



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 for:

Alice Williams (O'Neill) and family



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 16 th JULY	15 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	Agnes Primus Private Intention (DF) Polish Mass Richard, Hanna & Family
MONDAY 17 th	Feria	No Public Mass	St Mary's	
TUESDAY 18 th	Dedication of the Cathedral at Leeds	7:00pm	St Alban's	People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 19 th	Feria	9:30am 2:00pm	St Mary's School Hall	Alice McPherson End of School Year
THURSDAY 20 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Lana Hopkins
FRIDAY 21 st	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Private Intention (JB)
SATURDAY 22 nd	St Mary Magdalen	12:15pm	St Mary's	Deceased members of the McCormack Family

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Judith Macdonald

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Katarzina Machinu
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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Alice Williams (O'Neill) and all those who have died recently and for Fr Anthony Farrar and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED

Peter Carolan x 2, Filip Makula (A), The Holy Souls in Purgatory

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.
We would like to thank all those who support us on a regular basis.
Your generosity is very much appreciated..

If anyone would like to support us our bank details are: Sort Code 60 60 04 Account No 46086137
The date of next meeting is Tuesday 1st August at 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Room.

FUNDRAISING NIGHT FOR THE BETHLEHEM CARE HOSPICE TRUST.

We are having a fundraising evening at the Catholic club on Friday 11th August, in aid of the hospice. There will be a quiz, raffle bottle stall and steak pie and peas for supper. Please leave donations for the bottle stall at the back of Church. Tickets cost £5 per person and go on sale next Sunday.
Please support this great cause if you can.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWS

On Wednesday 19th July at 2:00p.m. there will be Year End Mass at School.
Everyone is welcome to join us for this celebration.

PTFA SUMMER FAYRE

The Summer Fayre School Raffle has been drawn
There were 5 winners from church and they have been informed of their prizes.
Thank you to all parishioners for your support for the raffle and the Fayre itself.
We raised £250 from selling raffle tickets after Masses.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection today (that I forgot about last week) to support the work of the Apostleship of the Sea.

£100,000 CHALLENGE

As you will know, the £100,00 Challenge was set up back in 2017 with the aim of raising money to meet the cost of a new heating system for St Mary's church and to meet the cost of the removal of asbestos from both St Mary's and St Alban's churches. I want to say an enormous "thank you" to everyone who has helped in contributing to this huge effort. The parish not only met this target but also exceeded it. Nothing, though, can go on forever and I propose now, to draw this initiative to a formal close. There will be plenty more that we need to raise money for in the future but for now, I think you all deserve a well-earned break and a pat on the back. Full details of what was raised and spent are available at the back of both of our churches.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I was at a friend's wedding reception a few weeks ago and as usual, when you are a priest, people in these situations often approach you and make the same old jokes time and time again. I was chatting to a very nice, well-meaning fellow guest who joked "It must be great only working one day a week". I smiled and forced a little laugh as if no one had ever said that to me before and that I had found what he had said actually funny. I hadn't, of course, but he caught me on a good day. Personally, I have always found Sunday to be the easiest day of the week, yes, there are several Masses to say and a few hundred hands to shake but the day has a rhythm and a pattern of its own, autopilot kicks in and the day carries me through my routine. It is the rest of the week that is unpredictable and throws curveballs here and there.

You might not have noticed, due to the constant torrential downpours that we have been experiencing, but we are almost in the middle of summer. The school year is coming to an end and people are starting to go away for their holidays and various breaks. We all need a rest from time to time but in our busy modern world, which values productivity, success and efficiency above all else, we can be made to feel guilty for taking time out. As human beings, rest is an essential part of life and I know myself, that sometimes I can feel totally and utterly drained. The Lord knows this too though, and from the very beginning has weaved time for rest, into the very fabric of life. On the seventh day of creation, God rested and keeping the Sabbath holy is one of the Ten Commandments (they are commandments not suggestions, by the way).

God has commanded us to set apart one day of the week to rest in Him, to direct our hearts and minds to Him, to offer Him the fruits of our week's work, and to receive His grace to begin another. Sunday must be the highlight of our week, not just because we find respite from work, but because we offer all our labours and ourselves to God the Father during the celebration of Mass, the heart of Sunday. This God-centred focus is extended throughout the whole Sunday rest, where, as St John Paul II wrote, "daily concerns and tasks can find their proper perspective: the material things about which we worry give way to spiritual values; in a moment of encounter and less pressured exchange, we see the true face of the people with whom we live. Even the beauties of nature too often marred by the desire to exploit, which turns against man himself, can be rediscovered and enjoyed to the full."

As the hymn goes "Sweet Sacrament of rest, ark from the ocean's roar, within thy shelter blest, soon may we reach the shore. Save us, for still the tempest raves, save, lest we sink beneath the waves, sweet Sacrament of rest." Our Sabbath rest is not laziness, but is a refocusing of our priorities and a reordering of our concerns. If that means that certain tasks and responsibilities have to take a back seat for the day, then so be it, we should not feel guilty. We cannot render unto God His due if we are exhausted or unnecessarily distracted by the pressures of the week.

Rest, instead of being something passive, is actually an act of resistance. It's an act of resistance against the tyranny of the urgent. It's an act of resistance to the constant demands that are placed on all of us. The Psalmist reminds us of this: He says, "Be still, and know that I am God." And as the Lord told the Apostles, "You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while."

God Bless you all,
Fr Hilton

RECENT FINANCE

Last week's collection was **£770.17** - Thank you for your generosity.

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