



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 for:

Alice Williams 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 27 th AUGUST	21 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	Mary & Eddie Coates Patrick & Grace Walsh Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 28 th	St Augustine	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 29 th	The Beheading of John the Baptist	7:00pm	St Alban's	Fred Greenwood
WEDNESDAY 30 th	St Margaret Clitherow	9:30am	St Mary's	Jan & Eleonora Zakrzewski
THURSDAY 31 st	Feria	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 1 st SEPTEMBER	Feria	7:00pm	St Mary's	Jim Duffy
SATURDAY 2 nd	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Anne Smith's Int.

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Paul Coates

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 Joan Ingham and all those who have died recently and for Canon Timothy Coughlan, Fr Bernard Duffy, Fr Michael Cresswell and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED

Joan Ingham RIP, Marlene Rudi Fusco, Teresa & John Wallis 35th Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving, Elda Fekete

LIGHTS IN ST MARY'S

On Thursday and Friday of this week, work will be carried out in St Mary's to replace the old sodium light fittings with brand new LED lights. These will be brighter, more efficient and cheaper to run. Mass on Friday will therefore be at 7:00pm.

THIS SUNDAY

We welcome Fr. John Boles of the Columban Fathers who in in the parish to make a missionary appeal. Fr Boles will celebrate all of the Masses today and I know that we will make him very welcome.

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

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Standing order received for the month of July came to: £1697

The counters are currently on holiday. More volunteers would be appreciated.

CRY ROOM AT ST MARY'S

I realise that when children in Mass at St Mary's are feeling a little restless that there is nowhere parents can take them to calm down. As such, I have asked a few parishioners to help me in clearing out the back room of church (where the staircase is) so that it can become a place where children can go during Mass if they are becoming uncomfortable in church. In order to make the room as welcoming as possible I was wondering if people might be able to donate children's bibles, religious books, Noah's Ark type toys, colouring pencils etc. and anything else that you think might make the space suitable for children.

I'd be very grateful.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Speaking to a friend recently about their summer break, I was startled by how freely they admitted they had not bothered to go to Mass whilst on holiday in Spain. Spain, of course, is one of the most Catholic countries in the world, it's not like trying to find a church in Saudi Arabia, but apparently it was too difficult. I wasn't convinced, but I took him at his word. This example does make the point, however, that there are indeed occasions when it is impossible to fulfil our Sunday obligation. If you are poorly and too sick to attend Mass, if you are housebound or immobile, if you physically cannot get to church, then of course, the obligation does not apply. There may be bereavements or emergencies that prevent you from coming, you maybe caring for a sick relative etc. This is the law of the church and just plain common sense. If you have to work on Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday evening, then again, it is physically impossible for you to go to Mass.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Day of Obligation does apply, though, to everyone else, that is, those who are fit enough and able to get to church. To wilfully miss Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation because we can't be bothered or we have prioritised some other activity over attending church is a grave sin and it would be a dereliction of my duty as your parish priest not to make that clear. Being a practising Catholic by definition means attending Mass once a week, not just as and when we might feel like it. To deliberately fail to fulfil our obligation is to tell God that He is not worth our time or effort. If this has been the case, we must make use of the Sacrament of Confession.

Just as my parents had to remind me of why it was important that I attended school every day or had to eat my vegetables, it can be useful for us to be reminded why God commands us to keep the Sabbath holy. I often hear people say that they don't need to come to church to be a Christian or that they can simply pray at home instead, that is just not true. Belonging to Christ means that we are part of His body, we belong to a community that needs each other and needs to be together. We cannot participate in the Sacramental life of the Church if we are alone. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord, glorify Him with our lives and become better people. Most people these days are very health-food conscious. It is important to eat properly every day to avoid hunger pains, weakness, malnutrition, and disease. It is the same with our spiritual life. We need to be spiritual-food conscious if we wish to avoid emptiness, spiritual weakness, vulnerability to temptation, and sickness due to sin.

If you are reading this and realise that your practice of the faith may have become a little lax of late, take the new term as an opportunity for a fresh start, wipe the slate clean and begin again, it couldn't be easier. The Lord tells us to attend Mass not to inconvenience us but simply because He loves us and wants what is best for us. If this means that you have to attend the Saturday vigil Mass in another parish then that is absolutely fine. There are plenty of legitimate reasons as to why people may miss Mass on a Sunday, but not feeling like it, going to the football or going out for brunch don't cut it.

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