



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

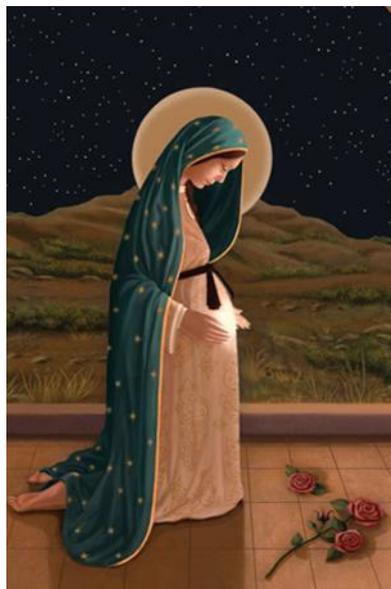
MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

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 intentions of Christine and Anne Smith



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 11 th	3 rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Susan Coates Michael and Winifred Horan Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 12 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 13 th	St Lucy	7:00pm	St Alban's	Anne Elizabeth Sampson
WEDNESDAY 14 th	St John of the Cross	9:30am	St Mary's	Jim Hargreaves
THURSDAY 15 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Bryan Greenwood
FRIDAY 16 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Rose Marie Rothery
SATURDAY 17 th	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	George Czainski

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 MacDonald

CAROL SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

The carol service in St Mary's at 6:30pm will take place this Friday 16th of December. It will be followed by a parish Christmas party at the Catholic club, there will be a glass fizz on arrival and a buffet provided. Christmas jumpers are encouraged. Please spread the word – All welcome.

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 these opportunities, there's no excuse!

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 visit can be arranged.

MASSES RECEIVED: June Bamforth, Fr John Gott, Doreen Salmons, Sheila Clewley, Agnes Donaghy (Thanksgiving), Tom Brennan, Philip Makula, Eddie and Mary Coates, Rose Marie Rothery, Angelina & Wasyl Boruszenko

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Parish SVP would like to wish everyone a very holy and happy Christmas and to thank everyone who has helped and donated to their cause this year. We hope to make an even bigger difference to some lives in 2023 so please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. We are as ever grateful for your continued financial donations - these make such a difference to some peoples' lives. Our account details are:- Bank sort Code **60-60-04**; Account number **46086137** Account name - **SS Mary and Alban Halifax**

The SVP shop on King Cross is looking for donations of clothes, books, Bric a Brac, Toys, Games etc and also, if anyone can spare any time, they are seeking volunteers too.

The date of the next meeting is 6 pm 10th January in St Alban's Parish Room.

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. The Parish Christmas Raffle will be drawn on Friday 16th December at the Parish Christmas Party at the Catholic Club. Tickets will be available to purchase at the Catholic Club on the 16th for a short time only prior to the draw. With some great prizes to be won, don't miss out on buying tickets.

PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN OF CHURCHES - Parishioners are invited to bring some Christmas spirit and sparkle to the churches by coming together to help with the pre-Christmas clean.

St Mary's Church - Monday 12th December from 10:00am

St Alban's Church - Thursday 15th December from 10:15am

All cleaning materials will be provided, although you may wish to bring your Marigolds.

Tea, coffee & Christmas treats will be available. Here's hoping for a good turnout!

LOST PROPERTY

For some considerable time now, several items left in St Mary's Church (umbrellas, hats, gloves etc) have been on display at the back of the church waiting to be claimed by their rightful owners. If you have lost any items, please would you check upon leaving the church today as any items not claimed will be disposed of. Thank you.

200 CLUB - - NOVEMBER WINNERS

£100 – No 51 Malcolm £70 – No 55 Maria Griffin £30 – No 130 Stuart Macdonald

PLEASE PRAY FOR Fr Michael Nealon all those who have died recently and for Canon Austin Hewitt and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This week whilst I was visiting the year 6 children in St Mary's school, I was subjected to a quick fire round of questioning from both classes. I must say, I was very impressed by the thoughtfulness and the reflective nature of many of their questions and how they displayed not only a depth of knowledge but also a hunger for truth and to learn more about their faith. One question that impressed me particularly was "Father, which do you think is the most important virtue that Our Lady shows us?" – "Humility" was my answer and I think, going back to what I said a few weeks ago about Our Lady helping us to prepare for Christmas with patience, humility is another essential quality that we need to cultivate in order to celebrate Christmas properly.

We need to remember, that the Lord's incarnation itself, is one giant act of humility. The fact that the great God who made both heaven and earth and who even now, sustains all things in being, should humble Himself to be born as a baby in a dirty feeding trough in a poor backwater of the middle east, should tell us something about the importance of this virtue. Humility is at the heart of what it is to celebrate Christmas and is not an optional extra.

There is a severe lack of humility in the world today. We are told constantly by the media about the need for self-help, self-confidence and self-promotion. The desire to be famous and influential is now seen as the highest possible good. Attention is to be sought at any cost - just look at the Harry and Meghan saga! "The world must revolve around me or I'm doing something wrong."

As we well know, God's thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our ways and as usual, the reign of the Kingdom of God is brought about by tipping the normal order of things on its head. The gentle cry of the new born Son of God was not heard by the powerful, it was missed by Emperor, the Governor and the King. The great ones of the world were deaf to his coming - the only two groups who responded to the Lord were the shepherds, who know that they know nothing, and the wise men, who know that they do not know everything... the very simple and the very learned. Never those who think that they know it all.

Humility is essential if we are to attain salvation. Without it, we will be unable to see the face of God, who humbled Himself to walk among us in such a world as this. Only the humble of heart saw the true face of God on that first Christmas night. Kings and priests were not queuing outside the cave where he was born in order to adore him – only those with the eyes to see. The cave is down inside the earth and all who wish to come into His presence must bend, they must stoop and bend low in order to enter. Those who are too proud to stoop miss the sight of the divine. As Archbishop Fulton Sheen once wrote "Those, however, who are willing to risk bending their egos to go into that cave, find that they are not in a cave at all; but they are in a universe where sits a babe on His mother's lap, the babe who made the world."

Patience is important this Advent, but so too is humility. For it is only when we are humble, that we are worthy to enter and see the face of God.

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