



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

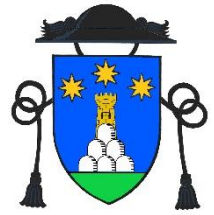
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

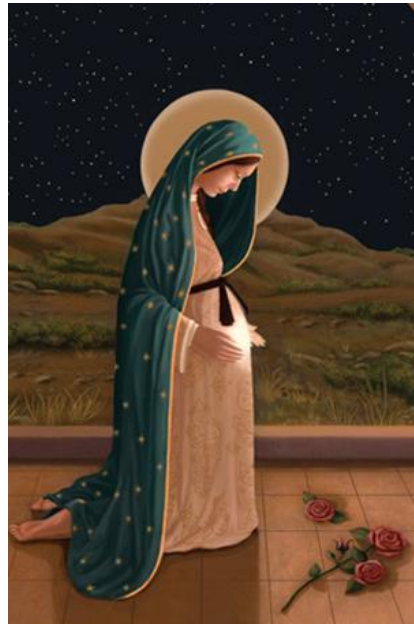
Saturday after 12:15pm Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

"Medical results"



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 DECEMBER	1 st Sunday of Advent	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Irene & Tomasz Nalepa Gordon Smith Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 4 th	Advent	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 5 th	Advent	12:30pm	York Trip	Michael, Winifred, Carole Horna
WEDNESDAY 6 th	REQUIEM Advent	10:00am 2:15pm	St Mary's School Hall	James Anthony 'Tony' Devlin
THURSDAY 7 th	REQUIEM	12:15pm	St Mary's	Marie Morley
FRIDAY 8 th	The Immaculate Conception	9:30am	St Mary's	Brenda and Roy Biggins 50 th Wedding Anniversary
SATURDAY 9 th	Advent	12:15pm	St Mary's	Parish Dead List

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY				NEXT SUNDAY			
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran			9:30am	John Greenwood		
11:00am	Kieron Green			11:00am	Lettie Damolo		
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald			6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran		

PLEASE PRAY FOR Tony Devlin and all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER LIST Gerard James, 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, 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.

MASSES RECEIVED: Gordon Smith, Rose Marie Rothery, Jim Hargreaves, Margaret Fee
The Gray Family – Eric, David, John, Stephen, Caroline

CHRISTMAS TRIP TO YORK THIS TUESDAY

The coach will now leave from St Mary's at 10:45am and pick up at St Alban's at 10:50am. Due to the large numbers (49 people) we won't all fit in St Margaret's shrine, therefore, we will have Mass in the beautiful chapel of the Bar Convent. It is the oldest convent in England and contains the relic of St Margaret's hand. The shrine is located on the Shambles and so can be visited at any point during our day. The coach leaves York at 4:30pm. Monies due asap.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party will take place this Thursday at Bertie's in Elland. A couple of tickets remaining. The Christmas Raffle will be drawn on the night.

CAROL SERVICE, MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES

The Parish Carol Service will take place in St Mary's on Friday 15th December at 7:00pm. Refreshments at the Catholic Club will be served afterwards. Put it in your diary.

ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS

The Deanery day of Confessions will take place on Saturday 16th of December. Confessions will be heard in St Mary's from 9am until 5pm by the priests of the deanery.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.
Date of next meeting – Monday 11th December at 6 p.m. in St Alban's Parish Room.
If anyone would like to donate the Sort Code and Account Number are - 60-60-04 46086137

ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

will be held this Friday 8th December, at the school starting at 3.30pm at the end of the school day and finishing around 5.30pm/6pm. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM CODES

From 15th November the new codes are ID: 724 2604 2240 Password: 9ErJMm

200 CLUB NOVEMBER WINNERS

£100 John Mackrill No 22 - £70 Elizabeth Wilkinson No 36 - £30 Bernard Wadsworth No136

PARISH LADIES GUILD Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th December in the hall at St Alban's church. Beginning with a short carol service outside Tesco express at Free School Lane at 6.30pm (for those who wish), then our annual Torchlight Carol service and readings in the church at 7.15pm followed by our Christmas party in the hall. Please feel free to bring a guest/s, plus a wrapped present to the value of around £1 for our secret Santa (this includes members and non-members, plus £2 each to be paid before the date. We will supply tea, coffee etc. Bring your own alcohol if that's what you prefer.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS - Last week's loose collection was: **£548.05**

Thank you to those who have switched to standing orders.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As we enter into the season of Advent it's already beginning to look a lot like Christmas, especially with this bit of snow hanging around. The decorations are up in most places and shops and delivery vans are busier than ever with people ordering, buying and spending.

I saw a reflection this week from Cardinal Dolan who is the Archbishop of New York and whose sitting room overlooks 5th Avenue in Manhattan, from where he can see all the hustle and bustle of busy consumerism. I was expecting the Cardinal to condemn shopping and materialism and talk about the spiritual nature of this time but in fact, he didn't. He made the point that the vast majority of the shoppers that he sees in New York before Christmas are not out buying things for themselves but for other people, things to share and gifts as tokens of love and that, he said, was only a good thing.

His Eminence, I think, is spot on, wanting to give gifts and presents to other people is a good thing and a kind and loving gesture but amidst all of the preparations for Christmas we can forget about ourselves. And I don't mean buying ourselves nice things. I mean preparing ourselves properly for the celebrations of Our Lord's birth. It's no good having all the food in, presents wrapped and cards sent, if in reality, our hearts are far from Him and our soul and spiritual life are neglected. If this is the case, there really isn't much point in celebrating.

The most important thing that should be at the top of your pre-Christmas check list must be going to confession. Only by opening our hearts up to receive the love and mercy that the Lord offers us can we make it a fitting dwelling for Him when He comes. I'll repeat what I've told you from the pulpit before:

If we are serious about our faith and about our relationship with God, confession is not an option, it is a necessity and I don't care where you go or to which priest you go, but I expect all of you to avail yourself of the sacrament before Christmas comes. As you sit there now, coming up with all sorts of excuses as to why you won't. Let me remind you of the usual objections...

- 1) "I had a bad experience with a nasty priest in confession once". Well, I'm very sorry that that was the case and, of course, it should never have happened but that certainly isn't the case here. You have a lovely parish priest ☺
- 2) "I'm embarrassed by my sins". I can assure you that no matter what it is that you have done, there is a 0% chance of you bursting into flames when you walk into the confessional. The priest has heard it all before and will never be shocked by anything he hears.
- 3) "It's been so long, I can't remember what to say". If it's been a long time since your last confession, that's all the more reason to go soon. There is nothing more beautiful than returning to the sacraments. The priest will help you if you forget what to do.
- 4) "I don't need to go to confession because I haven't done anything wrong". That's rubbish, we are all sinners by our human nature and there are no prizes for not having committed murder. If this is your excuse, we can start with the sin of pride and take it from there.
- 5) "I can't forgive myself". The beauty of the sacrament is that it does not depend on us. As long as we are truly contrite, it does not matter what we have done or how terrible we have been, the Lord always forgives us. And if God has wiped the slate clean, who are we to hang onto the past?
- 6) "I don't have time". There is the denary day of confessions on Saturday 16th of December at St Mary's with confessions being heard all day and I will make sure that I am available to hear them after every Sunday Mass until Christmas. Whatever you do, don't deprive yourself of God's love, mercy, grace and forgiveness this Advent, treat yourself to a fresh start.

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