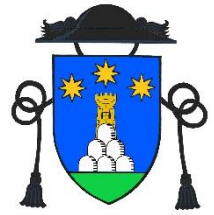




# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

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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## 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:

Agnes Donaghy'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 4 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY	5 <sup>th</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 Josie McLaughlin Polish Mass Alan Ingle
MONDAY 5 <sup>th</sup>	St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	9:30am	St Mary's	Thomas Ward
TUESDAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>REQUIEM</b>	<b>1:15pm</b>	<b>St Alban's</b>	<b>Simon Whitworth</b>
WEDNESDAY 7 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Thanksgiving (CM)
THURSDAY 8 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 9 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Grieci Family Intentions
SATURDAY 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Scholastica	12:15pm	St Mary's	Fr Bernard Battle

### READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Katarzina Machinu	11:00am	Greg Finn
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

**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 who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**MASSES RECEIVED** Margaret Johnson, Phyllis Whittaker, Kevin Brook

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** If you wish to have some new offertory ordered for you, there is a list at the back of church to sign. There are also plenty of standing order mandates available and I would ask you to strongly consider taking one of these instead. As I have said previously, I am not asking that you change what you give, only how you give it. Standing orders are a steady and regular income for the parish, they mean that we don't have to bank large amounts of cash and they save money on ordering boxes of envelopes. The form only takes a few minutes to fill out – please give it some serious thought.

**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.

**PARISH TRIP TO LIVERPOOL** The coach will leave St Mary's at **8:50am** 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 £20 per person and a sign up-sheet is available at the back of church. Monies to be paid ASAP. Although the coach will take us from the Cathedral to the Royal Albert Dock, please be mindful that the day will involve walking.

**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. The next meeting of the PLG is on Thursday 8th February at 7pm in St Alban's church hall where we will be planning our year ahead.

**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 of the SVP will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6 pm at St Alban's.

**GIANNA PROJECT** Thank you all for your continuing support of this important project. Once again, could we ask for your help in gathering baby clothes for newborns up to six month old babies? Also, we are very short of toiletries for the mothers and would appreciate your help.

**INTERESTED IN THE PERMANENT DIACONATE?** Come along and find out more at an informal gathering at Hinsley Hall in Leeds next Saturday morning (Feb 10). For more details contact Deacon David Arblaster at [david.arblaster@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:david.arblaster@dioceseofleeds.org.uk) or on 07742418979.

**200 CLUB WINNERS**

December 2023 - £100 Julia Anderson. No 108 £70 Anne Henry. No35 £30 John Walsh. No 134  
January 2024- £100 Kenneth Rothery. No 20 £70 Tracey Mullan. No 28 £30 Janet Wild. No 105

## **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£732.60.**

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

The virtue of Charity is also often referred to as one of the three 'theological virtues'. Theological virtues are those that order us towards God, (where as the other virtues order our getting on with each other) allowing us to participate in God's own Trinitarian, divine life. They provide the foundation for our entire moral lives because they guide, direct, and give life to all the other virtues. And St Paul tells us that of the three (faith, hope and charity, also known as love) the greatest is charity.

Charity, or love, is the virtue that allows us to fulfil the two greatest commandments revealed by Jesus. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments," These "new" commandments that Jesus put forth do not abolish the Ten Commandments, rather they fulfil them and give meaning to them. We are not called to follow the Ten Commandments blindly or as meaningless rules. We are called to follow them precisely because we love God above all things and we love others above ourselves. When we act in love, or charity, we naturally follow the old law, but it has new meaning. Charity is the highest virtue because any other virtue that you exhibit is necessarily driven by love, either towards God or towards your neighbour.

Authentic love is to recognise God's love for you and all of His creation and to reflect that love back into the world. It is to honour everyone and everything as He does. Jesus crucified is the perfect example of this authentic love and whenever we have any questions about how to act in charity, all we need to do is look upon a crucifix. Jesus put our ultimate well-being ahead of His own immediate well-being, suffering so that we might be saved from our own sins.

Contrary to the secular understanding of love as a mushy feeling, the Catholic virtue of authentic charity says that love is a choice. Regardless of how you feel or don't feel in a particular situation, you wilfully choose a loving action toward a person, wherein which heroic Christian virtue lies. Choosing charity and love when it is difficult or undeserved is what we are called to do in the practice of this virtue and, while extremely fruitful, it is often difficult when done correctly. Knowing the difficulty that can exist here, we can again remember to rely on God and His grace and ask Him, in prayer, to increase our capacity for true and authentic charity, so that we may live more closely in accordance with His will for us.

Willing the good of someone who has hurt us, or annoyed us or we dislike is not an easy thing to do, no one ever said it was, but it is precisely what we are called to do. Think how often we offend our Blessed Lord by our sins, our lack of devotion, even by our indifference and still, He loves us with a perfect love, always wanting what is best for us no matter what. That is what we are aiming for, that is the charity that we are called to exercise, if we really do want to call ourselves Catholics and followers of Jesus.

And charity bears fruit. Joy, peace and mercy grow over time in our hearts as we experience and show God's love through acts of kindness, almsgiving, and witnessing to the truth on the outside — these things are the beginnings of, or a little glimpse of, heaven. In heaven there will no longer be the need for faith — we will have Truth Himself — and there will be no need for hope — we will possess God fully. The only thing that will remain is charity, that enjoyment of God in friendship forever, a friendship which has already begun here. But we must learn how to let it grow.

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