



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

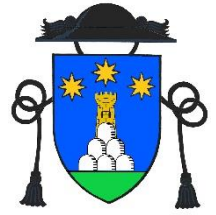
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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

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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:

Simon Whitworth RIP



### 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  
See the priest after Mass

The month of January is dedicated to: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

SUNDAY 5 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish Zofia Kulyk (A) Marshal Louie Flores
MONDAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christmastide	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christmastide	7:00pm	St Alban's	Simon Whitworth (A)
WEDNESDAY 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmastide	9:30am 2:15pm	<b>St Mary's</b> <b>School Hall</b>	Dec. Memb. Brennan Fam. Yorkshire Brethren
THURSDAY 9 <sup>th</sup>	Christmastide	9:30am	St Alban's	Sheila Greenwood
FRIDAY 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>REQUIEM</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Paul Griffin</b>
SATURDAY 11 <sup>st</sup>	Christmastide	12:15pm	St Mary's	Cissie & Cecil Wills R.I.P.
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Andrea Woodward	11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

**PRAYER LIST:** Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, David Stanton, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Larry Byrne, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, Rita Baxendale, Michael McDonnell 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 visit can be arranged.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Paul Griffin Requiem Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 10:00am St Mary's  
Rosalie (Prairie) Curran Requiem Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 12 Noon St Mary's

**MASSES RECEIVED:**

Joe Riddeal, Maureen Riddeal, The Gray Family

**READERS AT SUNDAY EVENING MASS**

We could do with a few more volunteers to read at the 6pm Mass. If you would be willing to help with this please let me know and we can put you on the rota.

**S.V.P.**

Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January at 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Room

**REJOICE IN HOPE**

Next meeting of praise, worship and teaching will be in St Mary's at 7pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**THE POLISH MASS AT ST MARY'S**

I know that some of you from time to time attend the Polish Mass. Please note that this Mass is no longer held on a Sunday and from now on will be a Saturday Vigil Mass of Sunday taking place at 4:00pm every week in St Mary's.

**VOLUNTEERS**

To help me take the Christmas tree down and dispose of it after the 11:00am Mass next Sunday would be very much appreciated,

**JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME**

I've been contacted by our tour operator to let me know that the pilgrimage is almost full. Before I start to offer places to other priests for their parishioners, if anyone else would like to join us, please let me know before the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

**OPEN INFORMATION SESSION ON THE DIACONATE:**

Are you inquisitive about the Ministry of a Deacon? Then you are invited to attend an open Information session at Hinsley Hall on Saturday 8 February, 10.30am – 12pm. For more information and to register please contact david.arblaster@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

**CATHOLIC CLUB**

Thank you to all who have supported the Catholic Club this year. Subscriptions are now due for 2025. £15 for existing members, £20 for new members. Please continue to include the club in your plans. Wishing all members new and old a very Happy New Year.

**SCHOOL MASS**

Mass on Wednesday afternoon is in St Mary's School Hall. All welcome.

## **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£834.90** Total Approx. **£1625.40** (Inc. standing orders & card)

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany today and we recall the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus it's a good opportunity to think about one of the gifts that they brought to Him – Incense. The gift that symbolised that the small baby lying in the manger before them was in fact, the great God of Heaven and Earth.

The word “incense” is derived from the Latin *incendere*, which means “to burn”. It is commonly used as a noun to describe aromatic matter that releases fragrant smoke when ignited, to describe the smoke itself, and as a verb to describe the process of distributing the smoke.

Incense was a highly valuable commodity in ancient times. A gift of incense was something to be prized. The trading of incense and spices provided the economic basis for the famed 1,500-mile-long Middle Eastern Incense Route, which flourished from the third century BC to the second century AD. The use of incense in religious worship predates Christianity by thousands of years. First in the East (circa 2000 BC in China with the burning of cassia and sandalwood, etc.), and later in the West, incense use has long been an integral part of many religious celebrations. Incense is noted in the Hebrew law, and the Bible mentions incense 170 times. The use of incense in Jewish temple worship continued well after the establishment of Christianity and certainly influenced our use of incense in liturgical celebrations.

The earliest documented history of using incense during a Catholic sacrificial liturgy comes from the Eastern branch of the Church. The rituals of the Divine Liturgies of Saint James and Saint Mark dating from the 5<sup>th</sup> century include the use of incense. In the Western Church, the 7<sup>th</sup> century *Ordo Romanus VIII* of Saint Amand mentions the use of incense on Good Friday and scholars believe that incensing the book of Gospels during Mass began around the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The use of incense within the liturgy continued to be developed over many years into what we are familiar with today.

Why then do we use incense as we do? In the Old Testament God commanded His people to burn incense (e.g., Exodus 30:7, 40:27). Incense is a sacramental used to venerate, bless, and sanctify. Its smoke conveys a sense of mystery and awe. It is a reminder of the sweet-smelling presence of our Lord. Its use adds a feeling of solemnity to the Mass. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell reinforce the transcendence of the Mass linking Heaven with Earth, allowing us to enter into the presence of God. The smoke symbolises the burning zeal of faith that should consume all Christians, while the fragrance symbolises Christian virtue. Incensing may also be viewed in the context of a “burnt offering” given to God. In the Old Testament animal offerings were partially or wholly consumed by fire. In essence, to burn something was to give it to God.

The great liturgist and theologian Monsignor Romano Guardini once wrote: The offering of an incense is a generous and beautiful rite. The bright grains of incense are laid upon the red-hot charcoal, the thurible is swung, and the fragrant smoke rises in clouds. In the rhythm and the sweetness there is a musical quality; and like music also is the entire lack of practical utility: it is a prodigal waste of precious material. It is a pouring out of unwithholding love.

This unwithholding love is gift that we too can bring the baby Jesus. “I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what can I give him? Give my heart”.

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 TBC