a public quarrel in which the cloth-merchant's son removed his clothing and declared that he had no father except God. He regarded himself as the husband of "Lady Poverty," and resolved to serve Christ as "a herald of the Great King."

During the year 1208, the "herald" received the inspiration that would give rise to the Franciscan movement. At Mass one morning, he heard the Gospel reading in which Christ instructed the apostles to go forth without money, shoes, or extra clothing. This way of life soon became a papally-approved rule, which would attract huge number of followers within Francis' own lifetime. Through his imitation of Christ, Francis also shared in the Lord's sufferings. He miraculously received Christ's wounds, the stigmata, in his own flesh during September of 1224. His health collapsed over the next two years, a "living sacrifice" made during two decades of missionary preaching and penance. St. Francis of Assisi died on Oct. 3, 1226. Pope Gregory IX, his friend and devotee, canonized him in 1228.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-francis-of-assisi-614>

ESSENTIAL PARISH INFORMATION:

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

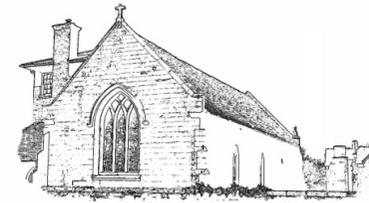
GIFT AID: *Miss A Costanzo*

SAFEGUARDING: *Mrs J Lloyd - 01562 754448*

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER: *Mr M Dawson*

**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 B Readings)**

Sunday 30 September 8.30 am - 10.30 am -	Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of The Parish Stan Robson R.I.P.
Monday 1 October 8.30 am -	Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus Doreen Millard R.I.P.
Tuesday 2 October 8.30 am -	Memorial of the Guardian Angels Private Intention
Wednesday 3 October 8.30 am - 9.00 am -	Feria in Ordinary Time Stan Robson R.I.P. <i>#Discussion Group</i>
Thursday 4 October 11.30 am -	Memorial of St Francis of Assisi Private Intention
Friday 5 October 11.30 am -	Feria in Ordinary Time Doreen Millard R.I.P.
Saturday 6 October 10.00 am - <i>(At Harvington Hall in the Georgian Chapel)</i>	Feria in Ordinary Time Michael Butler R.I.P.
Sunday 7 October 8.30 am - 10.30 am - <i>There will be a second collection at both Masses on Sunday 7 October for CAFOD</i>	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of The Parish Peter Fernihough R.I.P.



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 coffee and an exchange of ideas!

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)

**** Prayers for Sick:**

James Arbutnott, Ray Fogg, Paul Hoban, Anthony Mitchell, Veronica Mitchell, Jeannie Morrison, Charles Paice, Maureen Ribbins.

** If you wish your name or the name of a friend or relative to be included in this written list **please complete a consent form (to be found on the table in the porch and the notice board)** and either hand it to Fr John, post through his front door or send by mail.

To guard your privacy and that of your friend/s relative/s we need to make sure that all have consented to their name being published on that list as it is displayed on the noticeboard and published on the parish website. There are also blank letters available (on the notice board and the table) to offer to anyone who may want prayers, visits or any other support from the parish whilst they are not well.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Sunday 30 September Greg Kelly, Paul Walmsley
Denise Grant, Elizabeth Mountford
Sunday 7 October Stephen Fox, Helen Raphael
Annick Harvey, Joan McKay

Readers:

Sunday 30 September Liz Cornish
Terry Mulroy
Sunday 7 October Jane Handley
Marie Rochford

Church Cleaners:

Friday 5 October Jill Finch, Jenny Lockyer
Friday 12 October Audrey Myerscough & Anne Taylor

Money Counters:

For the 30 Sept collection Mr & Mrs T Greenfield
For the 7 Oct collection Mr J W Bradley

Contributions to the Parish:

Weekly Offertory taken on Sunday 23 September

Gift Aid Direct Debits	£259.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£181.00
Loose cash	£159.40

Second collection taken on 23 September for *Father Hudson's Care*: £355.53

PARISH MEETING.

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting on Wednesday 26th and to those who also contributed by post, email and phone call both before and after the event. Your enthusiasm and willingness to support the parish was evident and very much appreciated. The minutes of the meeting will be available next week and in the meantime those who have volunteered to head up specific areas of work will be contacted.

DEANERY VISITATION

The opening meeting of this important period of review for all parishes in our Deanery will take place at **7.00 pm on Thursday 11 October** at St Peter's Church, Bromsgrove. The meeting will be led by Archbishop Bernard Longley with Bishop Robert Byrne also in attendance. Every parish is asked to send at least ten representatives in order that the substance of the meeting may be well understood and relayed to all parishioners throughout the Deanery.

BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO. On **Wednesday 3 October at 7.00 pm**, Clare Dixon from CAFOD will be speaking at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Worcester Road, Droitwich, WR9 8AZ about Blessed Oscar Romero. The agenda includes: talk, questions, a short film and refreshments. All are welcome. Parking available in large car park behind the church.

Our latest **FOODBANK** collection amounted to 50.4 kgs of food and cash donations of £131 which was very gratefully received, thank you. Our next collection will be on **Sunday 14th Oct.**



Please note the job advertisement, posted on the porch notice board, for a full time Cathedral Steward at **ST CHAD'S BIRMINGHAM.**



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM invite us all to a **CELEBRATION DAY** on **Sunday 14 October 10.00 am - 4.00 pm** at Cardinal Wiseman School, Coventry. Please see the poster and outline of the day's agenda on the porch noticeboard.

DO YOU WANT TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR

FAITH?

The **MARYVALE INSTITUTE** tell us there are still spaces available on FE Courses starting this October! Their FE courses are specifically designed to enable adults with busy family, work and parish responsibilities to undertake study and contribute to the mission and ministries of the Church at parish level. Participants study at home in their own time following specially written course books, which act as core reading, lectures, and tutorials combined, leading students to wider reading if they have the time and interest. For further information please see their website: www.maryvale.ac.uk.

CHADDESLEY DEMENTIA FRIENDS & CARE CAFÉ are holding their next meeting **2.00 –3.30 pm on Wednesday 10 October** in the Village Hall. For further information please see posters in the church porch.

