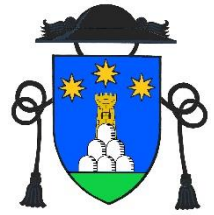




# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

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](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:

Filomena & Jan Moska



### 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 17 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	5 <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	Kathleen Wadsworth Christopher & Edward Noble Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 19 <sup>th</sup>	St Joseph	7:00pm 7:30pm	St Alban's St Alban's	Fr Sean Elliott Ordination Ann. Stations of the Cross
WEDNESDAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Michael Child
THURSDAY 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lent	9:30am	St Alban's	John Howley
FRIDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lent	9:30am 6:30pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Maureen Woodhouse Stations of the Cross and Benediction
SATURDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent	12:15pm	St Mary's	Fr Frank Flynn RIP

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Paul Coates

**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 this coming 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:**

Private Intention x 4, Thanksgiving (CM), Holy Souls in Purgatory, Michael Child, Moya Andrew, Vic Toolan, Patricia Reynolds

**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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Bernard Coates and all who have died recently and for Fr Peter Ward and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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

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

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.  
If anyone would like to donate the Sort Code and Account Number are - 60-60-04 086137

**HALIFAX CATHOLIC MEMORIAL CLUB**

Weekly events - Sunday evening bingo, and Monday quiz night  
(Please note new regular start time of 8.30pm).

New teams welcome.

A reminder that annual subs are due to be paid by the end of March - £15 to renew, £20 for new

**PARISH LADIES GUILD**

Tickets for the PARISH QUIZ are SOLD OUT.  
Raffle tickets for the Quiz Night are still on sale at the back of church and if anyone could donate prizes we would be very grateful.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

I'd be grateful if 12 people would agree to have their feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper.  
List at the back of church.

**UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

Next Sunday there will be a second collection to raise money for flowers and decorating the church at Easter.  
On Holy Thursday night at the Mass of the Lord's Supper we will collect the Lenten Alms for Aid to the Church in Need.  
On Good Friday there will be the annual collection for Christians in the Holy Land.

## **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was: **£733.72**  
Thank you to those who have switched to standing orders.

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

I can't quite believe it but this Sunday we have arrived at Passiontide already, Ash Wednesday seems like a distant memory and as soon as you entered church this morning, you will have noticed that all of the statues and images are once again veiled in purple cloth. So why is it that we cover the church at this time of year? What's it about?

First of all, we use veils to alert us to the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different and not quite right. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready. They offer an outward and visible reminder of the penitential nature of the season. The veils obscure from our vision the beautiful and holy images that inform our life of worship and in doing so remind us that our sinful nature has obscured our vision of God's truth. The veils, therefore, call us to repentance.

Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative next Sunday and on Good Friday, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the drama of the scene.

Thirdly, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further realised when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding our beautiful images, and therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled. The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through salvation that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

Just as Our Blessed Lord was during His passion and His body in the tomb were veiled in ignominy, scars, bruises, and linen cloths, so we hide the beautiful images of our church from our eyes. Christ's glory was veiled in suffering, and so our Lenten penance takes on another kind of abstinence, an abstaining from beauty, in order to call this to mind and to make the light of Easter all the more splendid.

Today you should have received a supplement to the bulletin with all the details of the Holy Week ceremonies and a description of the significance of each day. Please don't leave these in church. Take them home, read them and most importantly take note of them. Next Sunday begins the most important and momentous week of the whole year. At this time, when the world is so divided and in danger of war and conflict, the Lord calls us to walk with Him on His journey to Calvary and over the hill to the garden of the resurrection. Unless you have something that you really can't avoid, please make every effort to attend the Easter Triduum, nothing else could be more important. And bring someone with you, a friend or family member, especially if they are lapsed. Now more than ever, the world needs prayer and we need to acknowledge the wonders that God has worked for us in the passion death and resurrection of His Son.

I hope that you have had a good Lent so far... let's keep going, not long now.

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