



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

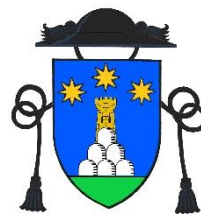
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

Reid and Julie Anderson
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 3 rd SEPTEMBER	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	John Joseph Staden John and Annie Stanton Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 4 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 5 th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Kevin Toolan
WEDNESDAY 6 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Seamus Costello (A)
THURSDAY 7 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Parish Dead List
FRIDAY 8 th	Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:30am	St Mary's	Bernadette RIP
SATURDAY 9 th	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	4:00pm	St Mary's	Durkin Family

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Malcolm Brown	11:00am	Wendy Balahura
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Judith McDonald

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 Maureen Dunn, Anite Pohl, Rupert de Lisle and all those who have died recently and for Fr Leo Mitchell, Canon Edward Quinn, Mgr Denis Rafferty, Fr Daniell Mulvihill and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED

Maureen Dunn RIP, Shelia Greenwood (A), Rupert de Lisle RIP

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 the next meeting is **Tuesday 19th September** at 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Room.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWS

The School reopens for the new Academic Year on Tuesday (5th) after the summer holiday.

We welcome all our pupils, old and new, their families, our staff, helpers and Counsellors.

We welcome our new Teaching Staff, Mrs Alexa Nicoll, Mr Thomas Lambert, Miss Georgina Torevell and Miss Gemma Kershaw.

Please keep them all in your prayers throughout the year.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Next Sunday the parish pilgrimage to the shrines of northern France will depart. Please keep the pilgrims in your prayers and be assured that we will all be praying for you while we are away. I will be offering Mass in Lisieux for the people of the parish, if you would like any special intentions to be remembered, please hand them to me in an envelope marked "Pilgrimage Special Intentions"

Because we will be departing on Sunday morning and to allow all pilgrims the opportunity to make their Sunday obligation **Mass next Saturday (for one night only) will be at St Mary's at 4:00pm and will be a vigil Mass of Sunday.**

Obviously this Mass is open to all regardless of whether you are going on the pilgrimage.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

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

During my first appointment as a curate in Leeds my parish was just across the road from Saint Gemma's Hospice and so I was regularly called out at all hours to visit to the dying, and to administer the last rites to them. One occasion that stays with me very clearly, was when I was asked to go and visit an elderly lady who had only a few days left to live and had asked for Holy Communion. Over the next 48 hours, I visited her several times, not only because she did not have any family of which to speak, but also because she was such wonderful company. She was in many ways a very ordinary person, she had had a secretarial job in Leeds, she had never married and told me that by this point, most of her friends had died and yet I cannot ever remember meeting somebody as content or as cheerful as she was. When I asked this devout lady about her happiness, in the face of what was a very difficult situation, she smiled, and told me that she loved God, and that was all she ever needed and wanted nothing more. I sat with her until the end and after she had died I went home touched and moved by the whole experience, but also jealous of her depth of faith and serenity.

Last Monday, the church celebrated the feast day of Saint Augustine of Hippo, who was born in the year 354 in Thagaste in North Africa. Saint Augustine is one of who we call the "Fathers of the Church" - These were ancient and influential Christian theologians and writers who established the intellectual and doctrinal foundations of our religion. The historical period in which they worked became known as the Patristic Era and ran all the way (approximately) from the late 1st to mid-8th centuries.

Saint Augustine, over the course of his life wrote vast works of theology and apologetics. One of the most famous lines from his work *The Confessions*, reads "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You". Restlessness is that desire to be filled and fulfilled. We all have it. We try to ignore at times, but still it remains.

As human beings who have been created in God's image and likeness, our souls naturally yearn for union with Him. Most people these days are unaware of this reality or actively seek to avoid it but like it or not, the human soul is like a sunflower that tracks the Sun across the sky, we are hardwired to seek God out in order to flourish and find that fulfilment.

There is great restlessness in our world today because so many of us are searching for happiness and contentment and looking in all the wrong places. Look at our political leaders, how they grapple for power and influence. Look at celebrities who crave fame and material wealth. Look at social media and how people beg for attention and affirmation from people they have never met and never will. Then I think of Cecilia in the hospice, who had no power or influence, who was not famous, or rich, and certainly had no interest in the attention of other people, and yet died with a gentle smile on her face, satisfied and fulfilled because her heart was resting in God.

What was true for Saint Augustine 1600 years ago remains true today, the only two realities from which we can never escape are God and ourselves, and the two come as a package, neither can be known without the other. If our hearts can find rest in God, then all the cares of the world are put into perspective and find their proper place. A successful career, a big pension, a nice house, a fancy car, being president of the club, all of these things are nice, but ultimately worthless in our final hours. I'm still inspired by those few days in the hospice and I hope and pray that one day I might know God as well and as deeply as Cecilia did, because she really had it all.

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