



# 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](http://www.stmaryshalifax.com)  
 St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365

## MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Perpetual Novena:</b><br/>Wednesday after 9:30am Mass</p> <p><b>Holy Rosary:</b><br/>Saturday after 12:15pm Mass</p> <p><b>Devotions to the Sacred Heart:</b><br/>First Friday of the month after 9:30am Mass</p> <p><b>Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:</b><br/>The repose of the soul of Arthur Wright</p> |  | <p><b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:</b><br/>Saturday 11:00am – 12:00pm at St Mary's</p> <p><b>Confessions:</b><br/>Saturday - 11:00am-12:00pm – St Mary's<br/>Sunday - 5:30pm–6:00pm – St Alban's or on Request</p> <p><b>Marriages and Baptisms</b><br/>by appointment</p> |
|--|---|--|

| SUNDAY 5 <sup>th</sup><br>MARCH | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent | 9:30am         | St Mary's  | Kathleen & Kenneth Wadsworth |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------------------------|
|                                 |                                | 11:00am        | St Mary's  | Tom Dolly                    |
|                                 |                                | 1:00pm         | St Mary's  | Polish Mass                  |
|                                 |                                | 6:00pm         | St Alban's | People of the Parish         |
| MONDAY 6 <sup>th</sup>          | Lent                           | No Public Mass |            |                              |
| TUESDAY 7 <sup>th</sup>         | Lent                           | No Public Mass |            |                              |
| WEDNESDAY 8 <sup>th</sup>       | Lent                           | 9:30am         | St Mary's  | Angelina & Wasyl Boruszenko  |
| THURSDAY 9 <sup>th</sup>        | Lent                           | No Public Mass |            |                              |
| FRIDAY 10 <sup>th</sup>         | Lent                           | No Public Mass |            |                              |
| SATURDAY 11 <sup>th</sup>       | Lent                           | 12:15pm        | St Mary's  | Parish Dead List             |

| READERS ROTA |                |             |                    |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| THIS SUNDAY  |                | NEXT SUNDAY |                    |
| 9:30am       | John Greenwood | 9:30am      | Gabrielle Colleran |
| 11:00am      | Tim Widdop     | 11:00am     | Wendy Balahura     |
| 6:00pm       | Paul Coates    | 6:00pm      | Mrs Damolo         |

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND  
BENEDICTION**

Will take place each Friday in Lent  
at 6:00pm in St Mary's.  
Stations of the Cross at St Alban's will take place  
after Mass on Thursday mornings.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

CONGRATULATIONS to Amelia, Byron, Emilia,  
Shaun, Kieran, Ashley, Daniel, James, David,  
Freyja and Esther from our School, Parish and  
Deanery who were Confirmed by Bishop Marcus  
on Tuesday. Please pray for them, their families  
and sponsors. Thank you to the School staff, Parish  
Catechists and Parish clergy who helped in the  
preparation of the candidates.

**PARISH MISSION**

Inspired by the efforts being put into organising the  
Deanery Mission by Fr Hall, I am organising a  
Mission for our own parish from the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of  
July. The Mission will be preached by  
Fr Royston Price CSSR & Fr John Hemer MHM.  
There will be a service and talk in church each  
night of the week and it will be a fantastic  
opportunity to deepen your faith and understanding  
by listening to these two excellent and sought after  
speaker. There are posters at the back of church  
with more information to follow.

**LENTEN ALMSGIVING**

The charity that the parish is supporting this Lent,  
is Mary's Meals, helping to feed starving children  
across the developing world. Your donations can  
be brought up in the offertory at the Mass of the  
Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE**

Please see the posters at the back of church for  
more information alternatively, please speak to  
Deacon John or Caroline Walsh.

**PARISH LADIES GUILD**

The next meeting of the Parish Ladies Guild will be  
THIS Thursday 9 March at 7pm at St Alban's.  
We are having an Irish theme evening. Please feel  
free to wear something green, a scarf or earrings  
perhaps. You are invited to bring a guest but please  
let Liz, Jean, Maureen or Ros know if you are  
attending and bringing a guest for seating  
arrangements. Subs for members and guests will be  
£2. Former and new members very welcome to join

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Margaret Johnson, Phyllis Whitaker, Nan Firth,  
Special Intention, Filomena & Jan Moska,  
Josie McLaughlin, Michael Child, Brenda W.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Angela Amos and all  
those who have died recently, especially the  
thousands killed in the Syria/Turkey earthquake  
and for Fr JJ Kearns and all those whose  
anniversaries occur at this time.

**PRAYER LIST**

David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis,  
Millie Haigh, David Murphy, Peter Fekete,  
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.

**WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM MEETING**

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

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you require the services of the SVP please call  
07512 011 440. Date of next meeting –  
14th March 6 pm at St Alban's

**FIRST COMMUNION 2023**

Preparation sessions for First Communion this  
year start on 15th March at School. Any  
parent/carer who has a child in Year 4 who does  
not attend St Mary's Academy should contact  
Fr. Hilton, Deacon John or Helen Mellor  
(07931998337) as soon as possible.

**HAPPYDAYS FOOD BANK**

Today is our normal Sunday for donations to the  
Food Bank. As I forgot to put in a reminder last  
week, (sorry JBC) any donations can be brought  
next week and they will be delivered.

**200 CLUB – FEBRUARY WINNERS**

£100 No 96 Karen Hallinan  
£70 No 49 Ann Griffin  
£30 No 136 Bernard Wadsworth

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

Following on from what I said then last week, let's look at the first half of Holy Mass and reflect on what is actually happening when we attend church. A good way to describe the Mass is to say that the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are made present to us in a ritualised and special way. The Mass is not acting out something that happened a long time ago, but is a re-presentation of the sacrifice of Calvary. The Mass is, first of all, a holy celebration, because it is Christ who acts in the person of the priest, this why the priest wears vestments, he covers himself up, he covers his normal clothes and "puts on Christ". When the priest stands at the altar, Jesus Christ offers himself for us, as he offered himself on the Cross. This is how, we can say that Mass is the same sacrifice as Calvary, offered on the altar in an unbloody manner.

While the entrance hymn is sung, the priest kisses the altar, which represents Jesus (the altar top is also marked with five crosses that symbolise the five wounds of Our Lord), as a sign of surrender and adoration. The altar is traditionally raised on several steps, not so that people can see, but because in the scriptures God is always encountered at the top of a mountain, just as Moses ascended the mountain to intercede for the people, so too the priest climbs the altar steps on the people's behalf. Following the hymn, the Mass begins with the sign of the Cross as we mark ourselves with the sign of the Holy Trinity.

The Church, which is holy and at the same time a community made up of sinners, is conscious that we need continuous conversion and need to ask God's forgiveness and to worthily participate in the sacred mysteries. This explains how from the very beginning public repentance of one's sin was necessary before the Eucharistic celebration so that the sacrifice be pleasing to God. The penitential rite is a concrete expression of this reality by the priest and the faithful, who humbly recognise their sins. We repent and implore God's mercy so that we may participate fruitfully in the sacred mysteries. On Sundays, especially during Easter time, the penitential act can take the form of sprinkling holy water. This is to remind us of our baptism and to invite us to a continual purification.

Once the liturgy of the Word begins, this is the part of the Mass where the Lord speaks to us in a special way through the scriptures. There are three scripture readings on a Sunday. The first reading, except during the Easter Season, is from the Old Testament. It is always related to the Gospel in some way and should help reflect the theme of what this week's Gospel is about. After the first reading, there is the Responsorial Psalm. The second reading is, usually, from any one of the letters of St. Paul or from one of the letters by other Apostles. The third reading is from one of the four Gospels. Just before reading the Gospel, the priest bows before the altar and prays that God may grant him the grace to proclaim the Gospel worthily and well. The Gospel is different from the other readings, because when it is proclaimed by an ordained minister i.e. a priest or a deacon, Jesus is made present among us in a special way. This is why we stand to hear the Gospel read, the servers hold candles at either side of the lectern and why the book of the Gospels is incensed, rather like when the Blessed Sacrament is on the altar.

The sermon follows the proclamation of the Gospel and should attempt to explain what the readings that have been about. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the preaching of the priest or deacon (believe it or not!), unworthy though they may be, but as we all well know, some sermons are better than others. This is why in years gone past, the priest used to remove his chasuble (the top vestment) to preach. This was to symbolise that what he was saying was by his own effort and may be fallible. When moving to the altar for the Eucharistic prayer, he would replace his vestment to stand in the person of Christ for the Consecration. We'll look at the liturgy of the Eucharist next week.

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](mailto:jbcoates@btinternet.com)) again by Wednesday evening. The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Clare O'Neill (07792147620 [psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk))  
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404