



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

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St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365

MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after 9:30am Mass

Holy Rosary:

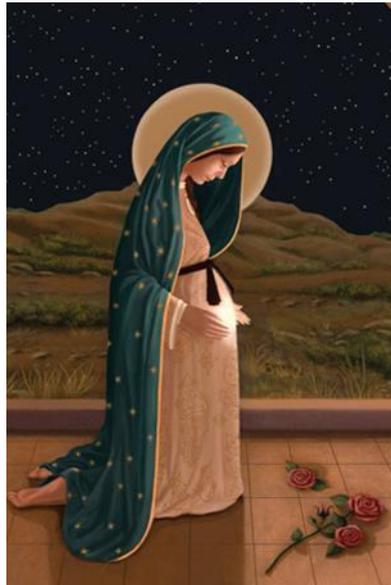
Saturday after 12:15pm Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

The intentions of Fr Sean Elliott



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 27 th	1 st Sunday of Advent	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Dead List Catherine Lopusniak Polish Mass The People of the Parish
MONDAY 28 th	Feria	9:00am	St Mary's	Dead List
TUESDAY 29 th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Joan Smith
WEDNESDAY 30 th	St Andrew Apostle	9:30am	St Mary's	Kevin Costello
THURSDAY 1 st	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Anne Elizabeth Sampson
FRIDAY 2 nd	Feria	No Public Mass		
SATURDAY 3 rd	St Francis Xavier	12:15pm	St Mary's	Fr Hubert McNamara

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Wendy Balahura
6:00pm	Judith McDonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

PLEASE PRAY FOR Mary Searight and all those who have died recently and for Fr Hubert McNamara and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Fr Hubert McNamara, Kathleen Markham, Kevin McDonald

PRAYER LIST

David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, Millie Haigh, David Murphy, Peter Fekete, Fawzia Mohamed, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, 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.

CONFESSIONS

In addition to the usual times, confessions will be heard after every Sunday Mass during the season of Advent. The Deanery Day of Reconciliation will be on held Saturday 17th of December at St Mary's with confessions being heard from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Make sure you go before Christmas – with all of these opportunities, there's no excuse!

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets for the Parish Christmas Raffle will be on sale after Sunday Masses from 27th November. There are several hampers to be won this year, including two children's hampers, so don't miss out on buying your tickets.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 16th December.

HAPPY DAYS FOOD BANK

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month and our usual day for Donations to the Food Bank. It is also the last Sunday we will be collecting before Christmas. Please try to be a little more generous to give those who are in need help at this special time of year. Thank You

ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWS

ADVENT MASS – There will be an Advent Mass in school on Wednesday 30th November at 2:15p.m. All are welcome.

ADVENT REFLECTION – with Fr. Hilton on Wednesday 30th November at 3:30p.m. in the School Hall.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE – Will be held in School on Friday 2nd December from 3:30 to 5:30p.m. Everyone is welcome. Donations of bottles (preferably alcoholic) for the Bottle stall and Chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola would be appreciated.

If anyone would like to bake for the cake stall, donations before 3pm on the day would be gratefully received by the school.

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:

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

Date of next meeting is 6th December at 6 p.m. in St Alban's Parish Room.

READERS

We are fortunate to have a very committed group of parishioners who read at Mass each day. Would you like to join them? I am looking for volunteers to read at Mass on weekdays and Sundays who are happy to be added to the rota. Please speak to me after Mass or drop me an email if you would be willing to help. On **Saturday 10th December after the 12:15 Mass** there will be an event for all parish readers comprising of a reflection on this ministry and the Word of God along with a training session to practice our public reading and voice projection.

Please make every effort to attend. (1pm – 2:30pm)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Christmas is absolutely, hands down, my favourite time of the year and after the last 12 months that we've had I think that some festive cheer is needed more than ever – my decorations will be going up early this year and I don't care what anybody thinks!

That being said, the season of Advent is not a time to be squandered, not something to be wished away so that we can get on with enjoying ourselves at Christmas and then declare the whole celebration over by the end of Boxing Day (the Christmas season actually finishes of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord). No, Advent is a precious opportunity to take stock of the year that has been and to look forward in joyful hope for what is yet to come. It being the start of the Church's liturgical New Year, it is the perfect time for some spiritual spring cleaning and making fresh starts. More on that in this Sunday's sermon...

If we are to make the most of this holy season, it is vital that we cultivate the virtue of patience and we need look no further than our Blessed Mother for both example and inspiration. Patience, we must remember, is not simply withholding anger or frustration, it is the virtue of placing our complete trust in God. To be patient is to let the Lord have total control over our lives and to surrender to His will with a strength that is heroic.

To be patient this Advent, is not a case of containing our excitement about Christmas, but a sharing in the fortitude of Our Lady, the perfect model calm, trusting endurance. She faced the unknown of conceiving the Son of God, fleeing to a foreign land, losing her husband and seeing her child executed in public. Through all of this, we hear not a word of complaint, no rage or despair, only her steadfast determination to be the handmaid of the Lord, "be it done unto me, according to thy will" says Mary.

Through all of her many trials and disappointments, Our Lady could never have foreseen how things would be resolved, that despite her agonies, her Son would rise from the dead, victorious of the powers of evil and that she would one day ascend body and soul into glory to be crowned Queen of Heaven. – No matter what our own trials and tribulations have been over the last 12 months, let us ask for a small share in the patience of Our Lady. Whether we regret what has been, or fear what is yet to come, the knowledge of what we celebrate at Christmas, when it finally arrives, should lead us courage and heart. Thanks to Our Lady's patient trust, the Son of God has been given unto the world, that just as she was destined for eternal glory, so now are we.

The Prophet Isaiah tells us that "the virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us'". And so He is, every step of the way and every day of our lives, and when we come to realise that He is ultimately in control, we might just become a little bit more patient.

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 only can be sent to John Coates (07842 066450 or orjbcoates@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