



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

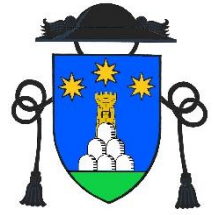
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

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 28 th APRIL	5 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Timothy Hayes RIP Mary, Tom and Leo Dolly Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 29 th	St Catherine of Siena	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 30 th	St Pius V	7:00pm	St Alban's	Fr Barrie Holmes
WEDNESDAY 1 st MAY	St Joseph the Worker	9:30am	St Mary's	Margaret Johnson
THURSDAY 2 nd	St Athanasius	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Phyllis Whittaker
FRIDAY 3 rd	Ss Philp and James	9:30am	St Mary's	John Fitzpatrick
SATURDAY 4 th	The English Martyrs	12:15pm	St Mary's	Simon Whitworth RIP

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Greg Finn	11:00am	Shaun Sanju
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST Frank Behan, Angela Payne, David Stanton, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Larry Byrne, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, Rita Baxendale 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 visit can be arranged.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Thanksgiving for many graces and healing (BB), Josephine Grady
The intentions of the Parish Priest and people of St Joseph's parish Chorley, HRH The Princess of Wales
(Return to Health)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 30th April 6 p.m. in St Alban's Parish Room
If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.
If anyone would like to support us our bank details are:
Sort Code 60 60 04 Account No 46086137 Account Name CO90901 SS Mary & Alban

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATION & PARTY

On Sunday 9th June the 11am Mass will be offered for all of our young people who have made their first confession, Holy Communion or been Confirmed this year. All the children and their families are invited to attend this Mass and wear their special outfits. At the end of Mass we will process on to the Catholic club with a statue of Our Lady, where there will be a party for all parishioners. Please put the date in your diary and come along to support our children and the parish.

MISSION HALIFAX COME & SEE

Fr Michael Hall and Mission Halifax invite you to 'Come & See' – a monthly prayer group. Adoration, praise & worship, prayer, and opportunity for social time following. This month's theme is 'With Mary in the Upper Room' with a talk from Fr Joshua Hilton (*That's me by the way*). All welcome.
Friday 10 May, 7pm, St Patricks Church, Elland, HX5 0PU

TRIP TO MANCHESTER'S HIDDEN GEM

The next day trip will be on Thursday 6th of June to the church of St Mary in Manchester city centre. Also known as the 'Hidden Gem', St Mary's has recently won an award from TripAdvisor and dates back to 1794. The coach will leave our own St Mary's at 10:30am picking up at St Alban's on the way. We will join the parish for Mass in Manchester at 12:30 and followed by free time for lunch and shopping. The coach will return from Manchester at 4:00pm. Tickets £20 per head. All welcome.
Sign up as usual at the back of church.

HAPPY DAYS FOOD BANK

Next Sunday is the first of the month and our day for donations to the Food Bank. Thank you.

200 CLUB

Your 6 monthly / 12 monthly subscriptions are now due for the next year.
Your cheque should be payable to "St. Mary's RC Church 200 club".
Annual subscription is £48./ 6 monthly £24 & should be paid by 15th May
You can give your cheque to one of the members listed below: Gretta Metcalfe 07950 980326 John Reynolds 01422 363532 Pat Ellison 07895957378 Please let us know if you have changed your details
NOT A MEMBER? Just have word with one of the organisers!

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.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£893.46** Total Approx. **£1,401.21**

Standing orders for March totalled **£2,031**

The Priest Training Fund Collection raised: **£412.25**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

During the Preface of the Mass in Eastertide the Church describes herself as “overcome with Paschal joy”. This joy, which characterises the whole season, began at the *Exultet* of the Easter Vigil when Deacon John sang, “Rejoice, let Mother Church rejoice, arrayed with the lighting of [Jesus' risen] glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.” Our joy at the Resurrection of Christ is expressed in all our Easter hymns and prayers. On Maundy Thursday the Lord told us that He had come into the world so that “my joy may be in you and your joy be complete!” The Easter season is meant to be the time when we celebrate the fullness of this joy — even though our experience of that fullness must wait until the life to come.

It is easy to be overcome with Paschal joy during the Gloria on Holy Saturday, or the Alleluia on Easter Sunday, or even when having that chocolate or glass of wine that we'd given up for the forty long days of Lent. But by the time we get to the fifth week of Easter, everything is back to normal. The news is as depressing as before. The wars in the Ukraine and the Holy Land rage on. Our politicians continue to embarrass themselves and the country. Energy costs, rising taxes, all the worries and anxieties from before Easter are still with us afterwards. So what has happened to Paschal joy? How can we rejoice? Are we just pretending to be happy when we're in church before returning to real life as soon as we leave Mass?

Joy, of course, is not happiness. Happiness is a feeling, an emotion, dependant on all sorts of circumstances outside of ourselves. Joy is not a feeling, it is our response of faith to God. It fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus and accept His offer of salvation, bringing them a peace, fulfilment and hope that sets them free from sin, sorrow, emptiness and loneliness. Christians can find joy even in suffering because of our knowledge of how Good Friday leads to Easter when we unite our crosses to the Lord. Jesus promised His disciples, “You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy... I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you”.

We are overcome with Paschal joy because the heart of our faith, of the Gospel, will always be the same, in good times and in bad, in poverty and prosperity, in sickness and in health: that God has revealed His immense love in the death and resurrection of Christ. That is not to deny the grief of those who have to endure great suffering, but the Resurrection gives us hope: “If we think that things are not going to change, we need to recall that Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin and death and is now almighty. Jesus Christ truly lives... Christ, risen and glorified, is the wellspring of our hope, and he will not deprive us of the help we need”.

Jesus' Resurrection is not an event of the past, it is a force which continues to permeate the world: we don't celebrate what God did, but what He continues to do through the power of Easter. Often it does seem that it is hard to be joyful, when all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But we do also see that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and produces fruit — life breaks through, goodness and light re-emerge and spread, and hope can always be found, because the Lord has risen indeed!

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