



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

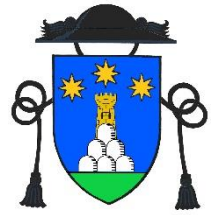
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

Presbytery: Clarence House, 2 Clarence Street, Halifax HX1 5DH

T: 01422 352141 E: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: 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:

A Private Intention



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 29 th OCTOBER	30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 1:30pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Shelia & Bryan Greenwood Peace in the Holy Land Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 30 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 31 st	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	The Woodhead Family
WEDNESDAY 1 st NOVEMBER	ALL SAINTS HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	7:00am 12:15pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish James Baldwin Kitty 'Nan' O'Connell
THURSDAY 2 nd	ALL SOULS DAY	7:00am 12:15pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Parish Dead List Parish Dead List Parish Dead List
FRIDAY 3 rd	Feria FUNERAL SERVICE	9:30am 11:30am	St Mary's St Mary's	Anthony Gregson Brenda Ellis
SATURDAY 4 th	St Charles Borromeo	12:15pm	St Mary's	Private Intention

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Judith McDonald

PLEASE PRAY FOR Brenda Ellis and all those who have died recently and for Canon Charles Leteux, Very Rev Peter Russell, Fr William Backhouse and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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, 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

Donor's Intentions, Thanksgiving (CM), May & George Poppleton, Thanksgiving Bino & Renju, Thanksgiving Jiana Varghese Exam Results, Thanksgiving (JS), Anthony Gregson, Alice Williams

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Parish Christmas party at Bertie's Crystal Ballroom in Elland on Thursday 7th 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

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 **THIS MONDAY** 30th 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 – 5TH NOVEMBER 2023

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

ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY - OPEN DAYS (for new parents to come and look round).

20th Nov 2023 1pm-3pm 28th Nov 2023 9am-12pm

PTFA NEWS Our Christmas Fayre will be Friday 8th Dec to be held at the school starting at 3.30pm at the end of the school day and finishing around 5.30pm/6pm. Donations for the chocolate tombola, bottle stall, cake stall and bric-a-brac/Christmas gift tombola all welcome. If anyone would like to volunteer for a stall too that would be greatly appreciated. You can contact the school PTFA

via email: PTFA@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or Joanna Binns on 07932 595955

200CLUB - If you are a 6 monthly subscriber to the 200 Club your subscription is now due.

The last day for this is 15th November Thank you for your continued support.

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.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was: **£730.20** The Second collection for Misso was **£205**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

November is the month when the Church asks us to pray especially for the faithful departed, and in doing so to reflect upon death. We may not relish contemplating our mortality, but doing so is an essential element of a well-lived life, a Christian life, realising that our life on earth will decide how we spend eternity. St Benedict in his Rule tells his monks, "Remember to keep death before your eyes daily". Cardinal Basil Hume, when abbot of Ampleforth, was asked once by a prospective parent what the school could offer his son, and replied that the school did not prepare boys for life, but for death. St Therese of Lisieux expressed the same sentiment in a different way: "The world is a beautiful bridge, but do not build your home on it".

Catholic tradition and culture has always kept death before our eyes, but the secular world — despite the ghouls, ghosts and skeletons of Halloween — has worked hard to bury death deeply in the vaults of history. Modern secular society just cannot deal with death, ignoring it, hiding it in hospitals and hospices, seeing it as an enemy that must be fought at almost any cost, an embarrassment. And the reason is fear. We fear what we cannot see — what we do not understand. It is the fear of the unknown, of what is hiding under the bed. When we are faced with fear, the natural tendency is to push it away: we pretend that death will not happen or that we can somehow cheat it.

There is a danger, however, in this cover-up. We forget one of the most profound truths of life: that it is finite. The death of a loved one will always be a terrible experience, and no amount of preparation will make the pain go away more quickly. But if we have lived a life of silence about death, if we have not thought about it, confronted it — even made friends with it — we are ill-equipped to deal with grief, to know what to do, or how to console others. We keenly sense that we are alone inside an experience that the world will not recognise and yet it is going to be experienced by everybody.

We can talk about death because we believe in the Lord who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live. Anyone who lives and believes in me, will never die". The Kingdom of God is not a place of fear, because it has been opened for us by a God who descended into the worst fears of human reality for our sake. He shared human pain and human fear. As we contemplate the fearful unknown of human death, he embraced it for us, that we might live in eternal life with him.

We can't ever be sure where someone has gone after death. The only people we can be certain about are canonised saints — those that the Church has declared definitively to be in heaven. That doesn't mean no one else is in heaven, it just means we're not sure where anyone else is yet. And so we must pray for them. If they are in heaven already and they don't need our prayers, the prayer is never wasted. And I'm sure that those saints repays our charity by praying for us in return. Purgatory could work perfectly well without us — in fact, surely, God could do all the work that needs to be done in purgatory better, more efficiently, and faster if He didn't choose to rely on us. But He gives real power to our prayers, because when we pray for the dead, it truly helps them. This gives our prayer real meaning, because the dead actively rely on our prayers in order to reach heaven. And so the work of purification taking place in purgatory is genuinely brought about with the participation of the Church on earth, by our love, our sacrifices, our Masses and our prayers.

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