



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

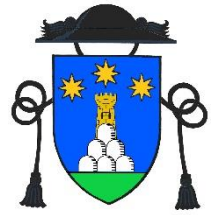
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

'Peace in Ukraine'



### 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 10 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Harry Gent, Purification Ferrer & Ligaya Balbalosa Anthony Gallagher (Sick) Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	11:00am	Liverpool Cathedral	Kevin Brook
WEDNESDAY 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>REQUIEM</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Patricia Reynolds</b>
THURSDAY 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am	St Alban's	Donor's Intentions
FRIDAY 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am 6:30pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Christopher Colleran Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lent <b>WEDDING</b>	12:15pm <b>1:30pm</b>	St Mary's St Mary's	Filip Makula Birthday Int. <b>Oldrich Strejc &amp; Helena Nistorova</b>

### READERS ROTA

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

**PRAYER LIST** David Stanton, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Suzanne Peaker, Larry Byrne, 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.

**DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS**

This will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March in St Mary's. Confessions will be heard by the clergy of the deanery from 9am – 4pm. Make sure you get to Confession before Easter.

**MASSES RECEIVED:**

Christopher & Edward Nobel, Michael Kennedy & John McHardy, Kathleen Wadsworth, Private Intention, Harry Gent, Purification Ferrer & Ligaya Balbalosa, Ariella Gonzalez (Confirmation Int.)

**LIVERPOOL TRIP**

Our day-trip to Liverpool is this Tuesday. The coach will leave from St Mary's at 8:50am and pick up from St Alban's on Huddersfield Road at 9:00am.

**DEANERY MARRIAGE COURSES**

These will take place at St Mary's after the 11.00am Sunday Mass (for 1 hour) after Easter over three weekends on 7th April, 14th April and 21st April 2024. All engaged couples intending to marry this year to contact Deacon John Walsh if they wish to attend. Attending a Marriage Course is a mandatory requirement for those intending to Marry in the Catholic Church.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

First Holy Communion will take place this year on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of May.  
Preparation classes will begin on 21<sup>st</sup> March from 5-6pm in St Mary's School Hall.  
If your child attends a non-Catholic school and wishes to enrol on the course please speak to Fr Hilton or contact Helen Mellor on: 07931998337

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.  
The next meeting of the SVP will be this **MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH** at 6 pm at St Alban's.

**WEDNESDAY 7:00PM ROSARY ZOOM MEETING**

The new codes for the Rosary Zoom are 727 04635293 and Password: J2EyxF

**PARISH LADIES GUILD**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14th March in St Alban's church hall at 7pm. As St Patrick's day is just around the corner, our evening will have an Irish theme. If you can, please wear something green.  
Tickets for the PARISH QUIZ are SOLD OUT.  
Raffle tickets are still on sale at the back of church and if anyone could donate prizes we would be very grateful.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

The next annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place Friday 5th – Thursday 11th July 2024. The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Marcus Stock and is being organised through Tangney Tours.  
I will be going on the pilgrimage and would be very pleased if we could take a group for the parish.  
More information and booking is available at  
<https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/leeds-lourdes>

## **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£619.32** Thank you to those who have switched to standing orders.  
Today there is a retiring collection for the work of Catholic Care

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, or more correctly, it is also referred to as *Laetare* Sunday. This comes from the first words of today's entrance antiphon 'Rejoyce Jerusalem' or in Latin '*Laetare Jerusalem*'. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent and a time of slight relief from all of your extreme and severe penances. Rather like the Third Sunday of Advent, '*Gaudete* Sunday', today is one of only two days a year when rose coloured vestments are worn. This colour symbolises joy and hope in the midst of our fasting and is a lighter shade of the Lenten penitential purple. Despite what you may have been told, the rose vestments are not worn because today is Mothering Sunday!

Mother's Day, however, is always kept on the fourth Sunday of Lent and you may find yourself wondering why this might be. This tradition has been around since medieval times. But this hasn't always been a day where we buy our mums flowers and cards and take them out for lunch. It was originally a day where people would visit their "mother" church. The mother church would have been the place where you were baptised: the local parish church or cathedral, to give thanks to God for your new birth by water and the Holy Spirit.

In more recent times people working in the service of others were given the day off to go and visit their mother church. This was usually something that people did as a whole family and was often one of the only chances for the family to get together. It then became part of the tradition for people to go and see their mothers on this day as well as go to their mother church. This eventually evolved into the current traditions of giving mothers gifts on Mothering Sunday.

Today is an important day to reflect on the role of mothers in our lives and to express gratitude for their love, sacrifice and guidance. Motherhood in our Catholic Tradition is a sacred and blessed vocation. St John Paul II called mothers "co-creators" with God, participating in His divine plan of bringing new life into the world. And so today serves as a timely reminder of the sanctity of life and of the family unit.

We know, of course, that not everyone has had a positive experience of motherhood or of being mothered and it is absolutely right that we also celebrate and honour the mother-figures in our lives who have played that role for us, and indeed, that we pray for and remember our mothers who have died and gone before us.

No matter what our experience of mothers has been, above all else, today we give thanks for the maternal love and protection that we all enjoy from the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and mother of us all. She was given to us by Our Lord as He hung upon the Cross and she will never let us down. Let us not forget to offer Our Lady a spiritual bouquet, in gratitude for the innumerable graces that she obtains for us from her Son.

*'Thou art clement, thou art chaste, Mary, thou art fair; of all mothers sweetest, best, none with thee compare.'*

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