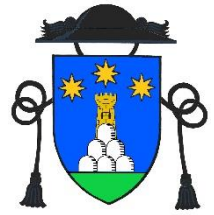




THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

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:

Brenda Biggins



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 31 st MARCH	Easter Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Brenda Wadsworth People of the Parish Polish Mass NO EVENING MASS
MONDAY 1 st	Easter Octave	12 Noon 2:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Brenda Biggins Intentions Polish Mass
TUESDAY 2 nd	Easter Octave	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 3 rd	Easter Octave	No Public Mass		
THURSDAY 4 th	Easter Octave	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 5 th	Easter Octave	No Public Mass		
SATURDAY 6 th	Easter Octave	12:15pm	St Mary's	Rev. Fr Tom Durkin RIP Ordination Golden Jubilee

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	Lily Hymas
11:00am	Wendy Balahura	11:00am	Nicholas Aigbogun
6:00pm	NO MASS	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST David Stanton, 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: Margaret Mulroy and all who have died recently and for Fr Peter Ward and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Pat Reynolds x 2, Fr Tom Durkin, Eileen Geraghty, Margaret & Frank Tinker, Brenda Biggins Int., Claire Tighe RIP, Pat Burns RIP, John McKenzie RIP, Private Intention, Timothy Hayes

MASS WITH BISHOP STOCK 9th APRIL

On Tuesday 9th April, Bishop Stock will visit the Parish to celebrate Mass at St Mary's at 7:00pm.

At this Mass he will confer the Ministry of Acolyte upon Paul Coates.

(The final minor order on Paul's journey to ordination as a deacon)

At this Mass, His Lordship will also bless the new crucifix outside St Mary's for us.

The Mass and blessing will be followed by a buffet in the Catholic Club.

Please put this date in your diary and come along to support Paul.

EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

I will be offering traditional Easter House Blessings with the new Easter water blessed at the Vigil. This can take place any time between Easter Sunday and Ascension Thursday. Please send your details to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or call the presbytery on 01422 352141 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

EASTER OFFERINGS

The Collection taken at the Easter Vigil and the Easter Masses is your personal gift to the parish priest. Along with the Christmas offering, it forms a very significant proportion of our annual taxable income.

Donations can be made in the collection, on the card machine and directly through the bank account.

Please mark bank offerings, "Easter". All offerings can be gift aided, and the gift-aid is retained by the Parish. Bank Details - St Marys - 21023225 - 40-27-15

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.

DIVINE MERCY SERVICE

The Divine Mercy Service will be held in St Alban's next Sunday at 3:00pm.

There will be an opportunity for confessions at this time.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPS

The new offertory envelopes are available at the back of St Mary's. These are for those of you who put their names on the list indicating their preference to continue giving by envelope. There was a similar list at St Alban's which has gone missing. If you put your name on this list please contact Bernard Corcoran on Hx 321584 or at berjoscor@gmail.com Thank you.

FOOD BANK

Next Sunday is our week for collecting for the food bank. Please leave donations at back of church.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS: Last week's loose collection was: **£749.10**

Standing orders approx.: **£556.50 Approx. Total = £1,305**

Thank you for your generosity and to those who have switched to standing orders.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

A very Happy Easter to you all! Christ is risen from the tomb and death has been destroyed for ever – Alleluia! Today we celebrate the central tenet of our faith, that God became man, died for our sake and rose from the dead, that when we die, we need not fear but have eternal life. That is what it is all about, that is why we come here, Sunday after Sunday, week after week because this isn't just 'good news', it's the best news. Today's celebration is a reminder to each and every one of you of just how much the Lord loves you and what He has been prepared to do for your sake. We have reflected over the last few days on His suffering, passion and death and yet today, all of that is not forgotten but completed, it is fulfilled and suddenly all of His sufferings and trials make sense. We see how they have infinite value because they have brought us to this point – there can be no resurrection without the crucifixion, no Easter Sunday without Good Friday.

The Church quite likes to break the year up into forty day blocks. We have finished the forty days of Lent, and entered a new period of forty days — the time that Our Risen Lord showed Himself among His disciples until He was taken up into heaven.

So how did Lent go? If we didn't do as much as we planned, we have another forty days to try again. Not with fasts and penances — that wouldn't really fit with the joy of Easter. But if we planned to spend more time in prayer or spiritual reading — and didn't — why not do it for these forty days of Easter? Only this time, think of it as an Easter treat rather than a Lenten penance, and we might be more successful. Prayer isn't supposed to be a punishment. So if we thought of it as a burden during Lent and didn't make time for it, think of it as a pleasure during Easter, so that we want to fit it in to our day.

And if we struggled to overcome our sins and bad habits during Lent, in this season of Easter, don't stop! We aren't supposed to celebrate the Resurrection by giving up the fight against sin. But we have a chance to approach these activities differently. Rather than thinking about resisting temptation, think about seeking virtue. Instead of fighting the devil, think about embracing Our Lord. Think of Mary searching for Him in the garden. Think of Peter jumping out of his fishing boat and running to Him standing on the shore.

If this is your first time to Mass for a while, come again next week. It doesn't matter how long you have been away or where you have been in the meantime, Easter is a time of new life, fresh starts and new beginnings. Make an Easter resolution, to practice your faith, for your own benefit and for the sake of those around you. By rekindling your faith, attending Mass and receiving the sacraments, you have absolutely nothing to lose and only heaven to gain. We live in an age where faith is needed more than ever and what better day to celebrate the new life that faith brings than on this Easter Sunday.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have helped to prepare for the sacred liturgies this year and who have made them so beautiful. I think of those who have cleaned the churches, arranged the flowers, served and read at Mass, sung in the choir, helped in the office and house, and all you who have attended the ceremonies. This is such a wonderful parish and I am very fortunate to have such wonderful parishioners.

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