



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

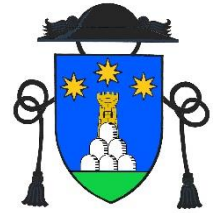
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

Derek Shotton 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

SUNDAY 19 th MAY	Pentecost Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Brian Wilkinson Gordon Smith (A) Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 20 th	Mary Mother of the Church	9:30am	St Mary's	James Baldwin
TUESDAY 21 st	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Nigel Stock RIP
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Thanksgiving (HD)
THURSDAY 23 rd	Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest	11:30am	Leeds Cathedral	Celebration of Priesthood
FRIDAY 24 th	FUNERAL SERVICE	1:00pm	St Mary's	Patricia Mallinson
SATURDAY 25 th	St Bede the Venerable	12:15pm	St Mary's	Betty and Mary Budds

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	First Holy Communion Children	11:00am	Kieron Green
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Paul Coates

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:

Derek Shotton and Thomas Ullah who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Gerard Newham RIP x 2, Derek Shotton RIP, Wasyl & Angelina Boruszenko, Benjamin D'Souza, James Baldwin, Private Intention

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

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.

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.
There will be memorial plaques in the front of each book to record the names of donors and those who are to be remembered.

MEN'S ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

Someone mentioned to me recently that although our parish has a very active and well supported Ladies Guild who do all sorts of good work, there is very little for men in the parish. Therefore, I propose to begin a monthly Men's Rosary and Benediction, starting Wednesday 5th of June at 7:00pm in St Mary's.
Devotions will be followed by drinks in the Catholic Club.
This is open to all men of the parish and an opportunity to pray, meet and mix with other Catholics.
If there is sufficient interest, down the line, we could look at founding a chapter of St Joseph's Men's Guild in the parish.

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.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£532.79** Total Approx. **£1194.79** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Standing Orders for April came to: **£2488**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Are you happy? I mean, are you really happy? Are you at peace?

With the state that the world is in at the moment, with so much violence and uncertainty around it can be very easy to have our peace and indeed, our happiness disturbed. So many people today are searching for answers and trying to make sense of our rapidly changing world that they look for solutions in all sorts of places and are ultimately and inevitably left disappointed and empty. You only have to look at the recent Eurovision song contest, allegedly a celebration of peace, love and the brotherhood of man, to gain an insight into the modern secular psyche. This was best expressed by the disgraceful and openly satanic act offered by Ireland, that once great land of scholars and Saints, being cheered on by the crowds, celebrating everything that is evil, ugly and sad. No wonder rates of depression and anxiety are at such all times highs if our light entrainment that is meant to distract us from the pressures and difficulties of modern life is a screaming witch setting fire to pentagrams. Poor girl.

The trouble is, that so many of us chase after what we think will bring us happiness, and what we fail to realise is that not only are we climbing up the wrong ladder, we have actually placed it against the wrong wall all together. Of course, we all like to be happy, its a nice feeling, but it's very shallow and always fleeting. As Christians what we are called to is something far more profound, a peace that the world cannot give and that is a life of joy. Happiness is a puddle that quickly dries up when difficulty and tragedy strike, compared to the deep ocean of joy that Jesus offers to us if we take the plunge and decide to follow Him, cross and all.

That is what the Christian life boils down to, it's a choice, a radical decision to follow the Lord wherever He may lead and place our hope and confidence in Him alone. We are supposed to like 'choice' these days, we all like to have as many options available to us as possible in all areas of life. And yet, we so often avoid making choices. People avoid getting married, fewer and fewer consider the priesthood, people avoid long term contracts and always look for the option to 'cancel anytime'. Making a choice nowadays is perceived as limiting our freedom - the ultimate modern heresy. If we fail to ever make a decision or a choice, however, we fail to ever live at all.

So many avoid making the choice for Jesus and conjure up all sorts of excuses as to why they can not follow Him, because they fear that this choice will lead to a life of curtailed freedom and guilt. We know, of course, that the opposite is true. The great irony is, that in this ever increasingly secular world, it is guilt that reigns supreme. We feel guilty for not having the best job, we feel guilty about not giving the kids a holiday as good as their friends had, we feel guilty because we are too fat or too ugly or not big enough, we feel guilty for not being as popular as the next person. Etc... The secular world is run on and feeds off of guilt.

The only one who can bring us true freedom and concretely set us free of our guilt and shame, is the Lord Jesus Christ. Meaningful and lasting Joy is found the knowledge that each of us is of infinite value to God and is deeply and eternally loved by Him. That love in which He holds us is the key to our eternal destiny. Amid the passing difficulties and tragedies of this fallen world we have a hope that can never be extinguished. Hope, remember, is not optimism. Optimism is thinking that things will turn out okay. True hope is the confident expectation in what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness.

Unless we make the choice for Jesus, we maybe momentarily happy but joy will elude us forever.

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