



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

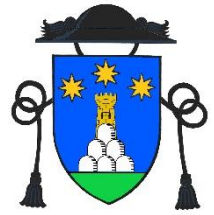
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

Presbytery: Clarence House, 2 Clarence Street, Halifax HX1 5DH

T: 01422 352141 E: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.stmaryshalifax.com

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:

Anne & Christine Smith's
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 18 th FEBRUARY	1 st Sunday of Lent	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Maureen Riddeal Winifred Melia Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 19 th	Lent	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 20 th	Lent	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 21 st	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Wasył & Angelina Boruzenko
THURSDAY 22 nd	Chair of St Peter	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 23 rd	Lent	6:30pm	St Mary's	Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 24 th	Lent	12:15pm	St Mary's	Thanksgiving, Sohan's Exam Results

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Shaun Sanju
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Kieron Green
6:00pm	Paul Coates

PRAYER LIST Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Suzanne Peaker, Larry Byrne, 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 Patricia Reynolds and Moya Andrew and all who have died recently and for Bishop Henry Poskitt, Bishop William Gordon Wheeler, Canon John Foley and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time

MASSES RECEIVED:

Fr Sean Elliott Ordination Anniversary, Brenda Wadsworth, Maureen Conway, Sandra Ord RIP, Patricia Johnson (Sick), Gloria Earley RIP x 2, Thresia Cutty 30th Anniversary

PARISH LADIES GUILD

On Saturday 13th 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 £5 each, supper included.

Raffle tickets are also on sale for the quiz and if anyone could donate prizes we would be very grateful.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th February at 6:00pm at St Alban's

DEANERY MARRIAGE COURSES

These will take place at St Mary's after the 11.00am Sunday Mass (for 1 hour) after Easter over three weekends on 7th April, 14th April and 21st April 2024. All engaged couples intending to marry this year to contact Deacon John Walsh if they wish to attend. Attending a Marriage Course is a mandatory requirement for those intending to marry in the Catholic Church.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The next annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place Friday 5th – Thursday 11th July 2024. The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Marcus Stock and is being organised through Tangney Tours.

I will be going on the pilgrimage and would be very pleased if we could take a group for the parish.

More information and booking is available at

<https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/leeds-lourdes>

WALK WITH ME – LENTEN BOOKLETS

Walk with Me is a prayer and scripture journey for the season of Lent. Each copy is printed as A6 booklet (perfect for pockets and handbags) which contains a brief daily reflection, either on the scripture reading of the day or on a catechetical theme for all 40 days of Lent.

These great prayer resources are available for free at the back of church and I hope that they might be of some use to you as we journey towards Easter. Don't say I never give you anything.

CHURCH CLEANING

A huge thank you to all of those who have signed up for church cleaning, there was a great response. A cleaning schedule is now displayed at the back of each church with the planned cleaning dates. Each clean is shown as either a "Big Clean" or "Regular Clean". We will begin with a big clean before the Bishop visits for Confirmation on the 7th of March. Please add your name under the dates that you will be able to come along and help.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was: **£640.31**

Thank you to all who have moved over to standing order.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As we all know, the three spiritual weapons at our disposal over the course of the season of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We are usually pretty good at prayer, and we all usually try and give something up, but almsgiving, the traditional third form of penance in the Christian life is often neglected. This is unfortunate, because giving alms is a powerful way to grow in holiness. Catholic writer Scott Hahn even goes as far as saying that almsgiving is superior to prayer and fasting, because as he put it, giving alms includes both prayer and fasting, and surpasses them.

Jesus gives us a clear mandate to give alms (Mark 6, Luke 12). Strictly speaking, almsgiving means giving financially or materially to someone in need. In a broader sense, almsgiving refers to acts of mercy, covering both the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The fact that God blesses those who help the poor and needy is clear throughout the scriptures. Giving alms purifies us and helps us grow in virtue, particularly those of charity, mercy and generosity. It must become more than us fumbling for change when encountering a homeless person, and certainly far more than just a nice, pious thought. Think about it: If we see a homeless man on the street, does it make sense to wish him well or would it make more sense to ask if the man would like some food to eat (see James 2:14-16)?

I am sure that many of you already give to charities throughout the year as it is, but there is something significant about a parish raising money together for a specific cause over this holy season. As I mentioned in the Lenten leaflet that you received last week, this year we will be collecting money for *Aid to the Church in Need*. I suggest that you keep an envelope or bag at home to collect your offerings over the next few weeks, which can then be presented during the offertory procession on Holy (Maundy) Thursday.

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical foundation of the Church which supports Catholics around the world who are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. Each year they fund over 5,000 projects in more than 140 countries around world, helping to support the Church in its mission, and bringing hope and solidarity to millions of people. From priests to catechists and seminarians to Sisters, donations enable them to help persecuted and suffering Christians live out their faith. By helping these key Church leaders, they are actually reaching out to many more of our brothers and sisters – millions in fact, as the projects that they support have the specific aim of providing pastoral and spiritual support to Christians in parishes and communities all over the world.

ACN does fantastic work in Pakistan, for example, where every year up to 1,000 Christian and Hindu women and girls aged between 12 and 25 are abducted, forced to convert to Islam and marry. Christians in Pakistan often struggle to find work due to discrimination and frequently become destitute. Many Catholics work in brick kilns and become trapped in a cycle of bonded labour, essentially modern slavery. They face the impossible task of repaying loans taken out to buy food and other basic necessities. Discriminated against and under constant pressure to convert, never are the faithful in Pakistan ashamed to be Christian. Let's offer whatever we can to help them. They are being tested in faith and we are being tested in love.

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