



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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 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:
 The Griffin 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 15 th JANUARY	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Ramon Espares Sr Leo Dolly Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 16 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 17 th	St Antony, Abbot	7:00pm	St Alban's	Fr John Gott
WEDNESDAY 18 th	REQUIEM	10:00am	St Mary's	Concezio D'Allesandro
THURSDAY 19 th	REQUIEM	10:45am	St Mary's	Rhonda Bright
FRIDAY 20 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Kathleen and Kenneth Wadsworth
SATURDAY 21 st	St Agnes	12:15pm	St Mary's	Doreen Salmons

READERS ROTA			
THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Ken Rothery	11:00am	Tim Widdop
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

An updated Readers Rota (Version 7) has been produced taking us up to Easter.
 Copies are available at the back of church for those involved.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Maureen Colleran, Mark Anthony Hainsworth and all who have died recently and for Fr Norman Copley, Fr Matthew Kavanaugh and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER LIST

David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, Patricia Hintze, John Wallis, Millie Haigh, David Murphy, Peter Fekete., William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Moya Andrew, Suzanne Peaker, Larry Byrne, Winnie Whelan, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, 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 visitation can be arranged.

MASSES RECEIVED

Rachel Kilbourne, Fred & Eileen Greenwood, Caroline Mackrill, Tony & Julie Simpson's Int, Fr Martin Kelly Int, Elaine Collins, Margaret Markham, Kim Martin Int, Mrs Entwistle & Family Int.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We will be so grateful for any financial donations that you are able to make. Our account details are: Bank sort Code **60-60-04**; Account number **46086137** Account name - **SS Mary and Alban Halifax**
We have had a request for help from a lady with mobility issues who needs an electric 'riser recliner' chair. If anyone can help us source one, please call the SVP number 07512 011 440.

FIRST SACRAMENTS 2023

The Preparatory Sessions for First Confession (Reconciliation) begin at School at the end of this month. If you have any Year Three children who do not attend Catholic Schools please let Fr Hilton, Deacon John or Helen Mellor (07931 998337) know as soon as possible.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM MEETING

The codes to access the Zoom are. Meeting ID is 73566939905 Password is Ss0eA3

FROM THE DIOCESE

SOLEMN REQUIEM MASS FOR POPE BENEDICT XVI: Bishop Marcus will celebrate a Solemn Requiem Mass for the late Pope Emeritus at Leeds Cathedral on Tuesday 24th January 2023. All are welcome to attend.

VACANCY: Diocese of Leeds Youth and Lifelong Faith Formation Officer. Salary 25k per annum, 37 hours per week, including some evening and weekend work. For an informal discussion, please contact Kieron Flood, Diocesan Director for Education on 07860773400 or by email kieron.flood@dioceseofleeds.org.uk. Applications packs can be requested from 3rd January 2023.

DIOCESE OF LEEDS MUSIC VACANCIES: We wish to appoint an Assistant Director of the Schools Singing Programme and a Choral Director. For more information, please request an application pack from recruitment@dioceseofleedsmusic.org.uk. Closing Date: 6th February 2023, 5.00 pm.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY.

Calderdale Council in association with Holocaust Centre North, the Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association & Calderdale Interfaith Council will mark Holocaust Memorial Day with a gathering at Calderdale College (Francis Street, Halifax HX1 3UZ) on Wednesday 25th January from 6pm-8pm. Trude Silman MBE will give her testimony as a child who survived the Holocaust. All are welcome.

200 CLUB – DECEMBER DRAW – WINNING NUMBERS

£100 No 19 Ken Rothery - £70 No 134 John Walsh - £30 No 1 Carol Rodmell

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As we all know, suffering is a part of life. It can take many different forms and can range from the physical to the emotional, to the material etc. Unfortunately, this is just an inescapable part of our human existence – life is just not always plain sailing. One of the central tenants of our faith, however, is that suffering is never something that is endured in vain, suffering, we believe, can have a redemptive quality, when it is accepted, and offered in the union with the passion of Jesus. The Lord calls us to participate in the cross of Christ, and to take up our own each day and follow him. In this way, rather than wallowing in self-pity, we can learn to use our sufferings to gain spiritual graces and become stronger as a result.

Someone who knew a great deal about the nature of what it is to suffer was the late George Cardinal Pell, who died at the age of 81 in Rome last week. Cardinal Pell was the former Archbishop of Sydney, former head of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy and an important personality in the life of the Universal Church. He was a fiercely intelligent man, articulate and sometimes bold who was, above all, fearless in his proclamation and defence of our Catholic faith. On the few occasions that I was able to meet him, I found him to be gentle, humble and actually very amusing too.

For all of his truly remarkable achievements over the years, by far the greatest accomplishment of Cardinal Pell came towards the end of his life when he was faced with fabricated allegations of sex abuse. Although the charges were so obviously false, the Cardinal was convicted in 2018 and imprisoned in Melbourne, placed in solitary confinement, unable to celebrate Holy Mass and even deprived by the authorities of his breviary. Alone in cell, his freedom removed and his personal reputation in tatters Cardinal Pell was able to survive this injustice and humiliation, he said, “by accepting my suffering in faith”. Over the course of his imprisonment, Pell kept a remarkable journal, which has been published and I highly recommend it for your spiritual reading. In it he explores the theme of suffering in depth, from the position of a soul in the midst of the storm. Consoled by the knowledge of his innocence, the Cardinal made the best of his time in prison, befriending other inmates and reading extensively. In 2020 he was acquitted of all charges by the High Court of Australia and finally released – retiring to live in Rome.

“All of this only makes sense” said the Cardinal “if we accept in faith that suffering can be redemptive – turned to a good purpose when united with Jesus’ suffering and death ... it was while a powerless victim that the Lord redeemed us so that our sins and worst crimes could be forgiven”. Upon his release from prison Pell reiterated that he held no ill will to those who falsely accused him and indeed felt only pity for them.

His was an experience of great suffering endured with confidence in God’s judgment and united intimately with the sufferings of Our Lord. He should be remembered said Cardinal Re, in his sermon at Pell’s funeral yesterday, as “a man of God and a man of the Church, characterised by a deep faith and steadfastness of doctrine, which he always defended without hesitation and with courage, concerned only with being faithful to Christ.” A solid example for priest and people alike.

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
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Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404