



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

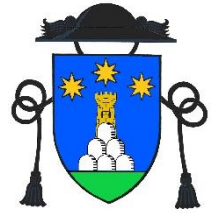
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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

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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:

Mary Hargreaves' Int.



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 12 th MAY	7 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Chris & Dominick Colleran Gloria Early Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 13 th	Our Lady of Fatima	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 14 th	St Matthias Apostle	9:00am	St Alban's	Maureen Woodhouse
WEDNESDAY 15 th	May Service	7:00pm	St Mary's	Marian Devotions
THURSDAY 16 th	REQUIEM	1:45pm	St Mary's	Gerard Newham
FRIDAY 17 th	Easter FUNERAL	9:30am 11:30am	St Mary's St Mary's	Private Intention (BB) Graham Ogilvie
SATURDAY 18 th	Easter	12:15pm	St Mary's	Paul Connolly (A)

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Shaun Sanju	11:00am	First Holy Communion Children
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

PRAYER LIST Frank Behan, Angela Payne, 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 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:
Brian Wilkinson and Patricia Mallinson who have died recently.

MASSES RECEIVED:
Private Intention, Brian Wilkinson x 5, Alice Williams (A), Private Intention, Elaine Brennan

MAY DEVOTION
In honour of our Blessed Lady, in this her month of May, there will be a special Marian Service this Wednesday 15th May at 7:00pm in St Mary's. This will not be a Mass, but a liturgy of traditional hymns to Our Lady, prayers for our parish, our families and the world concluding with Benediction.
The Holy Rosary is also recited every Saturday afternoon after the lunchtime Mass.
During the month of May, please considering buying a bunch of flowers and bringing them to church for Our Lady's altar.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK
I will be attending the annual diocesan conference for priests in Leeds this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. As such the times of Masses has had to be altered. Please note too, the times of funerals.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
Our children will be making their First Holy Communion next Sunday at the 11:00am Mass. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

THE HOMELESS PASTORS
Today we welcome Peter Chapple to Mass to speak to us about the work of the 'Homeless Pastors' in and around Halifax.

NEW LECTIONARIES
From the first Sunday of Advent this year, the translation of the scriptures that are used at Mass celebrated in English will change. As such every parish is required to buy a set of new 'Lectionaries'. These are the books that we read the scriptures from. Since we have two churches in the parish we will need two sets. The total cost of the new books (8 Volumes) will be £1517. If you would like to contribute to the cost in memory of a loved one, please speak to me after Mass.

TRIP TO MANCHESTER'S HIDDEN GEM
The next day trip will be on Thursday 6th of June to the church of St Mary in Manchester city centre. Also known as the 'Hidden Gem', St Mary's has recently won an award from TripAdvisor and dates back to 1794. The coach will leave our own St Mary's at 10:30am picking up at St Alban's on the way. We will join the parish for Mass in Manchester at 12:30 and followed by free time for lunch and shopping. The coach will return from Manchester at 4:00pm. Tickets £20 per head. All welcome.
Sign up as usual at the back of church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
If you require the services of the SVP please call 07512 011 440.
Date of next meeting - Tuesday 21st May 6 p.m. in St Alban's Parish Room
AND we will be holding a cake sale on Sunday 2nd June after 0930 and 1100 masses.
Any baking will be gratefully received. Thank you.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£564.07** Total Approx. **£1226.07** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Standing Orders for April came to: **£2488**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

There is no better way for us to honour our Heavenly Queen during her month of May, or indeed any time, than by praying the Holy Rosary. One of my great heroes, Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote a famous book on Our Lady entitled, *The World's First Love*, in that book he offers us five reasons why we should pray the Rosary:

Firstly, growth in the knowledge of God. In his book, he wrote, "If you wish to convert anyone to the fullness of the knowledge of Our Lord and of His Mystical Body, then teach him the rosary." The Rosary offers a meditative prayer on the mysteries of Christ's life as experienced in the Gospels. It invites us to better know and love Christ by entering into meditations on His birth, daily life, Passion, death, and Resurrection.

Secondly, an increase in concentration. The Rosary provides us not only with the gift of meditative prayer but also an opportunity for vocal prayer. Sheen wrote, "Concentration is impossible when the mind is troubled; thoughts run helter-skelter; a thousand and one images flood across the mind; distracted and wayward, the spiritual seems a long way off. The rosary is the best therapy for these distraught, unhappy, fearful, and frustrated souls, precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers: the physical, the vocal, and the spiritual, and in that order."

Thirdly, help in overcome worries and anxieties. Very few people live free from anxieties and worries. Sheen wrote: "No normal mind yet has been overcome by worries or fears who was faithful to the rosary. You will be surprised how you can climb out of your worries, bead by bead, up to the very throne of the Heart of Love itself." Through the Rosary, Jesus can speak into our hearts, saying the words He spoke to Martha: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about so many things, but one thing is necessary".

Fourthly, it is an outward and inward sign of our love of God. For Sheen, repetition emphasized a point and was not simply done mindlessly. He wrote, "The mind is infinitely variable in its language, but the heart is not. The heart of a man, in the face of a woman he loves, is too poor to translate the infinity of his affection into a different word. So the heart takes one expression, 'I love you,' and in saying it over and over again, it never repeats. That is what we do when we say the Rosary—we are saying to God, the Trinity, to the Incarnate Saviour, to the Blessed Mother: 'I love you, I love you, I love you.'" How often do we tell God that we love Him?

Finally, it allows us to sanctify the entire day. Sheen wrote that the Rosary could help us do this: "All the idle moments of one's life can be sanctified, thanks to the Rosary. As we walk the streets, we pray with the Rosary hidden in our hand or in our pocket. . . . All these moments can be sanctified and made to serve inner peace, thanks to a prayer that enables one to pray at all times and under all circumstances." It only takes a few minutes to pray a single decade of the Rosary. We can say a decade while we drive to work, as we walk to the shops, as we vacuum the carpet, as we queue to get a coffee, etc. Through the Rosary, we can sanctify not only the best moments of our day, but also the idle and seemingly mundane ones as well.

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) again by Wednesday evening. The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Clare O'Neill (07792147620 psr.coneill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404