



Each year the two middle Sundays of Advent centre on John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus. John came to prepare a community of repentance, of those who would be ready for the Messiah. This was to be a community not of those who went around moping about their sinfulness, but a community of those who had changed their ways, that is, their whole system of values and priorities. The Hebrew concept of repentance which

John proclaimed was a matter of turning round and going in the opposite direction. To be ready for the Messiah meant – and still means – just such a radical change of attitude. John himself had prepared by going out into the desert, for the Messiah was to come striding across the desert, as did Israel at the Exodus from Egypt. John's clothing and his whole way of life showed his rejection of current materialism and his single-minded dedication. His is not primarily a negative point of view, for his quotation of Isaiah (reflected also in today's first reading from Baruch), shows that the flattening of the hills and the filling of the valleys is a preparation for the Kingdom of peace and justice.

A good deal of positive planning and of spade-work is needed if we are to be ready to welcome that Kingdom.

*What sort of change did John the Baptist ask from his listeners?*

*Think of one change you need to make in your life to welcome Jesus.*

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

[http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish\\_docs/558-C-Advent-2-2018.pdf](http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish_docs/558-C-Advent-2-2018.pdf)

**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 **0808 800 5000**.

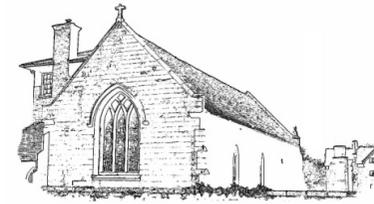
**HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER: Mr M Dawson**

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

**ST MARY'S CHURCH  
HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR**

**Parish Priest:** Rt Rev Mgr Canon John Moran  
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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)**

<b>Sunday 9 December</b> 8.30 am - 10.30 am - <i>There will be a second collection today, 9 December for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese</i>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> For the People of The Parish Peter Fernihough R.I.P.
<b>Monday 10 December</b> 9.00 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> James Arbuthnot R.I.P.
<b>Tuesday 11 December</b> 9.00 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Doreen Millard R.I.P.
<b>Wednesday 12 December</b> 9.00 am - 9.30 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Holy Souls #Discussion Group
<b>Thursday 13 December</b> 11.30 am -	<b>Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</b> Maria Oakes R.I.P.
<b>Friday 14 December</b> 11.30 am -	<b>Memorial of St John of the Cross</b> Veronica Mitchell R.I.P.
<b>Saturday 15 December</b> 10.00 am -	<b>Advent Feria</b> Deceased members of the Taylor & Parkes family
<b>Sunday 16 December</b> 8.30 am - 10.30 am -	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> For the People of The Parish Eddie Walsh R.I.P.



Mat 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 coffee and an exchange of ideas!

**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 the sick:**

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

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

**Sunday 9 December** Stephen Fox, Helen Raphael  
Annick Harvey, Joan McKay  
**Sunday 16 December** Eddie Picardo, Bridget Robson  
Denise Grant, Elizabeth Mountford

**Readers:**

**Sunday 9 December** Jane Handley  
Frances Rimmer  
**Sunday 16 December** John Bradley  
Joan McKay

**Church Cleaners:**

**Friday 14 December** Jill Finch & Jenny Lockyer  
**Friday 21 December** Audrey Myerscough & Anne Taylor

**Money Counters:**

**For the 9 Dec collection** Mr & Mrs T Greenfield  
**For the 16 Dec collection** Mr J W Bradley

**Contributions to the Parish:**

**Weekly Offertory taken on Sunday 2 December**

Gift Aid Direct Debits	£259.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£223.00
Loose cash	£133.82

**PLEASE NOTE ...**

**From the start of Advent 2018 some weekday Mass times have changed to:**

<b>Monday -</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Tuesday -</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday -</b>	<b>9.00 am</b> (followed by the Discussion Group at 9.30 am)

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Please collect a folded card from the porch table listing all the times of services during Christmas week.**

**The HARVINGTON CRAFT GROUP** will be holding their annual Christmas Fayre in the stable **TODAY, Sunday, 9 Dec 10am - 3pm** where a selection of beautifully handcrafted gifts will be on sale, including wreaths and table decorations. Please support the wonderfully creative efforts of the Group and treat yourselves, friends and family to unique, handmade gifts for Christmas.



*Thank you!*

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS** are due to the Events Committee, now under the leadership of Annick Harvey, who recently ran their first social gathering as a newly formed team. In addition to providing an opportunity for parishioners to meet one another and to buy gifts for Christmas in Annick's home they also raised a valuable £152 for parish funds. Thank you to everyone who supported this successful initiative!

**THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND GROUP** would like to thank all the Parishioners of Harvington for their extremely generous support in purchasing Christmas Cards, Olive Wood Gifts and Soap at the sale in November and since. In total £410 has been raised and will be passed on to the main office in Kenilworth to go towards providing additional support to Christian Families in the Holy Land over the Christmas period. Please remember the Christians of the Middle East in your prayers.



The Kidderminster Food Bank are very grateful for all the donations of goods and cash (£420) made by parishioners here last week. Our contributions will be put to good use at this time of increasing need in our community.

The next meeting of the **HARVINGTON BOOK CLUB** is on **Monday 10 December at 9.30** in the stable. The group will discuss Blake Morrison's first novel, entitled "The Justification of Johann Gutenberg", a fictionalised memoir of the man who devised the moveable type printing press, probably the most far-reaching invention of the past millennium. Everyone is warmly invited to join the group, even if you haven't read this book please come along and help choose our next 'Club Choice'.



**2019**

**READERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, CHURCH CLEANERS AND MONEY COUNTERS**

New **ROTAS** for January - June 2019 are now ready for collection from the correspondence box in the porch.

As ever, thank you all for generously giving your time to this invaluable work for the Parish. If any of the given dates are inconvenient, please swap between yourselves if you can or contact the office by email at any time or by phone on Friday mornings.