



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

<p>Perpetual Novena: Wednesday after 9:30am Mass</p> <p>Holy Rosary: Saturday after 12:15pm Mass</p> <p>Devotions to the Sacred Heart: First Friday of the month after 9:30am Mass</p> <p>Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for: The repose of the soul of Kathleen Fisher</p>		<p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturday 11:00am – 12:00pm at St Mary's</p> <p>Confessions: Saturday - 11:00am-12:00pm – St Mary's Sunday - 5:30pm–6:00pm – St Alban's or on Request</p> <p>Marriages and Baptisms by appointment</p>
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SUNDAY 29 th JANUARY	4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Fred & Eileen Greenwood Elaine Collins (A) Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 30 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 31 st	St John Bosco	7:00pm	St Alban's	Fr Martin Kelly's Int
WEDNESDAY 1 st	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Intentions of CW
THURSDAY 2 nd	Candlemas (Feast)	10:00am	St Mary's (School Mass)	Dead List
FRIDAY 3 rd	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Tony and Julie Simpson Int.
SATURDAY 4 th	Memorial of B.V.M	12:15pm	St Mary's	Gary Goodrick & Mark Salmons

READERS ROTA			
THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Wendy Balahura	11:00am	Katarzina Machinu
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Mrs Damolo

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.

PARISH LADIES GUILD

On Sunday the 19th February, the 9.30am Mass will be dedicated to all deceased members of our Parish Ladies Guild. If any ladies of our guild are able to attend, it would be lovely if we could all sit together.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM MEETING

The codes to access the Zoom **have changed**. Meeting ID is now 72756957252 Password is: nqht8b

MASSES RECEIVED:

Special Intention of CW, Rhonda Bright, Mary & Thomas Brook, Maureen Colleran, Fr Kenneth Taylor, Wendy Gallagher, Fr Frank Carroll, Marjorie Blackburn

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**
The next meeting will be **this Tuesday** (31st) at 6:00p.m. at St Alban's Parish Room.

HAPPY DAYS UK FOOD BANK

Next Sunday is the first in the month and our usual day for donations of Food and Domestic Products. Please leave them at the back of church.

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.

BISHOP-ELECT PHILIP MOGER

As you know, Mgr Moger will be consecrated a Bishop on Tuesday 21st of February at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. I spoke with him this week and we hope that he will be able to come and celebrate Mass at St Mary's around Easter time. It would be fitting for us to provide the new bishop with a gift from his home parish and so **next Sunday, there will be a second collection** in order to purchase His Lordship a mitre. This will take some time to be made and then we will be able to present it during his visit later in the year.

200 CLUB – JANUARY 2023 WINNING NUMBERS

£100 – No 126 Liz Keyes £70 – No 15 Christine Smith £30 – No 41 Mary Hoggard

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As usual this week, turn on the telly or open the newspaper and we are once again confronted by all sorts of bad news, doom and gloom. In an effort to avoid all the misery, a nice escape for me recently has been tuning in each Sunday night at 9pm to watch Happy Valley – there's something nice about having to wait a whole week for the next episode, it gives you something to look forward to. It's a series that I've always enjoyed but since I've moved to Halifax, I've taken a renewed interest in and enjoying spotting and pointing out all of the various filming locations to anyone who will listen.

Earlier this week, I was visiting some former parishioners of mine in Leeds, who are also avid viewers and they asked me the question: "Is it then? Is it a happy valley?" To which I replied with an unequivocal "yes" – of all the places I have lived, there truly is a sense of community, togetherness and happiness in this place, and that I am sure, is a gift from God. But what does it actually mean to be happy? – Pleasure is something that we experience in a bodily sense, happiness in a feeling that we experience in the mind but as disciples of the Lord, we can and should experience joy and joy is something that is deep in the heart, in our soul at the centre of our very selves.

Pleasure is, of course, not a bad thing. Everyone seeks out pleasure in their own way, but pleasure is only a passing and temporary state and once you have eaten that whole chocolate bar, it's gone and you're left feeling slightly sick. Happiness though is a longer lasting feeling. It is something that can come and go and be affected by those around us, our health, our economic situation, the stresses of work etc. but is not as transient. Joy, on the other hand, is a far more than an emotional state. Everyone wants pleasure, more deeply everyone wants happiness and most deeply of all, everyone wants joy.

When St Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians instructing them to "rejoice in the Lord always" he was at that moment a prisoner in chains and those receiving his letter were undergoing hardships and trials. For us Catholics, joy is not the fruit of a life without difficulty or dependant on our current circumstances but a result of a deep and constant attitude that is born out of faith in Christ. One of the main reasons that we begin to feel unhappy is because many things and situations are outside of our control. Being joyful requires our surrender to the will of God and the realisation that He, not us, is in the driving seat. When we say "Thy will be done" and mean it with our whole hearts, we cannot but help find joy. It is the fruit of living all the virtues which can only be accomplished by abandoning ourselves into the loving arms of God.

Saint Josemaria Escriva once wrote: *"If we truly realize we are beloved children of our Heavenly Father—as indeed we are!—how can we fail to always be joyful? Sadness is for those who do not consider themselves to be children of God. Accepting the will of God wholeheartedly is a sure way of finding joy and peace. God's will may be painful and mysterious at times, but a person who lives by faith knows that for those who love God all things work together for good"*.

So, do your best to rejoice, hand everything over to God and take the pressure off yourself...

All that being said, I'm sure that seeing tonight's episode will bring great pleasure indeed. Enjoy!

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