



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

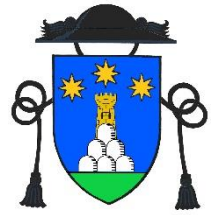
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

Intentions of Agnes  
Doneghy



### 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

## HOLY WEEK

SUNDAY 24 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	Palm Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Kevin 'Meggy' Megson Brenda McLaughlin Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week	10:00am 10:30-11	St Mary's St Mary's	Christine Blackburn Confessions
TUESDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week	10:00am 10:30-11 <b>12 Noon</b>	St Alban's St Alban's St Mary's	David Costello 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Confessions <b>Requiem Mass Kathleen Hirst</b>
WEDNESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	Spy Wednesday	11:00am	Leeds Cathedral	Chrism Mass with Bishop Stock
THURSDAY 28 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday	<b>7:00pm</b>	St Mary's	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> (Marshal Louie Flores)
FRIDAY 29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday	10-11am <b>3:00pm</b> 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions <b>Celebration of the Passion of the Lord</b> Stations of the Cross & Veneration of the relic of the True Cross
SATURDAY 30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Saturday	3-4pm <b>7:00pm</b>	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions <b>Solemn Easter Vigil</b>
SUNDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup>	Easter Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Brenda Wadsworth People of the Parish Polish Mass <b>NO EVENING MASS</b>

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Claire Tighe (former Teacher at St Mary's), Denise Whitworth, Ken Lambert and all who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**PRAYER LIST** Angela Payne, 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.

**MASSES RECEIVED:** Claire Tighe RIP, Ken Lambert, Aldona Murkiene & Ariana Murskaitie, Denise Whitworth RIP, Patricia Reynolds.

**SERVER'S PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK**

There will be TWO rehearsals for altar servers to go through the Holy Week ceremonies. 11am on Maundy Thursday at St Mary's AND 11am on Holy Saturday at St Mary's  
Please attend both rehearsals.

**EASTER OFFERINGS**

The Collection taken at the Easter Vigil and the Easter Masses is your personal gift to the parish priest. Along with the Christmas offering, it forms a very significant proportion of our annual taxable income. Donations can be made in the collection, on the card machine and directly through the bank account. Please mark bank offerings, "Easter". All offerings can be gift aided, and the gift-aid is retained by the Parish. Bank Details - St Marys - 21023225 - 40-27-15

**READERS ROTA**

Palm Sunday: Isaac Mellor, Malcolm Brown, Paul Coates  
Easter Sunday: Rachel Fitzpatrick, Wendy Balahura, NO 6PM MASS  
Low Sunday/Divine Mercy Sunday: Lily Hymas, Nicholas Aigbogun, Judith MacDonald

**MASS WITH BISHOP STOCK 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Bishop Stock will visit the Parish to celebrate Mass at St Mary's at 7:00pm. At this Mass he will confer the Ministry of Acolyte upon Paul Coates.  
(The final minor order on Paul's journey to ordination as a deacon)  
At this Mass, His Lordship will also bless the new crucifix outside St Mary's for us.  
The Mass and blessing will be followed by a buffet in the Catholic Club.  
Please put this date in your diary and come along to support Paul.

**EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS**

I will be offering traditional Easter House Blessings with the new Easter water blessed at the Vigil. This can take place any time between Easter Sunday and Ascension Thursday. Please send your details to [office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk) or call the presbytery on 01422 352141 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

The next meeting will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6PM in St Alban's Parish Room.

**EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION**

There will be a collection after Mass today towards flowers for the altar.

**POLISH BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD**

Święconka will take place in St Mary's on Holy Saturday at 8:30am and again at 9:15am

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS:** Last week's loose collection was: **£633.79**

Standing orders approx.: **£556.50**

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

And suddenly it is Holy Week... I suspect that for some of us it comes as rather a relief. We might be a bit fed up of our Lenten penances, or at least finding that the zeal with which we entered into Lent is somewhat lagging by now. Such is the difficulty of long preparations — we can easily lose sight of why we began it at all in the first place. So Holy Week comes as an almighty wake up call, another opportunity for us at last to get things right with God, and put our life with him on track again. This week lets us focus on the only thing that, in the end, and certainly at The End, really matters — and that is God and our life with Him.

Holy Week begins today, but with the Sacred Triduum just around the corner we still have time to prepare: in a practical way by trying to shift a few things in our diary so we can be with the Lord in the liturgies of these days, but also by that best preparation of making our confession if we haven't done so recently already, and there is plenty of opportunity for that this week!

We come then to the beginning of the Sacred Triduum when we are invited into the intimacy of the life of Christ and His disciples. On Maundy Thursday, during the Passover He shares with them, He gives them the new commandment: to love one another as He has loved us. And then He institutes those two signs of His great love for us: the Eucharist and the Priesthood. Those two signs are rooted in His love but a love which is founded upon sacrifice. So to prepare for the sacrifice of His own life, the shedding of His blood which will take away our sins, the Lord goes to Gethsemane to pray to His Father. And we follow Him there, and in our watching before the Altar of Repose we try so very hard to stay awake and watch with Him, if only for an hour, to give Him all the time we can in that moment, as He prepared to pour out His life for ours.

And then He is taken from us and the church is strangely empty. "*Oh come and mourn with me awhile*". Though we lose sight of Him we do not cease to look for Him and we follow Him to Calvary on Good Friday. Whilst those around us may have fled to other distractions, we stand with Mary beside the Cross of Christ to witness the greatest act of love anyone will ever make for us, with the Solemn Liturgy of the Passion. And if we can say nothing to Him at all when confronted with the enormity of our sins, surpassed only by the enormity of His love, we might at least come to tell Him 'thank you': thank you for dying for me and for loving me, by bending down and placing a kiss of gratitude and love upon His Holy Cross.

On Holy Saturday when He lies in the tomb we mourn amidst the stillness and the silence that is unique to this day when the church is totally empty, but knowing that we do so in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection. As darkness falls, we gather together to witness the light that that shines in the darkness, once again kindled, as He bursts from the grave and we are redeemed. We read the scriptures in the light of the Risen One and new Catholics are brought to birth by water and the Holy Spirit. The lights are flung on, the bells are rung, the water is blessed and the world is changed forever.

Then at last it is morning, and everything appears to be different, because He has changed it. On Easter Sunday morning, everything we have been doing for the last few days suddenly makes sense. The Lord is risen from the tomb and death has been destroyed forever. On this most happy morning we no longer have anything to be afraid of. Our joy is complete as the Lord, in His glorified body, wanders through the garden and says to us "Go and tell them that I have risen... just as I said I would".

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