



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

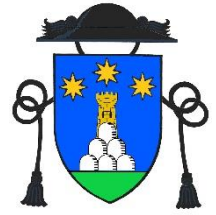
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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

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Website: www.stmaryshalifax.com

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:

Pat and Wilf Burke



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 9 th JUNE	10 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Moya Andrew RIP People of the Parish Polish Mass 'Holy Souls in Purgatory'
MONDAY 10 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 11 th	St Barnabas	7:00pm	St Alban's	Brian Diggins
WEDNESDAY 12 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Gloria Early
THURSDAY 13 th	St Anthony of Padua	9:30am	St Alban's	Thanksgiving (CM)
FRIDAY 14 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Grace Walsh (A)
SATURDAY 15 th	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Joanne Kirby RIP

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Lily Hymas
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Lettie Damolo
6:00pm	Bernard Corcoran	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

PRAYER LIST Mary Staden, 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.

MASSES RECEIVED:
Michael & Timothy Child, Mrs Chris Hayes

COME & SEE
Mission Halifax invite you to 'Come & See' – a monthly prayer group. Adoration, praise & worship, prayer, and opportunity for social time following. All welcome. Friday 14th June, 7pm, St Patricks Church, Elland, HX5 0PU.

S.V.P.
Date of next meeting - Tuesday 11th June 6 pm in St Alban's Parish room.

THIS SUNDAY – SPECIAL MASS
The 11:00am Mass this Sunday will be offered for all of our young people who have celebrated Sacraments for the first time this year. After Mass we will process down the street with a statue of Our Lady to the Catholic Club where there will be a buffet and party. All welcome.

PARISH LADIES GUILD
The next meeting of the Parish Ladies Guild is on Thursday 13th June at 7pm in St Alban's church hall. We have a guest speaker from "Project Colt". This is an organisation based in Elland which supports individuals to live their lives addiction free. Please support this speaker by attending and if possible bring along a guest, male or female.

JOBS AND VACANCIES AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL
Site Manager (Closing Date - 3rd June 2024) – Full Time - £26,421 - £28,770
Cleaner (Closing Date 14th June 2024) – Part Time - £7,556
Nurture and Safeguarding Officer (Closing Date - 3rd June 2024) – Part Time - £15,617 - £17,006
SEND Support Assistant (Closing Date - 3rd June 2024) – Full Time - £16,074 - £16,074
Please contact the School office for further details: 01422 362365

BETHLEHEM CARE TRUST UPDATE
We are all aware of the continuing suffering of the people in the Holy Land. It is more important than ever that we support those who are dying with dignified end of life care. Bethlehem Care Trust is a Catholic charity which provides palliative care to people of all faiths or none. All funds go to the provision of doctors, nurses and medical staff to provide this essential care. However, these funds are limited and depend wholly on your generosity. Without this service only the wealthy can access palliative care in the Holy Land.
To provide continuing support to the Bethlehem Care Trust, we have launched a "£10 a Bed Challenge" to raise £5000 (of which over £1000 has already been raised). If you are able to support this worthy cause please contribute after Mass at the back of Church where someone will be available to gratefully receive your donation. Alternatively there is a Just Giving page online which you can access at:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/caroline-walsh-1710784375026>

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS
Last week's loose collection was **£668.77** Total Approx. **£1330.77** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Standing Orders for April came to: **£2488**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The other day I came across a song on YouTube called “Important” by a man named Ian McConnell. It had an incredibly catchy tune and the first verse goes like this “*I’m pretty sure that life doesn’t have a meaning. And if there’s a god then he doesn’t look like me. And I’m just a member of the current apex species. But there will be another when the humans go extinct...*” and then we get to the chorus “*I’m not important, and neither are you, so let’s do whatever we wanna do. Bask in our cosmic insignificance, soak up this blip we’re livin’ in. Cause nothing matters anyway. Isn’t that great?*”

McConnell describes the song as an expression of “optimistic nihilism”, which is a philosophy that has become prevalent in the western world over the last 70 years. Nihilism is the rejection of all religious and moral principles, in the belief that life is ultimately without purpose or meaning and as devoid of any value. He describes this view as optimistic, claiming that life being meaningless allows us to pursue our own self-interest without worrying about other people or the consequences of our actions. And what struck me most was the number (hundreds) of comments underneath the video thanking him for the song and saying how people had found it reassuring, comforting and inspiring. The fact that so many people seemed to enjoy this song and found it so reassuring is a depressing but unsurprising sign of the times.

Nihilism as a philosophy is inherently anti-human and we are witnessing the results and consequences of this approach now more than ever. War and violence are anti-human activities as is the development of nuclear weapons, not to mention threats to actually use them. The current push we see in the media to normalise and introduce euthanasia, again is anti-human. The transgender movement, anti-human. The extreme end of the environmental movement, is deeply anti-human to the point of calling for a reduction in the population for the sake of the earth. Artificial intelligence, again something we are supposed to believe is for our benefit, at its core, is anti-human.

Nihilism serves perfectly the agenda of big businesses who want our lives to revolve around consumerism. The same is true of corrupt officials and ultimately of the author of all antihumanism himself, the evil one. The church has always been a threat to these people because we proclaim the glorious truth, the unchanging and absolute truth that all human life is of infinite value and that life is full of purpose and meaning. We have been created by Almighty God, out of love and in His image. This is the truth that changes the entire way we should view the world and each other. To be anti-human is to be anti-God.

So many people ask the question what is the meaning of life? And yet we have the answer. The only answer. “God made me to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.” This is the truth that assures our inalienable dignity. This is the truth that liberates us the tyranny of nihilism. Even through the darkest moments of our life, The Lord is always by our side and cares deeply about the minutia of our lives. Yes, the universe is enormous and we are but specs of dust and yet the scriptures tell us that every hair on our head has been counted, the Lord chose us before we were born and has destined us in love to live with Him in Christ.

The song ‘*Important*’ implies that it’s arrogant to suggest that world has been made for us and we are somehow special or unique in the universe. That is exactly what God has revealed to us. You are special, you are unique, you bear the image of Almighty God in your immortal soul and you are deeply loved.

The notion that humanity is somehow bad and a danger or a problem that has to be dealt with is evil and must be rejected.

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 jbcodes@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