



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
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MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

<p>Perpetual Novena: Wednesday after 9:30am Mass</p> <p>Holy Rosary: Saturday after 12:15pm Mass</p> <p>Devotions to the Sacred Heart: First Friday of the month after 9:30am Mass</p> <p>Our Lady's Lamp this week burns: in hope of a successful operation</p>		<p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturday 11:00am – 12:00pm at St Mary's</p> <p>Confessions: Saturday - 11:00am-12:00pm – St Mary's Sunday - 5:30pm–6:00pm – St Alban's or on Request</p> <p>Marriages and Baptisms by appointment</p>
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SUNDAY 12 th MARCH	3 rd Sunday of Lent	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish Fred & Eileen Greenwood Michael Child (A)
MONDAY 13 th	Lent	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 14 th	Lent	7:00pm	St Alban's	Pauline Luniw Int.
WEDNESDAY 15 th	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Thanksgiving (A. Woodward)
THURSDAY 16 th	Lent	9:30am	St Alban's	Rhonda Bright
FRIDAY 17 th	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Tony and Julie Simpson Intentions
SATURDAY 18 th	Lent	12:15pm	St Mary's	Marie Finn

READERS ROTA			
THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Wendy Balahura	11:00am	Katarzina Machinu
6:00pm	Mrs Damolo	6:00pm	Judith McDonald

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND
BENEDICTION**

Will take place each Friday in Lent at 6:00pm in St Mary's. Stations of the Cross at St Alban's will take place after Mass on Thursday mornings.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE

Please speak to Deacon John or Caroline Walsh in order to receive your forms at the back of church. Signup sheet available.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

The charity that the parish is supporting this lent, is Mary's Meals, helping to feed starving children across the developing world. Your donations can be brought up in the offertory at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday.

**HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING
SERVICE**

Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

FIRST COMMUNION 2023

Preparation sessions for First Communion this year start on 15th March at School. Any parent/carer who has a child in Year 4 who does not attend St Mary's Academy should contact Fr. Josh, Deacon John or Helen Mellor (07931998337) as soon as possible.

The Way of the Cross with Polish Community

We are starting with the celebration of the Holy Mass in St Alban's Church at **18.00 on the 31st of March**. Straight after the mass, we will celebrate the first station of The Cross. Then, stations will take place every few miles. We will be **walking approx. 30 miles** through paths and fields of Southern Calderdale moors with the last station at St Alban's church. The return time depends on individual abilities therefore it might be 8am but even 11am.
(Not for the faint hearted!)

PARISH MISSION

Inspired by the efforts being put into organising the Deanery Mission by Fr Hall, I am organising a Mission for our own parish from the 3rd – 7th of July. The Mission will be preached by Fr Royston Price CSSR & Fr John Hemer MHM. There will be a service and talk in church each night of the week and it will be a fantastic opportunity to deepen your faith and understanding by listening to these two excellent and sought after speakers. There are posters at the back of church with more information to follow.

MASSES RECEIVED

Bernard Wadsworth, Kevin 'Meggy' Megson, Geraldine Lozano, Tom Brennan, Tomasz & Irene Nalepa, Jane Edison, Private Intention

PLEASE PRAY FOR Millie Haigh and all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PRAYER LIST

David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, 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.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM MEETING

The codes to access the Zoom **have changed**. Meeting ID is now 72756957252 Password is: nqht8b

HAPPYDAYS FOODBANK

Thank you for all your donations

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440. Date of next meeting – 14th March 6 pm at St Alban's

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Continuing our reflection on the Holy Mass we now turn to the liturgy of the Eucharist, which begins at the altar, the emphasis moves away from the pulpit and to the centre of the sanctuary. After the altar has been prepared, the priest moves to bottom of the steps to receive the gifts that have been processed up, the bread, wine and the offerings that have been collected – our sacrifices are brought up and offered collectively to the Lord.

When the priest or deacon pours the wine into the chalice, a small amount of water is added with the spoon. This is called the *comingling* – this symbolises the divinity and the humanity of Christ, once the two have been joined together, they can never be separated. After the offering of the bread and wine, the priest washes his hands to remind himself that he needs interior purity in order to offer the sacrifice.

We then proceed into the Eucharistic prayer which begins with the *preface*, this can be traced back to the very earliest times of the church, including the dialogue with the people, “Lift up your hearts” etc... just as in the book of Revelation, John is told to come up to heaven, we are called to lift up our hearts into the throne room of the almighty. As we sing the *Holy Holy*, which is the song of the angels who minister to God in heaven, we are reminded of the chant of the crowd who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” – he is about to appear among us on the altar and so we welcome him with the same enthusiasm and excitement.

During the consecration, the holiest part of the Mass, we kneel as a sign of our humility before the Lord and as a gesture of adoration and praise. The transformation of the bread and wine is not symbolic but actual and so it is only right that we bend the knee in the presence of our Lord and God, truly present on the altar. Before those words are spoken, however, the priest extends his hands over the gifts at a moment that is called the *epiclesis*, the bell is rung to alert us to the fact that something very important is happening. This is the moment that the priest calls down the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine and is a gesture that reminds us of the High Priest of the temple in Jerusalem who would lay his hands on the scape goat to impart the sins of the people upon the animal which was to be sacrificed.

The most important part of the Eucharist prayer is the consecration. The bread and the wine are consecrated separately to remind us of Christ’s death, for when we separate body from blood, death naturally occurs. The priest speaks in the first person at this point because it is not him speaking at this point but Jesus, through him - this is when *transubstantiation* takes place.

After the Eucharistic prayer is concluded, we stand and pray the Our Father – this prayer was placed at this point of the Mass by Pope Gregory the Great in about the year 600 as the perfect way to prepare us to receive Holy Communion. What happens next is called *the fraction*, this when the priest breaks a small piece of the Host and places it in the chalice. This has a twofold meaning – first of all, the breaking is a reminder of the breaking of the Lord’s body on the cross and the mixing in the chalice is a symbol of the resurrection – for when body and blood are reunited, life springs anew.

The completion of the Eucharistic sacrifice comes with our consuming of the consecrated host. If you think back to the Passover from Egypt, it was not enough to sprinkle the blood of the lamb upon the Israelite’s door posts, the people in order to fulfil the Passover meal had to eat the flesh of the lamb. And so today, in this Eucharistic Passover, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world through the shedding of his blood and through our receiving him in Holy Communion.

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