



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:

May & George Poppleton



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 22 nd JANUARY	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Tony & Julie Simpson Int Caroline Mackrill Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 23 rd	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Dead List
TUESDAY 24 th	St Francis de Sales	7:00pm	St Alban's	Rachel Kilbourne
WEDNESDAY 25 th	The Conversion of St Paul	9:30am	St Mary's	Joan Smith
THURSDAY 26 th	Requiem	11:00am	St Mary's	Mary Wallace
FRIDAY 27 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
SATURDAY 28 th	St Thomas Aquinas	12:15pm	St Mary's	Sheila Clewley

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Wendy Balahura
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Paul Coates

PLEASE PRAY FOR Geraldine Mary Lozano (Nee Broadbent) and all those who have died recently and for Fr James Kelly and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER LIST

David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, Patricia Hintze, John Wallis, Millie Haigh, David Murphy, Peter Fekete., William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Moya Andrew, Suzanne Peaker, Larry Byrne, Winnie Whelan, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, 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 - Paul Connolly

CHURCHES TOGETHER WEEK OF PRAYER SERVICE

This will take place this Tuesday (24th) at noon at St Andrew's Methodist Church on Huddersfield Road. Soup and sandwiches will be served afterwards.

Jesus prayed that we should be one, so please make every effort to attend and represent St Mary's and St Alban's.

FIRST SACRAMENTS 2023

The Preparatory Sessions for First Confession (Reconciliation) begin at School at the end of this month. If you have any Year Three children who do not attend Catholic Schools please let Fr Hilton, Deacon John or Helen Mellor (07931 998337) know as soon as possible.

DEANERY MARRIAGE COURSES

These will take place at St Mary's after the 11.00am Sunday Mass (for 1 hour) during Lent over three weekends on 5th March, 12th March and 26th March 2023. All engaged couples intending to marry this year to contact Deacon John Walsh if they wish to attend. Attending a Marriage Course is a mandatory requirement for those intending to Marry in the Catholic Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We will be so grateful for any financial donations that you are able to make. Our account details are: Bank sort Code **60-60-04**; Account number **46086137** Account name - **SS Mary and Alban Halifax**
We have had a request for help from a lady with mobility issues who needs an electric 'riser recliner' chair. If anyone can help us source one, please call the SVP number 07512 011 440.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM MEETING

The codes to access the Zoom are. Meeting ID is 73566939905 Password is Ss0eA3

PARISH BOOK CLUB

If you would be interested in taking up some spiritual reading, why not join the new parish book club? The first book that we will read is "**The Lamb's Supper**" by **Scott Hann**, an exploration of the link between scripture and the Holy Mass. It's a very readable and accessible book and perfect to kick us off. If you would be interested in taking part, you can either pick up your own copy or I can order one for you at the cost of £10. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church to register your interest in the club and to indicate if you would like a copy to be ordered for you. Our first meeting and discussion will be on **Tuesday 14th of February at 7:30pm in St Alban's church room**, by which point we should have read part one and part two. All very welcome.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

On Wednesday of this week, we celebrate the feast of the conversion of St Paul, recalling how on the road to Damascus, Saul, as he then was, had an encounter with the Lord that changed his life forever and altered the course of the history of the world. Saul, having been a fierce persecutor of the church, became Paul, the Apostle to the gentiles and proceeded to spread the faith almost singlehandedly across the Mediterranean and Western Europe.

Whilst Paul's conversion was a rather dramatic affair, it most certainly was not the only conversion of note in the history of the church. Obviously there have been many other dramatic conversions which have left their mark e.g. St Augustine, St John Henry Newman etc. However, as many of you will know from your own experience, most converts come quietly into the life of the church but their presence in our midst is no less noteworthy for that quietness, this will apply to some of you who are reading this today.

Dramatic or otherwise Christ's call to us to go make disciples of all the nations is as clarion today as it was when Paul saw the light. With this in mind I invite you all to spend sometime this week asking the Lord to send you a convert – yes you. I can do my bit but you have to do yours too. Is there somebody in your life, at work, at home, in your social circle... who is just waiting for the invitation to become a Catholic? Do not let them wait any longer. Ask the Lord to direct your inviting comments and if they are interested, by all means come along with them to see me, alternatively, I am very happy to go to them.

It is the role of every baptised Catholic who shares in the prophetic ministry of Jesus to bring souls to Christ. Some people may think that this is unfashionable and no longer necessary, I am not one of them. If we are hesitant and keep our light under a bushel, we do our brothers and sisters an almighty disservice. Whose life would be worse off for knowing the loving embrace of Christ and His Church? – “no one” is the answer.

Speaking from personal experience, I think of my own Dad, who for the most part of my life was seemingly a committed atheist. He was married to my mother for well over 30 years before he came to faith and in the end, what made him take the plunge was the gentle witness and prompting from someone totally outside of the family.

Conversion is, of course, a lifelong process. All of us are called to constantly deepen and strengthen our relationship with the Lord no matter whether we are cradle-Catholics or relatively new to the world of faith. Maybe you might give a helpful nudge to that lapsed Catholic in your life – It might take a bit of courage, but I'm pretty sure that you won't be thrown to the lions.

This parish and community only has a future if we are able to grow and sustain ourselves and drawing others to Christ is an essential part of that mission. This week, pray for the intercession of St Paul and ask for a bit of Apostolic bravery – from the smallest seed can grow the mightiest oak.

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