



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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Website: www.stmaryshalifax.com

St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365

MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after 9:30am Mass

Holy Rosary:

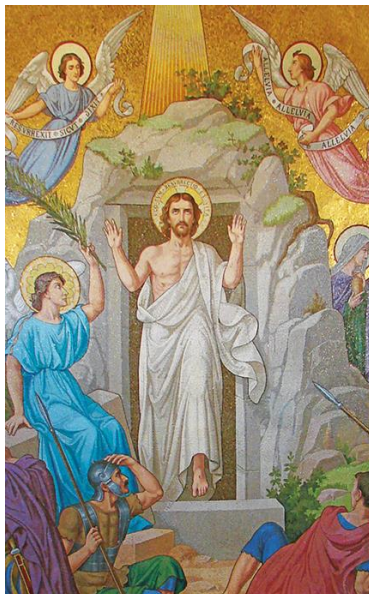
Saturday after 12:15pm Mass

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

SUNDAY 23 rd APRIL	3 rd Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Jan Moska Josie McLaughlin Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 24 th	St George	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 25 th	St Mark	7:00pm	St Alban's	David Costello
WEDNESDAY 26 th	Eastertide	9:30am	St Mary's	Michael & Josie Griffin
THURSDAY 27 th	Eastertide (School Mass)	10:00am	St Mary's	Joan Heptinstall
FRIDAY 28 th	Eastertide	7:00pm	St Mary's	Bishop Moger's Int.
SATURDAY 29 th	St Catherine of Siena	12:15pm	St Mary's	Nan Firth

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
6:00pm	Judith McDonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

PLEASE PRAY FOR all those who have died recently
and all 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 – THIS FRIDAY

Bishop Moger will celebrate a special Mass at St Mary's this **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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.

PARISH LADIES GUILD

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

When requesting a Mass intention, please specify the date on which you would like the Mass to be said.

If you do not have a preference and do not specify a particular date, Masses are offered in the order in which they are received. If you have any queries about a Mass, please speak to the parish priest directly.

ST MARY'S PARISH MISSION

St Mary's Parish Mission, as advertised on the posters at the back of church, will run from 3rd – 7th July. Fr Royston Price, one of the missionaries will be preaching at all Masses in the parish on the feast of Pentecost to give further details about what to expect.

MAY DEVOTIONS

Each Sunday during the month of May there will be Rosary and Benediction in St Mary's at 4:00pm

CORONATION MASS

A special Mass will be celebrated for the intentions of His Majesty the King at St Mary's on Friday 5th May (the day before the coronation) at 12 Noon.

ASCENSION THURSDAY

A reminder that Ascension Thursday 18th May is a Holy Day of Obligation. The 7:00pm Mass at St Mary's that day will be celebrated by His Lordship, Bishop Stock.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

In the first reading at Mass this Sunday we hear about the preaching of St Peter to the crowds on the day of Pentecost and read an account of his impassioned and convincing oratory that, as we know, brought many hundreds to the faith in the early days after the Lord's resurrection. Something maybe worth reflecting on during this Eastertide, perhaps, is on how we in our own way, can help bring other people to the faith.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter is preaching to a large crowd in the market place, many of who are captivated by his words and curious to hear more. Sadly, in our own situation, I'm not convinced that this sort of evangelisation does much good. I know myself, that when I hear someone preaching on the street in Leeds, I always do my best to avoid them and it seems to me so does everybody else. You could always try standing in the middle of the Piece Hall and shouting about Jesus, but I wouldn't recommend it. I think, in our modern world, which is at the moment so morally confused and chaotic, one of the best ways in which can hope to propagate the faith is by being good. What does that mean? I mean by truly living out the virtue of goodness. Moral rectitude, the concrete living out of the Christian way, especially when it is done in a heroic manner, can move even the most hardened unbeliever to faith.

In the very earliest days of the Church, when both Jews and Greeks looked upon this new-fangled faith as either scandalous or madness, it was the moral goodness of the followers of Jesus that brought many to belief. The Church father Tertullian recorded the pagan reaction of amazement to the early Church by the famous adage: "See how these Christians love one another!?" At a time when leaving unwanted children to die on a mountainside was common, when the poor and the sick were often left on their own to rot, and when murderous revenge was a matter of daily life, the early Christians cared for unwanted babies, gave assistance to the sick and the dying, and endeavoured to forgive the persecutors of the faith. Most astonishingly, this goodness extended, not simply to their own brothers and sisters, but, to outsiders and to enemies. This peculiarly excessive form of moral decency convinced many people that something strange was afoot among these disciples of Jesus, something splendid and rare. It compelled them to take a deeper look.

We can quite easily find the same dynamic in our time. St John Paul II was the second most powerful evangelist of the twentieth century, but without doubt the first was a woman who never wrote a major work of theology, who never engaged in public debate, and who never produced a beautiful work of religious art, but someone who did something quite different. No one in the last one hundred years propagated the Christian faith more effectively than a simple nun who lived in utter poverty and who dedicated herself to the service of the most neglected people in our society. Mother Teresa is the classic and shining example of what it means to follow Christ and to draw others to Him using example rather than words.

The way that we behave around other people and the love that we show for our neighbour is the most powerful testimony of all. If the people around us know that we go to Mass each week but are miserable, unkind, judgemental, gossiping and the rest, what on earth is the point? We will only ever draw others to Christ when we reflect, in ourselves, His goodness. As St Francis of Assisi famously said, "preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary use words."

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