



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton
 Deacon: Rev. John Walsh
 Presbytery: Clarence House, 2 Clarence Street, Halifax HX1 5DH
 T: 01422 352141 E: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
 Website: www.stmaryshalifax.com
 St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365

MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

Perpetual Novena:
 Wednesday after 9:30am Mass

Holy Rosary:
 Saturday after 12:15pm Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:
 First Friday of the month after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:
 The repose of the soul of Joan Crossley



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
 Saturday 11:00am – 12:00pm
 at St Mary's

Confessions:
 Saturday - 11:00am-12:00pm – St Mary's
 Sunday - 5:30pm-6:00pm – St Alban's
 or on Request

Marriages and Baptisms
 by appointment

SUNDAY 30 th	31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Kathleen Cookson Tom Brennan Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 31 st	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 1 st	ALL SAINTS HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	7:00am 12 Noon 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Kathleen Kelly Bryan and Sheila Greenwood Kathleen Markham
WEDNESDAY 2 nd	Commemoration of All Souls	7:00am 12 Noon 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Parish Dead List Parish Dead List Parish Dead List
THURSDAY 3 rd	St Winifred	9:30am	St Alban's	Anthony Gregson
FRIDAY 4 th (First Friday)	Charles Borromeo Funeral Service	9:30am 11:00am	St Mary's St Mary's	Irene Crow Celine Holroyd
SATURDAY 5 th	B.V.M	12:15pm	St Mary's	Private Intention

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Katarzina Machinu	11:00am	Jovanna Karuna
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Judith McDonald

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Patricia Hintze and all those who have died recently and for Fr Peter Russell and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER LIST

David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, Patricia Ellison, John Wallis, Millie Haigh, David Murphy, Peter Fekete, Fawzia Mohamed, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, David Hopkinson, Moya Andrew, Suzanne Peaker, Larry Byrne, Eleanor Foran Winnie Whelan, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, , Maureen Colleran, Patricia Reynolds and all the sick and housebound of the parish, their families and those who care for them.

If you know of anyone in the Parish who is ill or is housebound please let Fr Hilton or Deacon John know so that a visitation can be arranged.

MASSES RECEIVED : Les Bibby, Michael and Winifred Horan, May and George Poppleton, Tony Lennon, The Corley and Lawson Family Intentions.

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, two Masses each week will be offered for those on our parish Dead List and then the remaining Masses will be offered throughout the coming year. If you would like your deceased family and friends to be included in these Masses, please place a list of their names, along with an offering in the **envelopes available at the back of church** and then hand them in to one of the clergy or place them through the presbytery letterbox.

PARISH REQUIEM MASS

On Friday 25th of November there will be a special Mass offered for the deceased members of the parish. This will take place at St Mary's at 7:00pm and all are warmly invited to attend. There will be special candles available to light and you are welcome to bring a framed photograph of your loved ones to be placed on the sanctuary during the Mass. This will be an opportunity to come together as a parish, to remember our family and friends who have died and to pray for their eternal rest.

THE ANNUAL DEANERY SERVICE AT STONEY ROYD CEMETERY

will take place at 3pm next Sunday 6th November at Stoney Royd. Please meet by the Cemetery gates.

Please remember that from 1st to 8th November a **PLENARY INDULGENCE** applicable to the Holy Souls in Purgatory, can be gained by visiting a cemetery and praying for the Holy Souls or by visiting a Church and saying the "Our Father" and "The Creed" for the dead.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Can you help us make someone's Christmas a little bit happier? We are now thinking about our Christmas Appeal. This year, those in our parish who are in need are even more than ever in need and we hope to ease their financial burden by helping them in any way we can. This may entail helping with heating bills, supplying food or clothing or even something as simple as a selection box for children who will get nothing. We will be so grateful for any financial donations that you are able to make. Our account details are shown here. Many thanks for anything you can do to help.

Bank sort Code **60-60-04**; Account number **46086137** Account name - **SS Mary and Alban Halifax**

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 15th November 18:15 in St Alban's Parish Room.

Next Sunday at each Mass there will be a presentation from a member of our parish S.V.P. society explaining a little about the work they do and providing information about how to join this very worthwhile group who do such important work.

HAPPYDAYS UK – FOOD BANK

The Gathering Place food bank is now managed by Happydays UK, a local charity that provides support and accommodation to formerly homeless people, to help them to gain their independence.

Please remember our parish food collection is **NEXT** Sunday

Or you can make a donation through their website www.happydaysuk.org.

200 CLUB: If you usually pay your subscription to the 200 club 6 monthly it is now due.
Thank you for your support.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As we enter into November, we once again begin this special time of praying for the Holy Souls in purgatory and remembering our loved ones who have died.

The month begins with the great feast of All Saints, the day on which we joyfully celebrate all of those people in heaven, officially canonised or not, who lived heroically virtuous lives, offered themselves for others or were martyred for the faith and are worthy of imitation. We rejoice that these Christians who have gone before us, have finished the race and fought the good fight to the end and now enjoy eternal bliss in God's presence. On this day, we thank God for their witness and example and ask for their prayers and intercession. It is precisely because we celebrate that the saints have reached heaven that our minds and prayers should naturally turn to those who are still on their way and need our help in reaching their final destination.

The Catechism teaches us that at the point of death, those who are in perfect friendship with God will immediately enter into glory, those who die having separated themselves from Him will enter into hell but for those who die in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified their souls will spend time in purgatory until they are ready to enter into God's presence. If we imagine what it is like to be in a totally darkened room and suddenly to walk out into the light of the blazing sun, it can take a while for our eyes to adjust to the brightness and can even be uncomfortable until we get used to the light and begin to see clearly. This gives us a good idea as to what the purpose of purgatory is. St Catherine of Genoa compared the effects of sin to rust. The repeated nature of our sins, she said, leaves a mark on our soul, even after our guilt has been remitted by confession, just as a ship builds up rust on its hull through its exposure to the salt in the sea. Once the rust has been removed, marks remain until the metal has been polished and restored to its former glory.

Fr John Saward in his book *Sweet and Blessed Country* describes purgatory as "heaven longed for". The Holy Souls he says "are assured of their salvation and confirmed in grace: God has revealed their heavenly destination to them in the particular judgment at the moment of death. Their Christian hope, their longing, for heaven has a different quality to ours in the wayfaring state. It is like the yearning in the heart of a soldier returning home from war as he walks the last mile, compared with the yearning he felt when he was still on the battlefield. The hope of the Holy Soul has the certitude of one who is arriving, whereas the hope of the wayfarer has the hope of heading in the right direction."

We must be very careful not to think of purgatory as a type of hell, it is not. Pope Benedict XVI underlined this very clearly in his encyclical letter, *Spe Salvi*. He wrote, "At the moment of judgment we experience and we absorb the overwhelming power of His love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves. The judgment of God is hope, both because it is justice and because it is grace... if it were merely justice, in the end it could only bring fear to us all... grace allows us to hope and go trustfully to meet the judge whom we know is our advocate."

As we reflect on these things over the month of November we must remember that God is a just judge, not some arbitrary dictator. He longs to clothe us with his love, not only in this life but also in the next. This love should spur us on, giving us the hope of eternal salvation. – Pray for the Holy Souls, our prayers bring them unfathomable comfort and assistance and once they reach their longed-for home, we can be sure that they will repay the favour and intercede for us at the throne of grace.

God bless you all.
Fr Hilton

Mass Offerings, Notices and News Items for the Parish Bulletin should be given to Fr Hilton or Deacon John by Wednesday evening. Notices and News Items but not Mass Intentions can be sent to John Coates (07842 066450 or jbcoates@btinternet.com) again by Wednesday evening.

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Clare O'Neill
(07792147620 psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404