



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:

A private intention



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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| SUNDAY 2 nd APRIL | Palm Sunday | 9:30am | St Mary's | Kevin "Meggy" Megson |
| | | 11:00am | St Mary's | People of the Parish |
| | | 1:00pm | St Mary's | Polish Mass |
| | | 6:00pm | St Alban's | Special Intention |
| MONDAY 3 rd | Holy Week | 9:30am | St Mary's | Wendy Gallagher |
| TUESDAY 4 th | Holy Week | 7:00pm | St Alban's | Mgr Smith Intentions |
| WEDNESDAY 5 th | Spy Wednesday | 11:00am | Leeds Cathedral | Chrism Mass |
| THURSDAY 6 th | Maundy Thursday | 7:00pm | St Mary's | Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| FRIDAY 7 th | Good Friday | 9:00am | St Mary's | Office of Readings |
| | | 10:00am | St Mary's | Confessions |
| | | 3:00pm | St Mary's | The Passion of the Lord |
| | | 7:00pm | St Alban's | Stations of the Cross |
| SATURDAY 8 th | Holy Saturday | 9:00am | St Mary's | Office of Readings |
| | | 10:00am | St Mary's | Confessions |
| | | 7:00pm | St Mary's | Easter Vigil |
| SUNDAY 9 th | Easter Sunday | 9:30am | St Mary's | Eleonora & Jan Zakrzewski |
| | | 11:00am | St Mary's | Peter Carolan |
| | | 1:00pm | St Mary's | Polish Mass No evening Mass |

MASSES RECEIVED

Mrs Ligaya V. Balbalosa (A), David Costello

PLEASE PRAY FOR all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER LIST

David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, 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.

BISHOP MOGER – PARISH PARTY

Bishop Moger will celebrate Mass at St Mary's on **Friday 28th of April at 7:00pm** during which we will present him with the gift that we collected for. There will then be a buffet and party in the Catholic Club. We will be joined that evening by priests from the Deanery, Fr Kelly, Mgr Smith and Fr Elliott.

EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

This year Fr Hilton will be offering traditional Easter House Blessings with the new Easter water. This can take place any time between Easter Sunday and Ascension Thursday. Please send your details to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or call the presbytery on 01422 352141 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

READERS ROTA

TODAY PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Gabrielle Colleran 11:00 Kieron Green 6:00 p.m. Richard Siebierski
NEXT WEEK EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 Rachel Fitzpatrick 11:00 Lettie Damolo No Evening Mass

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING FOR EASTER TRIDUUM

It would be wonderful if all Altar Servers attend the Easter Triduum services. There are two training sessions planned at **11.00 on Maundy Thursday** and **11.00 on Holy Saturday**. This will ensure complete readiness for the Easter Triduum services. Please make every effort to attend both.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.
Date of next meeting –Tuesday 18th April at 6 pm at St Alban's

ZOOM CODES FOR WEDNESDAY ROSARY MEETING

NEW codes:ID 715 4932 8980
Passcode 96Ji3A

PARISH LADIES GUILD

The next meeting of the Parish Ladies Guild will be on Thursday the 13th April, 7pm in St Alban's parish room. It is our AGM and subs of £12 will be due.
Raffle prize donations for the quiz would be most welcome and if possible a chocolate item to go into the hamper for the quiz. New and former members most welcome to join us.

The **PARISH QUIZ**, hosted by the Parish Ladies Guild will be held at the Catholic Club on Saturday 13 May at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 each, supper included. Teams of up to 5 players. Tickets will be on sale after the 9.30am and 11am Masses. Tickets to be purchased before the night.

HOLY SATURDAY REMINDER

Please remember that there is no lunchtime Mass on Holy Saturday. After the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist is not celebrated again until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. On the morning of both Good Friday and Holy Saturday we will recite the Office of Readings (Matins), traditional prayers to help focus our minds on the Lord's Passion and the coming Easter festivities. Booklets will be provided.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

It feels like only two minutes since we began our Lenten pilgrimage on Ash Wednesday and we heard in the Gospel about how Our Lord was driven into the desert by the Spirit. Lent is supposed to be a metaphorical time in the wilderness for all of us, when we try to take ourselves away from the distractions of the world around and focus more intently on the things that really matter. The trouble with the desert though, is that it is not a pleasant place to be. It is extremely hot by day and freezing cold at night, there is nothing but sand, all is lifeless and dead and worst of all, there is no water. As we travel through Lent, however, we can begin to see light at the end of the tunnel and this Sunday marks the beginning of the end of this penitential season. We are slowly moving from the lifeless ash and sand of the beginning of Lent, towards the lush and verdant garden of the resurrection, watered by the springs of new life. But we are not quite there just yet.

Holy Week is the high point of the Church's liturgical year and through its rituals and ceremonies we place ourselves at the heart of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. I understand that attending all three services of the Easter Triduum (The Mass of the Lord's Supper, The celebration of the Passion and the Easter Vigil) is a large commitment of time, however, it is most certainly worth the effort. Of course, there will be those of you who are unable to attend all three liturgies for very legitimate and understandable reasons and that is perfectly reasonable. But for the rest of us, let's make a special effort to accompany our Blessed Lord on His journey, especially if our Lenten observance has become a little lacklustre – this gives us an opportunity for a final push before Easter to offer to God, the time and devotion that is His due. Nothing that is worth having ever comes easily but if we do not try at all, we will never have a chance of succeeding. Let us not be like the enthusiastic crowd who welcomed the Lord into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and by the end of the week were totally indifferent to His suffering. Let us not be like the disciples who abandoned Him and could not even watch one hour in the garden of Gethsemane or worse, like Peter who denied that he even knew Him.

In this most Holy Week, we have the chance to deepen our spiritual lives and come to a greater understanding of the incredible gift of faith that we have been given. Through the services of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we can contemplate the depth of His love and the lengths to which He went to save us and by participating in the Easter Vigil we can rejoice in the victory of life over death and give thanks for the gift of eternal life. Let us fully embrace the hope and joy of the Easter message; that we no longer have to fear death, because we know that it is not the end.

This week, try and reflect on all of the graces that you have received from Almighty God this Lent. It is true that life is not always easy but ultimately, we have so much to be grateful for and the best way that we can thank the Lord, is by being with Him during this sacred time – do not waste this opportunity.

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