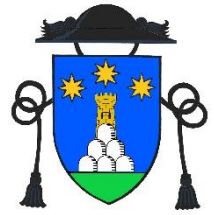




# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

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  
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 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:

Victoria Taylors's Int.



### 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 <sup>rd</sup> MARCH	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Fr Peter Egan RIP Patricia Reynolds RIP Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	7:00pm 7:30pm	St Alban's St Alban's	Michael Byrne Stations of the Cross
WEDNESDAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>REQUIEM</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>James (Jim) Grant</b>
THURSDAY 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am <b>7:00pm</b>	St Alban's <b>St Mary's</b>	Edith Toolan <b>Service of Confirmation with Bishop Stock</b>
FRIDAY 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am 6:30pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Maureen & Dominick Colleran Stations of the Cross and Benediction
SATURDAY 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	12:15pm	St Mary's	Deceased members of the Wills Family Cissie & Cecil

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Lettie Damolo	11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Judith McDonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

**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:** Kathleen Hirst and all who have died recently and for Fr Joseph Wright-Fairclough, Canon Patrick Mulcahy, Fr John Joseph Kearns and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**MASSES RECEIVED:**

David Costello, Irene & Tomasz Nalepa, Christine Blackburn, Anthony Gallagher (Sick), Kevin "Meggy" Megson, Pat Reynolds, Brian Diggins, Denis Smyth, Thomas Ward, Fred Greenwood, Rev. Peter Ward, Bryan & Shelia Greenwood, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Private Intention, Bill Long Int.

**BIG CHURCH CLEAN**

Will now be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> due to Jim Grant's funeral. Please come and help if you can. 10:30am in St Mary's, just bring your marigolds.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

First Holy Communion will take place this year on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of May.  
Preparation classes will begin on 21<sup>st</sup> March from 5-6pm in St Mary's School Hall.  
If your child attends a non-Catholic school and wishes to enrol on the course please speak to Fr Hilton or contact Helen Mellor on: 07931998337

**SATURDAY LENTEN RECOLLECTION**

This Saturday we will be having a mini-day of recollection. A day of recollection is a special time set aside for reflecting together and taking a deeper look at our spiritual lives and hopefully deepening our experience of Lent. The recollection will begin with Mass at 12:15 on Saturday in St Mary's, the Mass will be followed by some input from Fr Simon Lodge after which there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunity for Confessions and Benediction.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

The next annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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>

**PARISH LADIES GUILD**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March in St Albans's church hall at 7pm. As St Patrick's day is just around the corner, our evening will have an Irish theme. If you can, please wear something green.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm, the 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.

**DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS**

This will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March in St Mary's. Confessions will be heard by the clergy of the deanery from 9am – 4pm.

**200 CLUB – FEBRUARY WINNERS**

£100 Ann Griffin. No.50    £70 Mary Hoggard No.41    £30 Jeanette Roberts

### **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£649.04**

Standing orders for the month of January came to: **£2262** Repairs to the boiler this week: **£526**

### **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK**

Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the work of Catholic Care.

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

I don't tend to like connecting my piece in the bulletin to the Gospel on Sunday because I like to keep the sermon on a different theme, but this week there is a connection that I cannot help but make. Today's Gospel is all about our Lord cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem and chasing the moneychangers out with a whip that He had made from cord because they had desecrated the sacred space. As I was reading the newspaper last week, this image of the Lord's house being defiled was brought into sharp relief by something I noticed.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, Canterbury Cathedral hosted a "silent disco", an event where people dance to music they hear on wireless headphones rather than on speakers. Around 2000 people attended "the rave in the nave" and can be seen on video clips dancing, and swigging beer and vodka as lights flashed all around them. All of this happened in the church where St Thomas Becket was martyred in 1170, the church which was founded by St Augustine when he brought Christianity to this land and seemingly the Cathedral authorities thought that this was just fine.

The Anglican dean of the Cathedral, Dr. David Monteith, was quoted as saying, "Whether people choose to come to Canterbury Cathedral primarily as worshippers, sightseers, or attendees at our events—which include classical concerts, light and sound installations, and craft workshops—it's always joyous to see them discover this incredible place anew and on their own terms." ... What a load of absolute rubbish!

As Bishop Robert Barron commented: "The whole point, of course, is that cathedrals are not meant to be experienced "on our terms." They are meant to draw us out of ourselves into the contemplation of a higher world. They are designed to disorient us and to compel us to see things differently. When we allow a disco to take place inside a sacred space, we, quite literally, desecrate the place, we render it unholy, because "holy" literally means "set apart." The thousands upon thousands of pilgrims who came to the Canterbury Cathedral over the centuries to visit the tomb of St. Thomas Becket were seeking access to the mystical dimension that lies beyond this world. They came from the ordinary realm of shopping, farming, entertainment, and family, and they knew that they would return to that realm after their pilgrimage. But they also knew that the church was something else, something strange and alluring, and they most certainly did not want it transformed into farm fields or village streets or a bawdy dance hall."

The silent disco at Canterbury Cathedral speaks to us of the age in which we live, in which very little is still held to be sacred or sacrosanct. Let us never take our parish church for granted, this is God's House and we should treat it as such, it is holy, set apart and consecrated. St. John of Damascus said that prayer is "the raising of the mind and heart to God," and Lent as we know is, above all, a time of prayer. So let us, during this holy season, cultivate "sacred space" in our own lives too; let us not permit the secular and the ordinary to dominate that space and give to God what belongs to Him.

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