



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

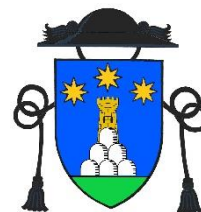
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

Mary Hargreaves' 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 8 th OCTOBER	27 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	Denis Smyth People of the Parish Polish Mass Alice Williams
MONDAY 9 th	St John Henry Newman	No Mass		
TUESDAY 10 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Ellen Smith
WEDNESDAY 11 th	St John XXIII	No Mass		
THURSDAY 12 th	St Wilfrid	No Mass		
FRIDAY 13 th	St Edward the Confessor	No Mass		
SATURDAY 14 th	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	"Holy Souls in Purgatory"

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Kieron Green	11:00am	Lettie Damolo
6:00pm	Judith Macdonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Deceased members of the Ladies Guild, Tomasz and Irena Nalepa, Ellen Smith, Denis Smyth, Elsie Ward, Nathaniel Smyth, Thomas Ward, Anne Smyth, Rev Peter Ward

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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

A bit early I know, but I'm advertising this now as we need numbers and deposits fairly quickly. We will be hosting a 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. Please invite family and friends to what should be a great parish evening. Spread the word.

Sing up at the back of church or email office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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

The next meeting will be this Tuesday 10th October 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Room

PARISH LADIES GUILD

The next meeting of the Parish Ladies Guild 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. She will arrange them on a table with a number and you can try and guess who that person is. If we have time, Maureen will do a short quiz.

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

There is now an up to date schedule of forthcoming events - including party bookings - on the Club's Facebook page. This week: Sunday - Bingo, Monday - Quiz night

Forthcoming entertainment: Saturday October 28th - The Bradley Brothers (vocal duo)

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was: **£674.11**

The second collection for St Mary's School library raised: **£242.74**

After falling coping stones damaged a car last week, emergency repair works on the roof of the parish centre have cost: **£4,333** so far.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

In the scriptures, whenever there is an experience of the presence of God, there is a corresponding experience of unworthiness and incompleteness. You might remember that St Peter cries out after the miraculous haul of fish, “Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man”. The closer we get to God, the more clearly we see ourselves as we really are, rather than how we pretend to be. It is only in the light of the love of God that we see how much we need Him. St Paul tells us this very clearly in his Letter to the Romans: “God shows His love for us, in that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.” We only know that God loves us because we know that we are sinners in need of love and mercy. We know that God loves us because Christ died on the cross to save us. We know that God loves us because without Him we are incomplete, we are nothing, we are not even fully human. Our acknowledgement, then, of our sinfulness and our need for God is not an obsession with sin and guilt — it is a celebration of the love of God. Confessing sin becomes a confession, a public conviction, of the greatness and the love and the mercy of God.

From that point of view, acknowledging our sinfulness and our unworthiness before God, the angels and saints, and each other (as we do at the beginning of every Mass) becomes not only a good thing to do before we proceed with the celebration of Mass, but a prerequisite; not a laudable way to prepare for the Eucharist, but something without which the rest of the Mass makes no sense at all. How can we give praise and thanks to the Father for all that He has done and continues to do for us — (which is what the word Eucharist means) — if we cannot see why we need God in the first place? How can we join our sacrifice to that of Christ, cling to the Lord’s cross, and rise with him in his resurrection — all of which we do during the sacrifice of the Mass — if we do not recognise that Christ died to save us from sin? The Mass has no meaning if we are not sinners.

How very different from the sort of picture of human beings presented to us by the social media, television stations, magazines, and advertising agencies. We are told we deserve all sorts of things “Because I’m worth it”; where a hot bath, a new car, a holiday on the beach makes it all better, where earning money and spending money make us happy, where having sparkling white teeth, a flat stomach, and a massive sense of self-worth are the pinnacle of human perfection. Being a human being means I have the right to do anything I like, as long as it makes me happy. There is no place for God in that worldview, and certainly no need for redemption. And if there is no place for God, no need for Him, if we can be happy and fulfilled without Him, then praying or going to Mass is a pretty pointless waste of time.

During Mass we do not confess individual sins; that’s what the Sacrament of Confession is for. We are invited by the priest to acknowledge our sinfulness, not so much remembering all the spiteful or greedy or careless things we’ve done or said recently, but admitting that we are the sort of people who do such things. We are not obsessing over individual actions or omissions, but acknowledging that we are sinners, we have sinned, and that without God’s grace we’ll go on sinning. But confessing our sins is pointless unless we then hear the words of the priest, “May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life” — and not just hear those words, but know them to be true. We confess our sins because we know that God loves us, forgives us, raises us up, and counts us worthy to stand in his presence and serve him: at Mass, at home, at school or work, and forever in the life to come.

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