



# 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:

Oliver Deighton



### 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 21 <sup>st</sup> MAY	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Nicola and Tim Musial Gordon Smith Polish Mass Teofil Siebierski
MONDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Eastertide	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Eastertide	7:00pm	St Alban's	Betty Budds (A)
WEDNESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Eastertide <b>Requiem Mass</b>	9:30am <b>12:45pm</b>	St Mary's <b>St Mary's</b>	Mary Budds (A) <b>Kevin Tomney</b>
THURSDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	St Bede the Venerable	12 Noon	St Mary's	Canon Francis Sammons
FRIDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	St Philip Neri	9:30am	St Mary's	Mary Stimpson
SATURDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nuptial Mass</b>	<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Matthew Wilson and Joanna Davison</b>

## READERS ROTA

### THIS SUNDAY

### NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Katarzina Machinu	11:00am	Jovanna Karuna
6:00pm	Judith McDonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

### **PRAYER LIST**

Willie Shaw, 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.

### **GIFT AID**

Louise Ward sent a note of thanks to me and the parishioners for being so welcoming and friendly. She has asked me to thank you for taking the forms, but to please remember:

1. If you are unsure whether you have a gift aid, please complete a new form and if we have one on file, the second one will be filed away;
  2. Standing Orders can also be completed by people who do not have a gift aid;
  3. Please remember to bring forms back to the parish;
  4. Between the two churches in 2022/23 the amount of loose plate collection was over £21,000 – if the parish could get even a third of this covered by gift aid – that would be an extra £1750 into the parish on top of the existing gift aid reclaimed without anyone giving a penny more.
- Any questions, please contact Louise – 0113 261 8023 or 07799443394

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Today we celebrate our children receiving their first Holy Communion at the 11:00am Mass. A big ‘thank you’ to our teachers and catechists who have helped them prepare for this very special day. We keep them and their families in our prayers and seek to set them a good example by our regular practice and our reverent reception of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.  
The next meeting is on Tuesday 23rd May at 6 pm in St Alban’s Parish room.

### **THURSDAY MASS**

Mass this Thursday will take place at noon in St Mary’s. We will be joined by my former parishioners from the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Leeds. Their “Out and About” group is taking a trip to the Piece Hall and have asked if they can have a look around the church. Please make them welcome.

### **SATURDAY WEDDING**

This coming Saturday there will be the Nuptial Mass of Matthew Wilson and Joanna Davison in St Mary’s at 12:30pm. Consequently, there will be no exposition or confession this week. Confessions will still be available at 5:30pm in St Alban’s on Sunday. We wish them well as they begin their lives

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Kathleen Ruane and all those who have died recently and for Fr Bernard Wake and all those who have anniversaries at this time.

### **200 CLUB**

It is now time for you to renew your subscription for the 200 club for 2023. New members are always welcome. Application forms available at the back of the Churches. Please let us know if your details have changed. You can give your cheque/ cash to John Reynolds, Pat Ellison or Gretta Metcalfe. Please remember the account name is **ST MARY’S RC CHURCH 200 CLUB**

### **THE GIANNA PROJECT APPEAL.**

Thank you so much for your continued help and support. Your generosity is appreciated more than ever give the challenging economic conditions. On this occasion we desperately need toiletries for mums and babies. We also require baby clothes for 0-3 month old babies. A Moses basket will left in the porch to receive your donations. Your help and kindness is deeply appreciated.

## **MAY DEVOTIONS**

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

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

A few people have asked me now, about the small brass display cases that appear on the altar of from time to time. They stand next to the candles and have little glass windows on the front. They were on the altar on Ascension Thursday and will be on there again on the feast of Pentecost. So what are they? Well the answer is that they are *reliquaries*, that is to say, they are display cases for the relics of saints. In this case on our altar, one contains a fragment of bone from St Theresa of Avila and the other contains a fragment of bone from St John of the Cross and are brought out on special occasions. So... relics... what's going on there?

Keeping and displaying the relics of the saints is a precious part of our Catholic tradition and as usual, like most things these days, is generally misunderstood. Many non-Catholics particularly shy away from the sacramental aspects of Catholicism—and not from the seven sacraments only. What they dislike is the mixing of spirit and matter, the gift of something spiritual—grace—by means of physical ordinary things. In the sacraments, common material things such as water, wine, bread, oil, and the imposition of hands result in the giving of grace. Related to the sacraments are the sacramentals, objects such as medals, blessed palms, holy water, and ashes etc. Their use can lead people to receive or respond to grace. But one of the biggest problems for non-Catholics are the relics of saints—the bones, blood, clothing, or personal possessions of the saints that are held in reverence by the Church and sometimes associated with miraculous healings and other acts of God.

The veneration of relics is seen explicitly as early as the account of St Polycarp's martyrdom written by the Smyrnaeans in A.D. 156. In it, the Christians describe the events following his burning at the stake: "We took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and laid them in a suitable place, where the Lord will permit us to gather ourselves together, as we are able, in gladness and joy and to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom." Throughout history relics have been a source of miraculous healing, inspiration of faith, and advancement of the Kingdom. These miracles have been documented, even beginning in the scriptures. Moses carried the bones of Joseph out of Egypt (Ex. 13:19). Men placed a dead man into the tomb of Eliesus and the dead man came to life (2 Kings 13:21). People touched cloth to St. Paul's hands. Then, they touched that cloth to the sick. They were healed (Acts 19:11).

For Catholics, the relics of the saints are similar to keep sakes from family members who have gone before us. I remember a lady in my first parish who always wore a locket containing a lock of her son's hair who had died in a car crash. There was no question of that seeming morbid, but a precious reminder of her child and a way for her to feel close to him wherever she was. The displaying of relics is a bit like putting out family photographs on the sideboard, wearing the jewellery that our mother left us or cherishing a family heirloom that has been handed down.

Since the beginning, the Church has upheld the practice of venerating relics. This veneration is not offering adoration or worship which is due only to God. Veneration is the honouring, cherishing, respecting, and devotion of heart given to the saints. Veneration is an expression of our friendship and love for the saints – our brothers and sisters in heaven. This veneration flows from our admiration of the saint's holy life and our desire to be united with them in God's Kingdom. Hope that helps.

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