





# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

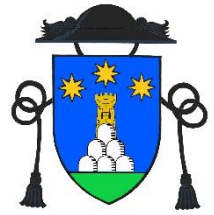
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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

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Website: [www.stmaryshalifax.com](http://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:

Fretty Jacob and 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 31 <sup>st</sup> DECEMBER	HOLY FAMILY	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish Fretty Jacob Polish Mass May & George Poppleton
MONDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2024	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	12 Noon	St Mary's	The Tate and Noble Family
TUESDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Basil and St Gregory	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmastide	9:30am	St Mary's	Denis Smyth
THURSDAY 4 <sup>th</sup>	Christmastide	9:30am	St Alban's	Wasył Lopusniak (A)
FRIDAY 5 <sup>th</sup>	Christmastide	9:30am	St Mary's	Bryan & Sheila Greenwood
SATURDAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christmastide	12:15pm	St Mary's	Deceased members of the Medisos Family

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
4:00pm	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
7:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Judith McDonald

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** all those who have died recently including Christine Blackburn and Zofia Kulyk and for Bishop John Briggs, Fr John Patrick Ruttledge and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**PRAYER LIST** Gerard James, 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, 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:**

Tate and Noble Family, Lilly Black RIP, Martin Flaherty, Anthony Gregson

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.

Date of next meeting - Monday 8th January 6 pm St Aban's Parish Room

If anyone would like to donate the Sort Code and Account Number are - 60-60-04 46086137

**THANK YOU**

A big 'thank you' from me and Deacon John for all of your kind cards, gifts and offerings. Your generosity is deeply moving and sincerely appreciated. Thank you!

**WEDNESDAY ROSARY ZOOM CODES**

From 15<sup>th</sup> November the new codes are ID: 724 2604 2240 Password: 9ErJMm

**CHOIR NEWS**

As we start a new year, it is a good time to consider if you would like to join us.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6pm until 7pm.

The next rehearsal is on January 10th. Any questions, have a chat with Tom.

**COME AND SEE MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP**

Mission Halifax invite you to a new monthly prayer group. Prayerful reflection, Adoration, praise & worship, and testimony, 7pm, Friday 12 January 2024. St Patrick's Church, Elland HX5 0PU. All welcome.

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£361.23**

Thank you to those who have switched to standing orders.

**EARLY MORNING MASS**

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal celebrate an early morning Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Bradford at 7.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. All welcome.

**ALTAR SERVERS**

We already have a fantastic team of altar servers in the parish but we are always looking to add to their number. If you or your child is interested in serving on the altar, please speak to me after Mass. No previous experience required, on the job training provided. Limited remuneration.

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

I'm having a week off. The following is an article by Dr Richard Clements:

Christmas should leave us speechless. No, not the parties, or the food, or the presents, or the decorations, or any of the other trappings of Christmas (although those are all very good things, of course), but rather the actual event we celebrate at Christmas: the Incarnation of the Word of God; the Son of God taking on human flesh in Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, we tend to take the Incarnation for granted, having celebrated so many Christmases over the years and having heard the Christmas story so many times. But if we take a little time to reflect deeply on the actual event of the Incarnation, we will hopefully find ourselves struck with genuine, speechless awe before the sheer profundity of this event, this event which brought about the unification of some of the deepest polarities of existence: the unification of the human with the divine; earth with heaven; time with eternity; the finite with the infinite—all in one person, the person of Jesus Christ.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge once said that the greatest unity the human mind can conceive is a unity of the finite and the infinite. In the Incarnation, that unity ceased being a mere concept and instead became an actual reality. In Jesus Christ, the finite and the infinite were united forever in a single human being. In Jesus Christ, *finitum capax infiniti*: the finite was made capable of the infinite. This pithy little Latin phrase provides not only a concise summary of the event of the Incarnation but also an encapsulation of the destiny that God intends for every one of us. The finite is capable of the infinite: in Jesus Christ, God has made us finite beings capable of the infinite, capable of participating in the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4). In Jesus Christ, God joined the infinite to the finite in order to make the finite capable of infinity. Jesus brings God to us so that we might then be taken into God—taken into a share in the divine life, which is the deepest desire of the human heart.

Jesus Christ is the one who tears away the chains of our slavery. Jesus Christ is the one who makes it possible for us to “break through to the mysterious depths that lurk behind this world.” Jesus Christ is the one who blazes a trail for us into the very life of God. And it's all offered to us as a gift. But instead of accepting this incredible gift with immense gratitude and love, what do we tend to do? Some of us seem inclined to reject the offer outright; others of us give, at best, only a partial acceptance, seeking to impose limits and conditions on our acceptance.

When it comes to the most important decision we will ever make in this life, we human beings tend to be ambivalent: we simultaneously desire a share in God's infinity while also fearing it. What would such a life be like? What will God ask of me? Will I be torn apart when God stretches my heart and my mind beyond anything I've ever known so that I might share as fully as possible in his infinity? Because of such fears, some of us choose to keep God at a distance. We choose to ignore his invitation to share in his divine life and love. We choose to avoid the demands and the risks of love and instead retreat into the seemingly safe, but ultimately cramped and unsatisfying, confines of our own ego.

Christmas reminds us that God came down to us in Jesus Christ so that we might be drawn up into the divine life forever. Christmas reminds us of God's gift to us of a share in his own infinity. Christmas invites us to the inexpressibly joyful “above and beyond” of the divine life. All we have to do is say yes to the gift and step out, in trust, into the infinite spaces of the divine Love. With God's help, *finitum capax infiniti*.

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