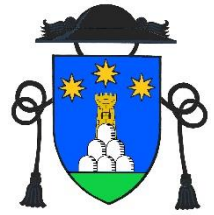




# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

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:



### 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 21 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY	3 <sup>rd</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	People of the Parish Tom Brennan Polish Mass Margaret Fee
MONDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>REQUIEM</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Christine Blackburn</b>
WEDNESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Richard & Megan Williams
THURSDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	The conversion of St Paul	9:30am	St Alban's	Denis Smyth
FRIDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ss Timothy and Titus	11:00am	St Mary's	Rev. Peter Ward
SATURDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Frank and Mary Tate

### READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Nicholas Aigbogun	11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Paul Coates

**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: Paul Gray

**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:**

Nancy Burns RIP, Fred & Eileen Greenwood, Jacob Nelson, Brenda McLaughlin, Nicholas Wannan

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£704.68**  
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

**PARISH TRIP TO LIVERPOOL**

After the success of the pre-Christmas trip to York, I am organising another day-trip on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of March to Liverpool. The coach will leave St Mary's at 9am picking up at St Alban's and taking us over to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, where we will celebrate Mass at 11am. Again, there will be free time for lunch/shopping/sightseeing after Mass and the coach will return to Halifax at about 4pm. The price will be £20per person and a sign up-sheet is available at the back of church. Monies to be paid  
ASAP

**COME AND SEE PRAYER GROUP**

Mission Halifax invite you to 'Come and See' – a monthly prayer group. Adoration, praise & worship, prayer and opportunity for a social time following. All welcome. Friday 9 February, 7pm, St Patricks Church, Elland, HX5 0PU

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION/CANDLEMAS**

Next Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb) we celebrate the feast of Candlemas, as is tradition, the candles that will be used in church over the coming year will be blessed before the start of the procession. If you have candles at home that you would like to be blessed, please bring them to Mass next Friday morning.

**PARISH LADIES GUILD**

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm, the Parish Ladies Guild are hosting a **PARISH QUIZ** at the Catholic Club. This is for all parishioners, their families and friends. Tickets will be ready soon and will be limited due to the club's seating capacity. You can, however, reserve seats beforehand if you let Jean, Maureen, Liz or Ross know and give them your details. If you have already reserved them, then you do not need to do it again. More details to follow in the next few weeks.

**HOSPITAL VISITS**

Due to some ridiculous new regulations hospital chaplains are no longer given the names and religions of any patient unless they are dying. If a friend or relative is admitted to either Huddersfield or Calderdale please let me know directly (inc. ward and bed no) or contact Deacon Andrew Philips on 07986537430

### **PLEASE WRITE TO HOLLY LYNCH MP**

Pro-abortion MPs, Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson, have tabled two extreme abortion amendments in an attempt to hijack the Criminal Justice Bill. *Right To Life UK* has launched a tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP to ask them to oppose these two extreme amendments. The changes to the law would apply throughout all nine months of pregnancy up to the birth of the child and would not exclude sex-selective abortions. The tools on the website make contacting your MP very simple and allow us as Catholics to have our voices heard in defence of the most vulnerable members of society, the unborn. Please visit: [www.righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments)

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

I'd like to look over the next few weeks at what we call the Cardinal Virtues, Fortitude, Charity, Hope, Faith and Temperance. All of them are essential if we are truly striving to live the Christian life.

Very often when we think of truly brave and courageous people we might think of lion-tamers in the circus or soldiers on the battlefield, bravely facing things that would cause any of us to run for our lives. But the virtue of fortitude is more subtle when we experience it from day to day and it is, in fact, essential for the spiritual life lived well. At times, it may not be what we think it is.

The first kind of fortitude we think of is when someone has to perform a truly brave action. One has to overcome what is preventing us from doing something good, from doing the right thing. Soldiers in battle have to run toward those who would seek to attack them and firefighters have to be ready to run into a burning building when the reasonable course of action would be to run out of it. The thing about fortitude is that it is fitted to special circumstances. For most of us when the fire alarm sounds, the prudent thing is to exit the building calmly, but when you are a firefighter, the right thing to do is to run towards the blaze to tackle it. Soldiers and firefighters go through a period of training, and also having experiences of going on manoeuvres or answering 999 calls that help them acquire the instinct they need to tackle real and present dangers. And so in our life we can acquire the virtue of fortitude through experience, choosing the right thing to do again and again, over and above the dangers or obstacles that make it challenging and difficult, whatever the particular situation is.

The other kind of fortitude is not one that is acquired through practice but is a grace from God. We call it an infused virtue. St Thomas Aquinas points out that this is not so much about attacking problems, or having the moral strength to run into the fire (metaphorical or real), but rather it is the courage to bear with suffering when it comes, to overcome difficulties of one kind or another with patience. It is a grace, a gift from God which is linked to that gift of the Holy Spirit we don't often talk about — *longanimity*. In our life bearing with others, or with suffering, with sickness or persecution takes courage, it requires real fortitude not to let it crush us, and this is a grace God gives us.

So whether it is in practical circumstances or in the depths of the soul, fortitude is essential, it is where the strength of the whole life of the soul resides. It is one of the *cardinal* virtues (from the word for hinge) because the whole moral life turns on being able to use it. Our moral life needs energy to overcome the inertia of not acting, of not striving, and that energy comes from fortitude. It also reminds us that being virtuous is not just about avoiding sin, consisting in not doing bad actions, but rather seeking out the good and despite what might be in the way, using that virtue of fortitude to always do the right thing.

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