



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:

Michael and Christine
Blackburn Ints.



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 20 th AUGUST	20 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	Bryan & Shelia Greenwood Maureen Riddeal B'Day Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 21 st	Pope St Pius X	9:30am	St Mary's	Cath Bentley
TUESDAY 22 nd	Our Lady Mother and Queen	7:00pm	St Alban's	John Davis
WEDNESDAY 23 rd	St Rose of Lima	9:30am	St Mary's	Mr & Mrs F. Matthews
THURSDAY 24 th	St Bartholomew, Apostle	9:30am	St Alban's	Private Intention (E.W.)
FRIDAY 25 th	St Louis, King of France	No Public Mass		
SATURDAY 26 th	Blessed Dominic Barberi	12:15pm	St Mary's	Michael Sutcliffe (A)

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Tim Widdop
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 John Halpin all those who have died recently and for Deacon Nigel Bavidge and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED

Mary and Eddie Coates, Maureen Riddeal, Durkin Family, God's Mercy and Forgiveness, Alice Willams, Gerry Guest, John Davis, Carol Illingworth, Private Intention x 2, Michael Sutcliffe, John Joseph Staden. Seamus Costello

MISSIO (RED MISSION BOXES)

Could Collectors please bring their boxes to Church next Sunday (27th) for them to be emptied.

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 29th 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.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who supported and organised this event on 11th August at the Catholic Club. The **TRULY MAGNIFICENT SUM OF £840** was raised for the Hospice Trust.

VACANCY FOR A PARISH NURSE

Heath United Reformed Church, Free School Lane, Halifax, has an opportunity for a part time Parish Nurse. If you, or someone you know, is an experienced Christian nurse and think this part time post (a flexible 8 hours per week + an additional 8 per month) might suit, please visit <https://heathchurchhalifax.org.uk/parish-nursing/> where full details can be found. Parish Nursing seeks to provide whole-person healthcare through a local church. The Parish Nursing Service is available to people of all faiths and none.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM MEETING There will be no meeting on 23rd and 30th August.

200 CLUB – JULY WINNERS

£100 John Mullan 18. £70 Margaret McCormack 86. £30 Patricia Ellison 12.

RECENT FINANCE

The collection for the last three weeks was as follows: £699.11 - £719.44 – £615.81
Thank you for your generosity.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Having returned home from a very enjoyable and restful time away, one of the first things that I had to do was go into hospital to have a small surgical procedure on my eyelids. As I am typing this, I am wearing an eyepatch over one eye and the other one is so swollen, it is rather difficult to see and as a result, I currently look a little bit like Long John Silver crossed with the elephant man. Please God, it will heal quickly.

Until we start to have problems with our eyes, it is so easy to take vision for granted. Seeing is such an essential part of our everyday lives and our existence as humans. My eyes will recover fairly quickly, but I think of my grandmother, who at 94 years old, still healthy, still relatively independent, has almost entirely lost her sight and about the impact it has had on her quality of life. Because being able to see clearly is so essential to perform everyday tasks, when we experience problems or have concerns, we visit the optician or the doctor to find a resolution. The same is not always true, however, about our spiritual sight. Saint Paul tells the Corinthians “We walk by faith and not by sight” but what does that mean in practice and what do we mean by spiritual sight?

When we see something physically it is a result of light shining on an object. Our eyes see the reflected light and send a signal to our brains. The greater the amount of light the more we will be able to tell about the object we are seeing. The impression of knowing we get from perceiving is quite compelling. Though we may acknowledge the possibility that our eyes can be deceived we generally hold fast to the idea that “seeing is believing”. Spiritual things are not perceived by natural sight. We tend usually to be in darkness regarding spiritual things, that is, we can’t perceive them unaided. Without light we cannot directly perceive God or His kingdom, though we do have the testimony of the beauty of creation, available for all to see. The source of spiritual light, the type of light that gives sight to the soul, is the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes bearing His influence on our souls, it has the same effect as light has upon the physical eye.

How then do we invite the Holy Spirit to turn on the spiritual lights? We have to spend time in prayer, we have to read the Scriptures, to read spiritual and improving books, to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and faithfully attend Holy Mass. God never forces Himself upon us and like any relationship, our friendship with Him requires work from both sides. Time and commitment are necessary if we want to see this relationship blossom.

If we fail to devote time to our relationship with God, and to our prayers, our spiritual sight can grow dim. We can even become blind. Unlike natural blindness which is obvious to all, the spiritually blind are often deceived and think they see, when the opposite is true. The Lord tells us in the gospel of Luke that once our hand is laid on the plough, there can be no looking back. Falling into old habits and unhappiness, always begins with a lack of spiritual sight. When the vision fades, the feeling fades, the passion fades, the fire goes out. When we see something it affects us in many ways. What we see can stir up desire, it can inspire us, it arouse great emotion, etc. We must continue to behold a thing if it is to continue to affect us. That is why must continually look upon the things of God if we wish to see reality clearly. We walk by faith and not by sight. This does not mean that our faith has to be blind by any means, but we must always remember there is more to this world and our existence than meets the eye. Without spiritual sight, we will never be truly fulfilled or truly happy. The things of this world can provide only temporary joy, they are here today and gone tomorrow. As the hymn reminds us “change and decay in all around I see, O thou who changest not, abide with me”.

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