



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:

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 23 rd JULY	16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am	St Mary's St Mary's	Jan Moska Annie Rothery & Rose O'Callaghan Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 24 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 25 th	St James the Apostle	7:00pm	St Alban's	Anne Smith B'day Int.
WEDNESDAY 26 th	Ss. Joachim and Anne Parents of the BVM	9:30am	St Mary's	Christine Mughal and Family
THURSDAY 27 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Bryan Greenwood
FRIDAY 28 th	REQUIEM	10:45am	St Mary's	Alice Williams (O'Neill)
SATURDAY 29 th	Ss. Martha, Mary and Lazarus	12:15pm	St Mary's	Private Intention of the Mullan Family

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Katarzina Machinu
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Jovanna Karuna
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

PRAYER LIST

Willie Shaw, David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, 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 Henrik Elias and all those who have died recently and for Canon James Gordon and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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 Account Name CO90901 SS Mary & Alban

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 1st August at 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Room.

There are two further sources for help during the school holidays:-

Healthy Holidays - free holiday club places for children on benefits-related free school meals can contact

www.calderdale.gov.uk/healthyholidays

Healthy Start Vouchers - help to buy fruit, vegetables and milk. If you are pregnant or have a child under 4 and are on a low income contact 0300 330 7010 or healthy.start@nhs.uk

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 Friday we said farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they leave and move into Secondary Education.

May God watch over them in the future. Please pray for them.

We also said farewell and thank you to Miss Shaw, Mrs I'Anson and Mrs Farrell who are leaving our staff after very dedicated service to the school. We wish them all the best in the future.

The PTFa would like to thank all those who supported the Summer Fayre on Saturday 8th.

RECENT FINANCE

Last week's collection was **£636.65** - Thank you for your generosity.

The Apostleship of the Sea collection raised **£456.38**

Thank you to the family of the late Peter Carolan whose estate included a **£5000** legacy for the parish.

May he rest in peace.

£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

St John Paul II founded World Youth Day in 1985 which was designed to be a ‘worldwide encounter with the Pope’ celebrated about every three years in a different country. It is a gathering over about a week, where millions of young people come together to learn more about their faith and celebrate Mass with the Holy Father. When Pope Francis celebrated Mass on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro at the end of the 2013 World Youth Day, 3 million pilgrims were in attendance. This summer, World Youth Day will take place in Lisbon and is being coordinated by Bishop Américo Aguiar, the Auxiliary Bishop of that diocese, who has just been nominated as a Cardinal by the Holy Father. Something, however, that Bishop Aguiar said recently has made headlines in the Catholic press. “We want it to be normal for a young Catholic Christian to say and bear witness to who he is or for a young Muslim, Jew, or of another religion to also have no problem saying who he is and bearing witness to it, and for a young person who has no religion to feel welcome and to perhaps not feel strange for thinking in a different way... We don’t want to convert the young people to Christ or to the Catholic Church or anything like that at all.”

I’m afraid Bishop Aguiar’s statement is not only disturbing but is also just plain wrong. What the bishop is suggesting is that there is no such thing as objective spiritual truth. That it does not matter what a person believes as long as they are nice enough and don’t do any harm. Well, that is not the teaching of the Catholic Church. The logical conclusion that we reach when following Bishop Aguiar’s argument is that knowing Christ, the Son of the living God and belonging to His Body, the Church, is of no more benefit to a person than any other belief system or even having no belief at all. That is simply not true.

The entire purpose of our Lord’s incarnation was to reveal to the world the true face of God. Christ took on flesh to seek us out and to proclaim God’s love for us to the point of His passion and death. The Lord tells us quite clearly in the Gospel that “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one can come to the Father, except through Me.” and we are to take Him at His word.

No one’s life is diminished by knowing Jesus or belonging to His Church. No one is worse off for feeling the touch of God in the Sacraments and receiving His life-giving grace and mercy. Therefore, evangelisation – spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ – is not an option for us, it is our duty. The last command that the Lord gave to His Apostles before the ascension was “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

St Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel”. Woe to us, if we do not do the same. Jesus is not simply one God among many, He is not one prophet out of many and is certainly not just a wise teacher who said a few nice things. He is the only Son of God, He is the Word made flesh, through whom the universe was brought into being and there are no other gods but Him. The Church, imperfect as her members may be, is His creation and her teachings are His own. This is good news! We do not have to wonder about the purpose of our existence, we do not have to worry about trying to search for God or meaning in our lives. He has done all the hard work for us, He has come in search of us and given us the gift of His very self. God made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next. We do this by knowing Jesus and by belonging to His Church. Tell everyone that you meet! And please pray for all the young people who will attend World Youth Day this summer.

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