



# 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](http://www.stmaryshalifax.com)

St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365

## MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

### Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after 9:30am Mass

### Holy Rosary:

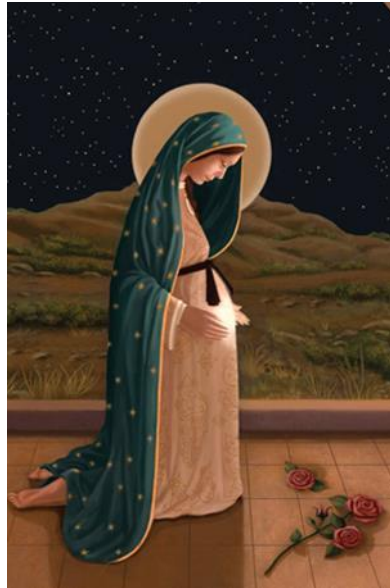
Saturday after 12:15pm Mass

### Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month after 9:30am Mass

### Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

Isla Rose Alfie and 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 18 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Joe Riddeal (A) Mary Ryan Polish Mass People of Parish
MONDAY 19 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Private Intention
TUESDAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	B&S Greenwood
WEDNESDAY 21 <sup>st</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	William Wilson
THURSDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Mona Thorn
SATURDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	10:00am	St Mary's	Patricia Hintze
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	Family Mass Vigil Mass	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Alban's	Eddie & Mary Coates Fr Hilton's Ints
SUNDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>		9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	People of the Parish Fred & Betty Budds Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		CHRISTMAS MASSES
9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	4:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Jovanna Karuna	6:00p.m.	Bernard Corcoran
6:00pm	Judith McDonald	9:30a.m.	John Greenwood
		11:00a.m.	Tim Widdop

### **CONFESSIONS**

There will be confessions heard on Christmas Eve from 9:30am until 10:00am.

### **HOUSEKEEPER VACANCY**

St Patrick's Presbytery in Huddersfield is seeking to appoint a part-time housekeeper, 20 hours per week, Tuesday-Friday. For further information and application form Please contact the presbytery on 01484 531483 or email office.holyredeemer@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

### **"DONA" MACHINE**

The card machine for making offertory donations at the back of the church is now fully functional. If you wish to make your contribution by card rather than cash, simply follow the instructions on the screen.

**PRAYER LIST** : David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, Millie Haigh, David Murphy, Peter Fekete, Fawzia Mohamed, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Moya Andrew, Suzanne Peaker, Larry Byrne, Eleanor Foran Winnie Whelan, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Maureen Colleran, Patricia Reynolds 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**: Pauline Luniw Ints, Kathleen & Kenneth Wadsworth

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

The Parish SVP would like to wish everyone a very holy and happy Christmas and to thank everyone who has helped and donated to their cause this year. We hope to make an even bigger difference to some lives in 2023 so please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. We are as ever grateful for your continued financial donations - these make such a difference to some peoples' lives. Our account details are:- Bank sort Code **60-60-04**; Account number **46086137** Account name - **SS Mary and Alban Halifax**

The SVP shop on King Cross is looking for donations of clothes, books, Bric a Brac, Toys, Games etc and also, if anyone can spare any time, they are seeking volunteers too.  
The date of the next meeting is 6 pm 10th January in St Alban's Parish Room.

### **ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWS.**

The School closed on Friday(16<sup>th</sup>) for the Christmas Holiday and re-opens on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

We wish all the Pupils, Staff, Helpers, Counsellors and Parents/Carers  
a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

At this time we say farewell to Michael Griffin who has been the Site Manager for the past 16 years. We thank him for the tremendous effort he has given to the School over those years and wish him a quieter time as he retires.

We also say farewell to Mr Brown, our Deputy Head, Mrs Janetta and Mrs Rigby who are all moving on to other areas of Education and family life.

We thank them for the contribution they have made to the school.

### **"I AM WITH YOU" - HALIFAX DEANERY MISSION 2023**

In the week leading up to the Feast of the Ascension (15 - 18 May 2023) the Catholics of the Halifax Deanery will be celebrating a week of Mission, sharing with each other and the wider community the love of Jesus. To access the latest information and follow developments, please use the following social media "handles"

Facebook: @missionhalifax Twitter: @halifaxmission Instagram: @missionhalifax

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

Thank you to all those who came and helped with the cleaning of our Churches for Christmas.

### **200 CLUB - - NOVEMBER WINNERS**

£100 – No 51 Malcolm Brown    £70 – No 55 Maria Griffin    £30 – No 130 Stuart Macdonald

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Fr Michael Nealon and all those who have died recently and for  
Frs James Noonan, Geoffrey Parfitt, Cyril Roddy and Francis Carroll  
and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

With next Sunday being Christmas Day, the bulletin will be produced in a reduced format and so I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very merry Christmas, when it arrives. I have been your Parish Priest for a little over six months now and I would like to express my deep gratitude for the warm welcome that I have received and also to thank you for your patience with me as I have been finding my feet. Taking up my appointment here in Halifax has been made so much easier by all of the help and support that I am given by a large number of people who work so hard for the parish behind the scenes all year round. I won't make the mistake of listing people here – because you know that I'll forget someone! But I am very blessed to have such dedicated and supportive parishioners assisting me with so many aspects of parish life – thank you!

As this year draws to a close, I pray that whatever 2023 has in store for us, we will face it together as a community and as a family, the good and the bad alike. As members of Christ's Body, the Church, we are never alone and it is in the birth of the small and defenceless babe of Bethlehem that we find our strength and courage.

This Christmas, for various reasons, personal and financial, may not be easy for many of us. But let us remember that the Lord's entry into the world on that first Christmas was far from comfortable. The stable was a place for outcasts, the ignored and the forgotten, the place where only the destitute would gather and yet it was precisely where the Son of God chose to be born. The lesson is that: divinity is always where you least expect to find it - the Lord is deep in the mess and chaos of the stable of everyday life and yet from that stable comes the gift of salvation for the whole world.

If you're struggling to find presents for loved ones at the moment – bring them to Mass with you this Christmas. In our world that can seem so uncertain and gloomy at times, you can give no greater or more precious gift than that of faith. Chocolates get eaten and new socks eventually wear out – but the strength, comfort and hope that the gift of faith provides are of infinite value. What could be more treasured?

However and wherever you are celebrating, I hope and pray that you all have a very merry Christmas – rejoicing in the fact that the Son of God has come into the world that we might have life and have it to the full.

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 only can be sent to John Coates (07842 066450 or [orjbcates@btinternet.com](mailto:orjbcates@btinternet.com)) again by Wednesday evening.

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Clare O'Neill(07792147620 [psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk))  
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404