



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

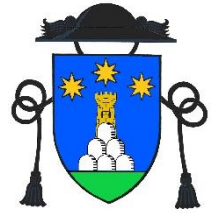
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

All deceased members of the
Budds Family



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 5 th May	6 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Margaret and Frank Tinker Rose Marie, Annie & Ken Rothery Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 6 th	Easter	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 7 th	St John of Beverly	7:00pm	St Alban's	Christine Blackburn
WEDNESDAY 8 th	Easter	9:30am	St Mary's	Patricia Johnson (Intentions)
THURSDAY 9 th HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	The Ascension of the Lord	7:00am 12:15pm 2:15pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's School Hall St Alban's	People of the Parish Eileen Coyle Parish Dead List Shelia & Bryan Greenwood
FRIDAY 10 th	Easter	9:30am	St Mary's	Kevin and Edith Toolan
SATURDAY 11 th	Easter	12:15pm	St Mary's	Elizabeth and Lucy Nobel

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Lily Hymas
11:00am	Malcolm Brown	11:00am	Shaun Sanju
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran

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:

Josephine Grady, Private Intention, Filomena & Jan Moska, Canon Francis Sammons & Grace Parsons

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Gerard Newham and Fr Jim Leavy who have died recently and whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MAY DEVOTION

In honour of our Blessed Lady, in this her month of May, there will be a special Marian Service on Wednesday 15th May at 7:00pm in St Mary's. This will not be a Mass, but a liturgy of traditional hymns to Our Lady, prayers for our parish, our families and the world concluding with Benediction.
The Holy Rosary is also recited every Saturday afternoon after the lunchtime Mass.
During the month of May, please considering buying a bunch of flowers and bringing them to church for Our Lady's altar.

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.
This 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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.

200 CLUB

Your 6 monthly / 12 monthly subscriptions are now due. 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 organisers - Gretta Metcalfe 07950 980326 John Reynolds 01422 363532 or Pat Ellison 07895957378 Please let us know if you have changed your details
NOT A MEMBER? Just have word with one of the organisers!
WINNERS March 2024 - £100 Jeanette Roberts No39 - £70 John Walsh No134 - £30 Janet Wild No101
WINNERS April 2024 - £100 Ken Rothery No19 - £70 Raymond Fearnley No 69 - £30 Tracey Mullan No28

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£500.79** Total Approx. **£ 1,048.54** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I was talking with a group of priests the other day and as so often happens when priests get together, the conversation took a depressing turn with a discussion about falling numbers of Mass-goers and concerns about the future. This is a refrain that we are all used to hearing and it comes as a surprise to no one, but it is not a picture that I entirely recognise or a future that I believe to be inevitable or inescapable. I see so many signs of growth and life in our parish, and as I have said to you before, managing decline is not something that I am prepared to do. You only have to look at the vast numbers of people who came to church over the Easter Triduum to see that Catholics are out there and are still hungry for God.

By its very nature, our faith is outward looking and universal in purpose and scope. Jesus didn't say, "Preach the Gospel to a couple of your friends" or "Proclaim the Good News only to those who might be interested", the Church and by extension, our parish, is not a private little club. Our Lord said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" He also instructed His followers that the very gates of hell would not prevail against the Church that He established. Therefore, maintaining things as they are, or managing decline, or treading water is absolutely not what Jesus wants or expects of us and is just not good enough.

I want to suggest then just a few simple ways that we can all help and contribute to the growth of the Church. The expansion of the Church is by no means the exclusive responsibility of the bishop or your parish priest. The Second Vatican Council was very clear that all of the baptised are commissioned as evangelisers and so this is a task that we have to take on together.

First of all, every family who comes to Mass should make it their evangelical responsibility to bring a new person along to church before Christmas. Every one of you reading this knows people who should be going to Mass but aren't. Identify these wandering sheep in your own life and make it your challenge to invite them to Mass with you. If we all brought only one more person, the parish would double in size by the end of the year. (Likewise, if you are a Catholic who only attends Mass a few times a month or sporadically without a valid reason, do something about it. Our obligation is every week.)

Second of all, pray. Ask the Lord, insistently, fervently, even stubbornly, to bring back His scattered sheep. Just as we have to beg the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to gather in His harvest, so we have to beg Him to increase His sheepfold. I would encourage the elderly and the housebound of the parish to take on this specific task. Don't just read this and then forget about it. Do it. Not just once but every day.

A final and most important suggestion is simply: be kind. We don't want these people to come to Mass simply for the sake of it. We want them to come because the Good News of Jesus Christ and the eternal life that He promises is too exciting to keep to ourselves, we want them to share it! And so we should act like it. No one will listen to the Gospel if it is preached by miserable and bitter people. The first marks of the disciple are joy, love and kindness. Our witness has to be one that is worth imitating.

Remember... Bishops don't close churches, lapsed Catholics do that.

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