



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

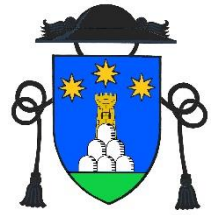
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

"Peace in the Holy Land"



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 15 th OCTOBER	28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:30pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Tomasz & Irena Nalepa Paolo Alessandro Capone Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 16 th	St Hedwig	No Mass		
TUESDAY 17 th	St Ignatius of Antioch	9:30am	St Alban's	Rupert de Lisle
WEDNESDAY 18 th	St Luke the Evangelist	7:00pm	St Mary's	Maureen Ryan
THURSDAY 19 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Parish Dead List
FRIDAY 20 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Ken Akroyd
SATURDAY 21 st	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Maureen Dunn

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Lettie Damolo
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Richard Sibierski

PRAYER LIST

Christine Blackburn, 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, 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 all those who have died recently and for Bishop David Konstant, Fr Reginald Stack, Canon Thomas Worthy, Fr John Quirke, Fr David Foskew and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED

Mary and Tony Hallinan, Paolo Allesandro Capone, Deceased Medisos Family

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Parish Christmas party at Bertie's Crystal Ballroom in Elland on Thursday 7th December. The evening includes a three course meal and dancing. Tickets will be £35 per head. Tickets on sale now.

We are also looking for raffle prizes for the evening. If you know of any local shops or business that might be able to help please let me know.

FIRST SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME 2024 - CONFIRMATION

The preparation sessions for those who wish to be Confirmed next year begin in mid-November. The parents/carers of any child in Year Six or above who does not attend a Catholic School and wishes to be confirmed should contact Fr. Hilton, Deacon John or Helen Mellor (07931998337) as soon as possible

PARISH CHRISTMAS TRIP TO YORK

On Tuesday 5th of December there will be a parish pilgrimage / Christmas shopping trip to York by coach. We will leave St Mary's at around 11am arriving for Mass in the house of St Margaret Clitherow on the Shambles at 12:30pm. There will then be free time to go for lunch and explore the shops and Christmas market until 4:30pm when the coach will return to Halifax. Tickets are £15 and available on a first come first served basis. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church to reserve a place.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.

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

PARISH LADIES GUILD

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th October at 7pm in St Albans parish room. As we have quite a few new members, it will be a "getting to know" evening. To make it fun, can those attending, please bring a photo of yourself as a baby or young child. Put it in an envelope and hand it to Jean. You can try and guess who it is!

ANNUAL CEMETERY SERVICE – 5TH NOVEMBER 2023

The Annual Cemetery Service will take place at Stoney Royd Cemetery on Sunday 5th November at 3:00p.m. Please meet at the Cemetery gates.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was: **£ 737.85**

There are plenty of standing order forms available at the back of church. Please consider changing, not what you give, but how you give.

200 CLUB – SEPTEMBER DRAW WINNERS

£100 Dorothea Baldwin No 121 £70 Kieron Green No89 £30 Janet Wild No103

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This last week I have been in Rome, along with the other young clergy of the diocese. We get together with the Bishop once a year, usually for a series of talks and to spend time in each other's company. The fact that we met in Rome and the weather was glorious, was just a bonus. On Wednesday, I was walking around St Peter's Square at the Vatican, a place that I have been on countless occasions and stood for a while just taking in the scene. It is a particularly iconic and impressive place; the great sweeping arms of the colonnade representing the embrace of Holy Mother Church and there to greet the weary pilgrim are the saints — 140 of them along the roof, statues, that I had never really paid attention to until this week, all facing inwards, welcoming visitors to the square and into their company. All, that is, except one.

As you enter the square, the first saint on your left isn't paying any attention to what's going on there. He has his back to the basilica, and is looking out over the city of Rome. That saint's name is Norbert. And the reason he's not interested in what's going on behind him is that he's holding up a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament and showing it to the world. Before you even step foot in St Peter's, it's been made pretty clear: this is what it's all about. If you want to know what the focus is of the Church's life, here is the summary. Or rather, not what, but who. It's all about Jesus Christ, who gives Himself to us under the appearance of bread in the Most Holy Eucharist.

At the Last Supper, shortly after giving his Body and Blood to his disciples for the first time, Jesus said to them, 'I no longer call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.' (John 15:15) This is one of the most important things that Christ ever revealed to us. God calls us friends, He calls us into a relationship with Him not of slavery, but — and we wouldn't dare to say it unless He had said it first — a relationship of equals.

Human beings are not purely spiritual beings like angels, as I mentioned a few weeks ago. We struggle to form purely spiritual relationships with other people. It's unlikely that your best friend is someone you've never met in person. It's through this gift of His Body that Christ opens up the possibility of a real, human relationship with Him. We don't have to imagine that He's there, we don't have to convince ourselves that He is close to us. We know it, we can be sure of it, because of the Blessed Sacrament.

Of all the sacraments, Holy Communion is the greatest because, as St Thomas Aquinas pointed out, the other sacraments all use some kind of instrument to do God's work. When we baptise a person, the water doesn't become God. When we are confirmed, the chrism isn't turned into the Holy Spirit. But in the Eucharist, Christ is not working through bread and wine. Those material things are turned into Him. Holy Communion is actually Himself. God works through all of the sacraments, but only the Eucharist actually is God.

That encounter with Christ that each of us undergoes when we receive Holy Communion is hidden and private — so hidden that most of what He does in that moment is unseen even to ourselves. But the effects are not to be hidden. We can't touch God and remain untouched by Him. That image of St Peter's in Rome is an image of what we are called to. We enter the church, we receive God, we enjoy the company of all those saints, but like St Norbert, our task is then to show Christ to the rest of the world, and to draw others into His friendship and the arms of Holy Mother Church.

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