



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

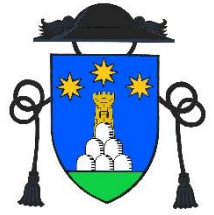
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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

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HOLY YEAR MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS JUBILEE 2025

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:

Private Intention (JCG)



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
See the priest after Mass

The month of February is dedicated to: The Holy Family

SUNDAY 9 th FEBRUARY	5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Joe Riddeal B'day Ann. Josie McLaughlin People of the Parish
MONDAY 10 th	St Scholastica	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 11 th	Our Lady of Lourdes	7:00pm	St Alban's	Filip Makula B'day
WEDNESDAY 12 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Frank & Mary Tate and Anne Elizabeth Sampson
THURSDAY 13 th	Feria	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Fr Michael Nealon
FRIDAY 14 th	Ss Cyril & Methodius	9:30am	St Mary's	Angelina Ong
SATURDAY 15 th	B.V.M	12:15pm	St Mary's	Pat Reynolds (A)
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Helen Brown	11:00am	Joseph Coneran
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

HOLY YEAR INDULGENCE

St Mary's is a Jubilee Pilgrimage Church for the Holy Year 2025.
A Plenary Indulgence, applicable to you or the faithful departed, may be gained each day by a devout visit to the church, together with prayers for the Holy Father's intentions, Holy Communion and sacramental Confession within a few days, and detachment from sin.

PRAYER LIST: Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, David Stanton, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Larry Byrne, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, Rita Baxendale, Michael McDonnell 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: Denise Whitworth, Frank & Mary Tate and Anne Elizabeth Sampson, Filip Makula, Holy Souls, Margaret Johnson, Phyllis Whittaker, Christopher Doyle, Kenneth Spark x 2, The McNamara Family

HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES

Session number four of our course looking at the Creed will take place this Tuesday 11th February
The theme will be "He Suffered Death"
6:00pm in St Alban's parish room. All welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Gladys Megson and Alan Spencer who had died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

200 CLUB

The postponed November and December draws will take place after the 11am Mass today. Please note that due to a reduction in the level of membership, it has been necessary to reduce the amount of prize money to £75 (1st prize), £50 (2nd prize) and £25 (3rd prize).

If you are not already a member and wish to join, application packs are available at the back of the church. Completed application forms should be returned to one of the 200 Club Organisers (John Coates and Kevin Budds) who will be available to answer any questions you may have. By joining the 200 Club, not only do you have the chance of winning a prize each month, but you will also be supporting the parish.

The more members there are, the greater the prize money and the support for the parish.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocese of Leeds will travel on pilgrimage to Lourdes this year from the 4th – 10th of July.

If you wish to make a booking, this can be done through Tangney Tours:

www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-leeds

or call: 01732 886666

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection today for the diocesan Lourdes Fund.

THE HUDDERSFIELD AND BRADFORD BOYS' CHOIR

will be visiting us to sing the 11 O'clock Mass on Sunday 2nd March.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£679.89** Total Approx. **£1460.89** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

One of the usual old lines that people like to wheel out when they criticise practices of the Church is... "That's not in the Bible". I cannot tell you the number of times that I've heard that old chestnut. This is because as Catholics we affirm the truth, that God's revelation, is contained both in the scriptures and in the Tradition of the Church. Tradition with a capital 'T'. This refers to the transmission of the faith through the apostolic succession, the Church's liturgy and her authoritative teaching. Holy Trinity, for example, two words that you will not find anywhere in the Bible, but something that we know to be true because it is a teaching revealed by God, contained within the Church's Tradition. I'll speak about the relationship between Scripture and Tradition another time.

One thing that people always seem to forget is that the Church existed before the Bible. The Bible as we know it today is a collection of the Hebrew scriptures and the New Testament writings, these later documents were written by members of the Church and were 'canonised' (put together and recognised as authentic) by the bishops who collated the Bible. Before the New Testament was written, the teachings of Our Lord were passed down orally by the Apostles and their followers. This oral tradition was the primary way that the early Church understood and spread the faith.

The books that would become the New Testament were written over several decades following Jesus' death and resurrection, with the earliest writings attributed to St Paul in the AD 50s. The process of determining which writings were authoritative (the canon) took centuries. The first list resembling the current New Testament canon was compiled by St Athanasius in AD 367, but it wasn't until the Councils of Hippo (AD 393) and Carthage (AD 397) that there was a more formal acceptance of this set of books. The Church played a crucial role in the recognition, collection, preservation, and dissemination of these texts. Without a defined canon, early Christians relied on the teachings passed down through the authority of bishops, who are the authentic successors to the apostles.

The canon of scripture as we know it today was formally defined at the Council of Trent in 1546 in response to the so-called 'reformation'. The council reaffirmed what had been accepted by the Church since Hippo and Carthage, that the Old Testament was made up of 46 books and the New Testament made up of 27 books. Upon separating himself from the Church, Martin Luther had taken issue with some of the books in the canon. These included 6/7 Old Testament books and parts of Esther and Daniel. He particularly disliked the book of Maccabees because of the text's emphasis on praying for the dead and offering sacrifices for them. Similarly, he took issue with the Letter of St James in the New Testament because it directly contradicts the protestant idea of salvation through faith alone.

It is important for us to remember that the worship of the early Church included practices such as the Eucharist, Baptism, and communal prayer, which were based on Our Lord's teachings and actions before any written New Testament existed. The Mass, for instance, was based on the Last Supper narrative, which was part of oral tradition long before being written down. Thus, the Church's existence predates the final compilation and widespread use of the Bible as we know it today, relying on oral tradition, the apostolic teachings, and the communal living out of the faith. The Bible, in this context, emerged from the Church rather than the Church from the Bible.

The assertion "That's not in the Bible!" misses the broader scope of the Church's belief since the earliest times that both Scripture and Tradition are integral to understanding divine revelation. The Bible has been shaped by the Church's life, its councils and the discernment of the bishops across centuries. Realising this is crucial for a fuller appreciation of how the faith has been lived and taught from the very beginning and how we practice it today.

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 can be sent again by Wednesday evening to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404