



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

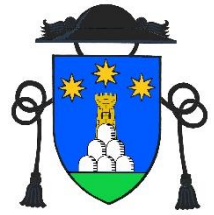
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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

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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:

Frank and Mary Tate



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 7 th APRIL	2 nd Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm 3:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's St Alban's	Irene & Tomasz Nalepa Eileen Geraghty Polish Mass Divine Mercy Service People of the Parish
MONDAY 8 th	The Annunciation	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 9 th	REQUEIM	1:00pm	St Alban's	Denise Whitworth
	BISHOP	7:00pm	St Mary's	Paul Coates Acolyte Mass
WEDNESDAY 10 th	Easter	9:30am	St Mary's	Fr Ross Thompson
THURSDAY 11 th	St Stanislaus	9:30am	St Alban's	Louis Gill RIP
FRIDAY 12 th	Easter	9:30am	St Mary's	Catherine O'Neil & John Hinch
SATURDAY 13 th	Easter WEDDING	12:15pm 2:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Marlene & Donald Jeffcock Joseph Griffin & Prencess Catedral

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Nicholas Aigbogun	11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

PRAYER LIST 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Hugh Cully and all who have died recently and for Fr Peter Ward and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED:
Gordon Smith, Private Intention, Gloria Hirst

MASS WITH BISHOP STOCK THIS TUESDAY

On Tuesday, 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.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

This Sunday we welcome to the parish Teresa Kehoe from ACN who will speak to us at Mass about the work of this fantastic charity. She will be bringing some religious items made in their projects to sell along with prayer cards, leaflets and more information about how you can help and be involved.

THANK YOU

A very big 'thank you' from me and Deacon John for all of your gifts, cards, prayers and well wishes over Easter. I am always staggered by the thoughtfulness and the generosity of the people of this parish.
I truly appreciate all of your kindness.

PARISH LADIES GUILD

The next meeting of the Parish Ladies Guild is on Thursday 11th April at 7pm in St Alban's parish room. It is our AGM meeting and the annual subscription of £12 is now due. New and former members are very welcome to join us. Just turn up on the night.

DIVINE MERCY SERVICE

The Divine Mercy Service will be held in St Alban's this Sunday at 3:00pm.
There will be an opportunity for confessions at this time.

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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

FOOD BANK

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

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I said ‘thank you’ at the end of all the Masses last week to those who, in anyway, helped and contributed to the celebration of the Sacred Triduum and the Easter liturgies. But I would like to re-echo that thanks again here - On reflection, the ceremonies were a huge success, not because I remembered roughly what I was supposed to be doing at any particular moment, or even because of the hundreds of people who came to participate in the mysteries but because of the real and tangible sense of prayer and devotion that was enkindled over those three holy days. I said in my sermon on Maundy Thursday evening that the during this mysterious time we can begin to feel the blurring of the boundaries between heaven and earth and the divine and the human and that was certainly the case last week. So now what?

Is Easter 2024 to now be shelved away as a nice memory testified to only by a few photos taken on phones? Does the message of Easter end with the last Easter Sunday Mass? Liturgically, the Church says “no.” We have the Easter Season — a needed time to reflect on the truth of the resurrection and to look to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. “Liturgical” here is important and it does certainly influence who we are but here I am specifically wondering about our day-to-day life outside the church walls. Does Easter affect and shape who we are or does it remain a beautiful annual ritual that is left behind in the crowded parking on Clarence Street? Do we take Easter with us into the streets of our lives and of our world or do we keep it hidden away behind locked doors — doors of a private faith, spirituality and morality, doors of our resignations and sense of hopelessness in the face of the pain of our world, doors of our fear to offend the accepted norm?

Easter cannot stay hidden away. Easter demands that we tell other people what has happened – no matter how uncomfortable it makes us or them. In Matthew’s account of the resurrection there is an interesting instruction that is given to the women who came to the tomb early that morning by the angel sitting on top of the stone that had been used to seal the tomb. “...go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him.” The resurrected Lord does not fear the world and its violence and sad resignation because He has overcome it all through the love of the Father. The resurrected Lord goes before you to Galilee. He goes into the streets of the world and the expectation and instruction given by the angel of the resurrection is that the followers of Christ do the same!

There is a culture of fear at the moment that continually whispers to us that nothing can change, that we cannot really do anything in the face of the injustice of our world, that we should look upon ourselves and our world with hopeless eyes. The culture of fear is arrogant in its pride and thinks that it alone has words to speak. The culture of fear lies. The culture of fear would convince us that we are its children. We are not children of fear. We are children of the resurrection. We are sons and daughters of God. We have nothing to fear and we have words, new words to speak to our world and to one another. The angel announces that the risen Lord is going to Galilee and that there the disciples will see Him. The implication is more than apparent, the disciples are meant to go and meet the Lord who goes ahead of them. (The Lord always goes ahead of us.) They are meant to go out into the street and carry the truth of the resurrection into the world. Let’s start with those closest to us.

It is not enough to stay behind locked doors, no matter how pretty and gilded those doors may be and no matter how many other people may also be content to remain there too. If we do so then the culture of fear wins and our lives become exceedingly small, constrained and life-denying. Joy is found only in following the risen Lord to wherever it is that He might lead.

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