



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

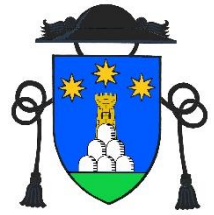
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

"Israelis and Palestinians who are suffering"



### 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 22 <sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER	29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:30pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Ken Akroyd RIP Mary and Tony Hallinan Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Edwin and Ellen Walsh
TUESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Michael Blackburn's Int.
WEDNESDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	No Mass		
THURSDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Private Intention
FRIDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Yorkshire Brethren
SATURDAY 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles	12:15pm	St Mary's	Philip Smith Hirst

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Ken Rothery	11:00am	Tim Widdop
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Paul Coates

### **PRAYER LIST**

Gerard James, Christine Blackburn, Willie Shaw, David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, 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 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.

### **SECOND COLLECTION**

Today for the APF (Red box) Mission Appeal. There are some new red boxes if people are interested,

### **MASSES RECEIVED**

Peace in the Holy Land, Bryan & Sheila Greenwood, Maureen and Dominick Colleran, Ellen Greham, Vicky Addamson & Jessie Rotheart, James Baldwin, The Woodhead Family

### **PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Parish Christmas party at Bertie's Crystal Ballroom in Elland on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December. The evening includes a three course meal and dancing. Tickets will be £35 per head. Tickets on sale now.

### **FIRST SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME 2024 - CONFIRMATION**

The preparation sessions for those who wish to be Confirmed next year begin in mid-November. The parents/carers of any child in Year Six or above who does not attend a Catholic School and wishes to be confirmed should contact Fr. Hilton, Deacon John or Helen Mellor (07931998337) as soon as possible

### **PARISH CHRISTMAS TRIP TO YORK**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of December there will be a parish pilgrimage / Christmas shopping trip to York by coach. We will leave St Mary's at around 11am arriving for Mass in the house of St Margaret Clitherow on the Shambles at 12:30pm. There will then be free time to go for lunch and explore the shops and Christmas market until 4:30pm when the coach will return to Halifax. Tickets are £15 and available on a first come first served basis. Last chance to sign up today.

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWS** – The OPEN DAY visits on 20<sup>th</sup> November will be in the afternoon **NOT** in the morning. They will take place from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** -If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.

If anyone would like to support us our bank details are: Sort Code 60 60 04 Account No 46086137  
Account Name CO90901 SS Mary & Alban

The next meeting will be on **MONDAY** 30<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm at St Alban's.

### **NOVEMBER DEAD LIST**

During the month of November, three Masses each week will be offered for those on our parish Dead List and then the remaining Masses will be offered throughout the coming year. If you would like your deceased family and friends to be included in these Masses, please place a list of their names, along with an offering in the envelopes available at the back of church.

### **ANNUAL CEMETERY SERVICE – 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

The Annual Cemetery Service will take place at Stoney Royd Cemetery on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 3:00p.m. Please meet at the Cemetery gates.

### **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£ 701.00**

There are plenty of standing order forms available at the back of church. Please consider changing, not what you give, but how you give.

**PARISH LADIES' GUILD** - The Afternoon Tea tickets are now SOLD OUT.

Mass for all deceased Parish Ladies Guild members will be on Sunday 19th November 9.30am.

**PARISH CENSUS FORMS**

There are copies of the parish census forms available at the back of church. Please complete one if you have not already. Please also fill one in if your details have changed or if you have moved house. If I don't know where you live, you won't get a Christmas card,

**FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

Someone was asking me the other day about the prayers that we say after Low Mass during the week. These are called the 'Leonine' prayers and are made up of three Hail Mary's, the Hail Holy Queen, a prayer for the conversion of sinners and the liberty and exaltation of the Church, the St. Michael Prayer and a triple Invocation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

These prayers were initially introduced in 1859 by Blessed Pope Pius IX as the Papal States were under attack by the Italian revolutionaries, for the intention of protecting the Church in this crisis. By 1870 Rome had fallen and Pope Pius became a "prisoner" in the Vatican, no longer having a territorial state. And so began many years of tension in Rome, with the pope essentially under "house arrest." A little later in 1884 Pope Leo XIII decreed that these prayers be said by all Catholics after Mass, including the prayer to St Michael the Archangel that he had composed himself after he had a vision of demonic spirits, who were gathering on the Eternal City. Whatever happened during Pope Leo's vision, it prompted him to quickly compose the Prayer to St. Michael, and to request its use at the end of all Low Masses. Pope Leo XIII lived during particularly turbulent times, and he believed prayer was needed to dispel the darkness that hung over the world. These prayers were (foolishly) abolished in the 1960's.

Pope Leo knew that prayer is the most powerful and important tool that we have at our disposal in the fight against evil and since the time of his reign, nothing has changed. The existence of evil in the world is so plain for all of us to see. From the tragic war in Ukraine, to the ongoing bloodshed in the Holy Land, all of it is the work of the evil one. The devil loves chaos. Ever since his fall from Heaven, Satan seeks to divide the world. His first act was to divide the angels, which was followed-up by tempting Adam and Eve in the garden, driving a wedge between the first humans and God. Division is the devil's business and it shouldn't be surprising. The word "devil," comes from the Greek word *diabolos*, which can be translated as, "to divide," "to separate," or more literally, "to throw against." Whenever we see division occur in the world, especially division that pits one group against another, we can affirm that the devil is in some way behind it. He wants us to destroy ourselves and hatred against other people is one of the fastest ways we become the authors of our own demise.

The Lord on the other hand, desires only unity. Peace is a natural result of unity, and unity is a hallmark of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis was quite right this week talking about the conflict between Israel and Palestine when he said "War does not solve any problem, it only sows death and destruction, increases hatred and multiplies revenge. War erases the future ... I urge believers to take only one side in this conflict, that of peace, but not with words but with prayer and total dedication." As Catholics, that is the only side that we are to take in any conflict, the side of peace, anything else comes only from the Prince of Darkness.

In so many ways the world today is in a terrible state, but we are not helpless and we are certainly not hopeless. It is not enough to simply pray for peace, we must actively pray against evil and do all we can to eradicate the spirit of division from our own lives, the Church and the world. That work starts by praying the prayer to St Michael the Archangel like our lives depend on it...because they do.

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