



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

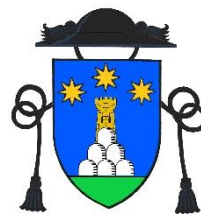
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

Margaret & George
McCormack's Intentions



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 1 st OCTOBER	26 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	J&T Wallis 35 th Wedding M&G McCormack 50 th Wedding Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 2 nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	No Mass		
TUESDAY 3 rd	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Private Intention
WEDNESDAY 4 th	St Francis of Assisi	9:30am	St Mary's	Gerry Guest RIP
THURSDAY 5 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Michael Blackburn Int.
FRIDAY 6 th	REQUIEM MASS	11:30am	St Mary's	Valerie Northcott
SATURDAY 7 th	Our Lady of Victories	11:30am	St Mary's	Maureen Dunn

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Jovanna Karuna	11:00am	Kieron Green
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Judith Macdonald

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection today to for the purchase of new books for St Mary's School library.

MASSES RECEIVED

Maureen Ryan, Philip Smith Hirst, Sheila & Bryan Greenwood, Marjorie & Gordon Ellis, Peter & Peggy Travis, Margaret Toolan, Anne Smyth, Denis Smyth

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 SVP is once again looking for small electrical items such as hairdryers, irons, etc etc. If you have any items you no longer require we'd be more than grateful to have them. A box will be at the back of each church for these. Thanks in advance for any donations.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM MEETING

The current codes are:- ID: 719 5917 7216 Password: Lqa GE1

ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWS OPEN DAYS

(for new parents to come and look round).

24th Oct 2023 1pm-3pm 20th Nov 2023 10am-12pm 28th Nov 2023 9am-12pm

If you wish to visit. please contact the school on 01422 362365

CRY ROOM AT ST MARY'S

A huge 'thank you' to those who have helped to clear out the room at the back of church. Another big 'thank you' to those who have so kindly donated books, toys and stationery. There are now many lovely child friendly resources available in the room should your child become restless during Mass and require a little break.

On a similar note, there is the intention to reinstate a Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. This requires a lot of safeguarding administration be done with the diocese and so may take a couple of months to launch, but keep an eye on the bulletin for updates.

PARISH LADIES GUILD

The Parish Ladies Guild are hosting an Afternoon Tea at the Halifax Catholic Club on Saturday 18th November 2pm-4pm. Tickets are £8 per person and must be paid for before the event. They will be available to purchase from this Sunday before and after both masses and from the Catholic club. Raffle tickets will also be available to purchase at church for those who wish to contribute but are not available to attend the event. For more enquiries, please email ourladyplg@gmail.com

HALIFAX CATHOLIC MEMORIAL CLUB, HOPWOOD LANE 01422 366776

The Club has a long history of being the social hub of the parish family and the wider Catholic community. Please try to use it and include it in your plans. It's important that we support it after a difficult few years. Membership is £20 for the first year, and £15 thereafter. Use of the club and upstairs function room for social events or meetings is free for paid-up members.

Forthcoming event - Saturday 7th October - The Landlubbers, plus pie and pea supper. All welcome

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Standing orders for August totalled: £1,641 Last week's collection was: £722.50

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

We are thinking about the angels a lot this week, with the feast of the archangels on Friday and the feast of the guardian angels tomorrow. Angels are often very misunderstood creatures and so it might be useful to remind ourselves of what the Church actually teaches about them. The first thing to say, is that angels are very real and not an optional extra when it comes to our faith, they are made and loved by God, just as we are, but are in fact very different from us. I often hear people talk about loved ones becoming angels when they die. That is absolutely not the case. Human beings are made in God's own image and likeness in a way that the angels are not, and so to suggest that a person could become an angel would actually be a backwards step.

The saints — holy men and women — are held up before us by the Church for a double purpose: as an example, and as intercessors for us in heaven. But with the angels, it doesn't make sense for us to even attempt to imitate them. They are completely different beings from us. They are pure spirit. They have never had bodies and never will. They exist outside of time, and don't know what it's like to experience change or growth as we do. They are created by God to worship and serve Him and to enjoy His love forever, but they do not possess free will as we do. The angels then are commended to us by the Church in the first place for us to ask their intercession, especially to ensure our safety from dangers both spiritual and physical.

The people of Israel needed precisely such protection on their way out of Egypt. They were promised: 'Behold, I send an angel before you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place which I have prepared,' (Ex. 23:20) and God told them to 'listen carefully to his voice' (v.22). As we know from the scriptures, angels are often used as messengers by God. The voice of the angel is meant to be less intimidating. God does not want to scare us. He wants us to picture him as our loving Father, and we are more willing to do that if he is not playing the part of an overprotective parent. We might make a comparison between God sending his angels to look after us, and parents asking one child to keep an eye on another, rather than being seen to interfere themselves. If God did intervene directly in our lives all the time, with great sounds from heaven and a voice breaking through the clouds, we might begin to question our freedom. But if the angels get on with quietly protecting us in the background, we don't feel quite so infantilised.

That so many of the angels spend time running round after us should not mean that we underestimate them. Christian artists of the last 500 years have a lot to answer for in representing angels as chubby babies, decorative in a painting but not much use in a fight. The descriptions of angelic beings in the scriptures are terrifying and draw on images of mythical beings carved by the ancient Assyrians. If you want an idea of what the Israelites thought angels looked like, visit the monumental hybrid creatures that once guarded the Assyrian city of Nimrud that are now on display in the British Museum. When God chose to describe angels through His prophets, He drew on images such as these, which would have been familiar to the people of Israel from their neighbours. Of course, the bodiless angels don't really look like these monsters. Without bodies, they can't look like anything. But God caused His prophets to picture them in this way in order to convey the sense of immense spiritual power that angels wield. These feasts are days to thank God that such power is used for our benefit.

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