



# 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:

Liz W. intentions



### 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 28 <sup>th</sup> MAY	Pentecost Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Steven Riordan Philip Easton Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mary, Mother of the Church	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 30 <sup>th</sup>	Yorkshire Martyrs	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 31 <sup>st</sup>	The Visitation of the B.V.M.	9:30am	St Mary's	James Baldwin
THURSDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> JUNE	Our Lord Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest	<b>7:00pm</b>	St Alban's	Sheila Greenwood
FRIDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ss Marcellinus and Peter	9:30am	St Mary's	Parish Dead List
SATURDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup>	St Charles Lwanga ,and Companions	12:15pm	St Mary's	Private Intention

### READERS ROTA

#### THIS SUNDAY

#### NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Jovanna Karuna	11:00am	Kieron Green
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

### **PRAYER LIST**

Willie Shaw, 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.

### **GIFT AID**

Louise Ward sent a note of thanks to me and the parishioners for being so welcoming and friendly. She has asked me to thank you for taking the forms, but to please remember:

1. If you are unsure whether you have a gift aid, please complete a new form and if we have one on file, the second one will be filed away;
  2. Standing Orders can also be completed by people who do not have a gift aid;
  3. Please remember to bring forms back to the parish;
  4. Between the two churches in 2022/23 the amount of loose plate collection was over £21,000 – if the parish could get even a third of this covered by gift aid – that would be an extra £1750 into the parish on top of the existing gift aid reclaimed without anyone giving a penny more.
- Any questions, please contact Louise – 0113 261 8023 or 07799443394

### **WELCOME FR ROYSTON PRICE**

Today Fr Royston Price, who will be one of the priests leading our forthcoming parish mission (2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July) will preach at all Masses and tell us a little more about what to expect. The parish mission will be very different in tone and style to the deanery mission and will be more based around talks given by the two priests. If you wish to learn more about the faith, this mission is for you.

### **MASSES RECEIVED**

Private Intention x 4, Hywel Jones LD, Oliver Deighton Healing, Bryan Greenwood, Nadia Swierzbinski, Deceased members of the McCormack Family, Honora Hintze, James Baldwin

### **MISSIO (RED MISSION BOXES)**

Can boxholders please bring them to church next Sunday for opening. Thank You.

### **HAPPY DAYS (EBENEZER FOOD BANK)**

Next Sunday, the first in the month, is our day for donations of Food and Domestic Products to the food bank. Items can be left at the back of church.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### **200 CLUB**

It is now time for you to renew your subscription for the 200 club for 2023. New members are always welcome. Application forms available at the back of the Churches. Please let us know if your details have changed. You can give your cheque/ cash to John Reynolds, Pat Ellison or Gretta Metcalfe. Please remember the account name is **ST MARY'S RC CHURCH 200 CLUB**

### **THE GIANNA PROJECT APPEAL.**

Thank you so much for your continued help and support. Your generosity is appreciated more than ever give the challenging economic conditions. On this occasion we desperately need toiletries for mums and babies. We also require baby clothes for 0-3 month old babies. A Moses basket will left in the porch to receive your donations. Your help and kindness is deeply appreciated.

## FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

With all this good weather that we've been having recently, it has given me an opportunity to get out and to do a bit of gardening. Well... gardening might be a bit of an exaggeration... I've potted up a few plants in the little back yard of the presbytery. It turns out that petunias are harder to keep alive than I realised. The yard doesn't get too much sun and is quite sheltered and so I've had to pick the plants fairly carefully, making sure not to under or over water them. I was out this afternoon, watering can in hand, beholding a rather droopy looking rhododendron and was reminded of an old prayer book that I used to keep in my pew in the seminary chapel, called *The Garden of the Soul*.

The book was written by Bishop Richard Challenor (1691-1781) who described it as "a manual of spiritual exercises and instructions for Christians who, living in the world, aspire to devotion." I always liked this book, I think, because it was straight to the point and gave simple practical advice regarding cultivating a healthy prayer life that nourishes the soul. Spirituality can, at times, seem to be a daunting topic, something that is best left to mystics, visionaries, monks and nuns. And yet all of us have spiritual lives that require tending to – we so often either just forget, or actively choose to ignore them.

Rather like looking after plants, tending to our souls requires balance, time, effort, hard work and a good bit of common sense. Plants will only produce beautiful flowers if the conditions are right and they have received all of the care that they need and the same is true of our spiritual lives. While spirituality and prayer can seem like lofty, impractical concepts, Bishop Challenor in his book outlines the basic necessities of the spiritual life and makes them accessible to the average catholic, like me. Just as plants need, soil, water, sunlight, warmth, nutrients etc. to flourish, so the soul has various needs too.

First of all, our souls need the nourishment of the sacraments, most especially, the Eucharist and absolution in confession, these, he outlines, are the foundation stones of the healthy soul. In addition, we need the protection and intercession of our Blessed Mother. A healthy devotion to Our Lady is crucial for anyone who is attempting to take their spiritual life seriously. This can take the form of saying the rosary, lighting candles and other Marian devotions. Next, we need to keep the communion of saints at the forefront of our minds, not only are they powerful intercessors on our behalf in the presence of God, but they are shining examples to us of ordinary people who have lived exemplary and extraordinary lives. Another neglected friend is our guardian angel – each of us have one and yet how often do we pray to him or ask for his help? Another essential element to nurturing the soul is ensuring that we water it with prayer a little and often. If a plant is left in dry soil for too long and suddenly drowned with buckets of water it can be counterproductive. One of the keys to the spiritual life is dedicating small, realistic and manageable amounts of time to it each day, watering and pruning.

If you're reading this and realise that the garden of your soul has been a bit neglected of late, I suggest that you set aside just 3 minutes of each day to dedicate to prayer, set a timer if you like. Everyone, without exception can carve 3 minutes out of the day (if you say can't - you're lying) and I guarantee, if you manage that, you will undoubtedly spend a little longer.

Go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say the rosary, foster devotion to the saints, pray to your guardian angel, light candles, spend a few minutes in prayer every day and before you know it, the garden of your soul will be in full bloom with peace of mind and joy in your heart.

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](mailto:jbcoates@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