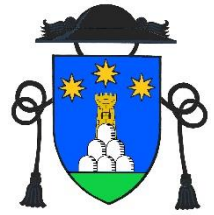




# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

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](http://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:**

A private Intention



**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 14 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Sarah Akroyd Int. Anthony Gregson Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 16 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 17 <sup>th</sup>	St Anthony, Abbot	No Public Mass		
THURSDAY 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Tim Williams RIP
FRIDAY 19 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Kathleen & Kenneth Wadsworth
SATURDAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Ken Pollard

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Wendy Balahura	11:00am	Nicholas Aigbogun
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

**PRAYER LIST** Gerard James, 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, 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** all those who have died recently including: Simon Whitworth and Ralph Stock (Bishop Stock's father)

**CHOIR NEWS:** As we start a new year, it is a good time to consider if you would like to join us. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6pm until 7pm. Any questions, have a chat with Tom.

**MASSES RECEIVED:**

Wilfred Burke, Patricia Burke, Ralph Stock, John Howley, Deceased members of the Wills family (Cissie and Cecil), Deceased members of the Jeffcock family (Marleen and Donald), Josie McLaughlin, Denis Smyth, Edith Toolan, Michael Byrne, Maureen Woodhouse, Catherine O'Neil and John Hinch, Christine Blackburn, Sarah Akroyd, Marshal Louis Flores, Louis Gill, Anne Hodgson. Richard & Megan

**APEAL FOR HELP**

I am looking for volunteers to help clean both our churches about once a month. The response to the pre-Christmas clean was fantastic and I'm sure you all agree that our churches are looking beautiful at the moment. If you are free to help keep them looking that way by helping occasionally, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Brenda is also looking for volunteers to form teams for flower arranging. Why not give it a try?

**NEW CRUCIFIX**

You will have noticed the beautiful new crucifix hanging on the wall outside St Mary's. This has been purchased with money from the estate of the late Mr Mosby and erected by the generosity of Mary Hargreaves in memory of Frank and Mary Tate and family. Please pray for the donors. There will be a service of dedication and blessing in due course.

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£656.21**  
Thank you to those who have switched to standing orders.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.  
If anyone would like to donate the Sort Code and Account Number are - 60-60-04 086137

**TOWARDS THE HOLY YEAR: 2025**

The Church celebrates 'ordinary' Holy Years every twenty-five years. The most recent of these was also a Great Jubilee - celebrated in 2000 in honour of the two-thousandth anniversary of the Incarnation at the first Christmas. The next Holy Year or Jubilee will thus take place in 2025. This New Year we have just begun, 2024, has been designated as a time of prayerful and spiritual preparation for the coming Holy Year which will begin next Christmas when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door at St Peter's in Rome. Looking beyond this, the Church is also preparing for an extraordinary Great Jubilee in 2033, which will mark the two-thousandth anniversary of the world's redemption in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. More information will be coming from the diocese throughout the coming year.

**HALIFAX CATHOLIC MEMORIAL CLUB**

Subscriptions for 2024 are now due, with renewals due before the end of March. £15 for existing members, £20 for new members. Please continue to include us in your plans.

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

What does it actually mean to worship God? In the New Testament, the Greek word that we most often translate as ‘worship’ doesn’t mean to reverence or praise in some abstract sense. It always involves some kind of bodily action. When we think about the Epiphany that we celebrated last week, the magi visiting the Holy Family, we sometimes convey this motion by describing them — after they fall to their knees — as ‘doing Him homage’. But it’s actually that same word here we might translate elsewhere as ‘worship’. It’s just that we recognise the need to describe the bodily sign of their submission and adoration of the new born King with something that sounds a bit more physical.

The word we usually translate as ‘worship’ (*proskuneo*) comes literally from a root-word meaning ‘to make yourself like a dog’! It originally meant prostrating yourself on the floor to show your humble submission before a King or superior. By the time of the New Testament, people wouldn’t necessarily have had the root of this word in mind whenever they used it, but the word still carries with it the idea of doing something with your body to express your worship.

The Eucharist is all about this kind of bodily worship. It’s tied to the fact that we are not pure spirits, but that we are human beings, body and soul. To worship God is not just a spiritual act. The right worship of God does not consist in simply having the right kinds of thoughts towards Him. But the worship of God involves the humble submission of our entire human being, body and soul, before the God who is greater than all of us. That means being physically present in church at Mass, every Sunday, so long as we are able. And ever since the Incarnation, we do this not just before an abstract spirit. Because, from the moment of the Incarnation, God really does have a human body, that we can worship, that we fall down on our knees before, like the magi and so many others in the Gospel who kneel down and worship Christ. When we worship God, we kneel before God who is present in the flesh, under the appearances of bread and wine, in our churches all over the world.

Epiphanytide gives us an opportunity to think about how we respond to that gift. All this talk of kneeling and worship might not sound so joyful, but one of the great paradoxes of Christianity is that we find our greatest freedom in the humble service of God. Our greatest joy really should be found in finding ways to express this loving worship. So it is no bad thing to think about how we express with our own bodies that worship of God’s body, and what ways we can find to worship Him even more perfectly.

We should think about the more ordinary things, like making sure we show that worship whenever we are in His presence. We should show through our behaviour in church that we believe Him to be there: by genuflecting before Him in the tabernacle of the church, and by keeping the church quiet and prayerful. We show our worship above all by kneeling down before Him — like all those people in the Gospel — for the moment of Holy Communion. (Obviously, only if you are physically able.)

We continue that worship in our prayers of thanksgiving after Communion and once the Mass has ended. We certainly never leave church during Communion. And we might think of ways of extending the time we spend with Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament: by attending Mass during the week sometimes, or visiting Him on a Saturday morning when His Body is exposed solemnly on the altar for Adoration, or even just by visiting an empty church, where He is waiting for us to show Him our worship.

As we embark on this New Year, let us make the worship of God our top priority, because it is from this, that all graces and mercies flow. Let us fall to our knees and do Him homage.

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](mailto:jbcoates@btinternet.com)) again by Wednesday evening. The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Clare O’Neill (07792147620 [psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk))  
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404