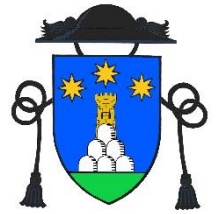




THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

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
 T: 01422 352141 E: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
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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:

A Private Intention



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

SUNDAY 21 st JULY	16 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	Pat Sammon John McKenzie R.I.P. Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 22 nd	St Mary Magdalen	9:30am	St Mary's	Wasył & Angelina Boruszenko
TUESDAY 23 rd	St Bridget of Sweden	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 24 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Private Intention
THURSDAY 25 th	St James the Apostle	9:30am	St Alban's	Brian Wilkinson R.I.P.
FRIDAY 26 th	Ss Joachim and Anne	9:30am	St Mary's	Denise Whitworth R.I.P.
SATURDAY 27 th	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Florence O'Sullivan

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Greg Finn	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: Mary Staden, Frank Behan, 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:

Mrs J Fawson, Private Intention, John Davis RIP, Maria Mithrush, Tanya Mithrush, Nicky Mithrush, Domingo & Jesuine Mithrush, Nicola & Danielle Corbett

CHURCH CLEANING

The next clean of St Mary's will be on Wednesday after the 9:30am Mass. Please come along if you can.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWS

The School has now closed for the Summer Holiday. We wish all the Pupils, Staff, Counsellors and Helpers a peaceful and restful break.
At this time we remember our Year 6 children who are moving on to Secondary Education, please pray for them as they take this next step forward in their education and development.
Three of our non-teaching staff are retiring. We wish Mrs Pollard, Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Lyn Varley every happiness for the future. It is worth noting that these three ladies have worked and been dedicated to St Mary's for a (combined) total of 69 years!

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

After the success of the first Northern Soul night, there is another one on Friday 26th July. £3 entry - all welcome.
Every week - Bingo on Sunday, Quiz Night on Monday.

MEN'S ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

The next men's Rosary and Benediction will take place on Thursday 25th July 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 you came along last time, why not bring a friend too.

PARISH TRIP TO USHAW COLLEGE AND DURHAM

Our next day trip will take place on Thursday 29th August and will take us to the historic city of Durham and to the nearby Ushaw College, the former seminary of the Northern Province. We depart around 9am picking up at St Mary's and St Alban's. We will then arrive in time for a tour of Ushaw and its grounds, where we will celebrate Mass together. The coach will then take us into Durham where we will visit the ancient Cathedral and then there will be a couple of hours free to have some lunch and explore the town. There is a £10 entrance for the college and tour and this is included in the trip price of £25 per person. Sign up, as ever, at the back of church.

CRY ROOM AT ST MARY'S

Just a small appeal to parents not to leave children unaccompanied in the cry room during Mass and to ask if we could all work together to keep the room tidy once our children have finished playing. Thank you to all who have so generously donated toys and books – let's look after them so that the space can be enjoyed by all who use it.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£674.94** Total Approx. **£1,284.69** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Sea Sunday Collection: **£225.89**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The attempted assassination of President Trump this week was a shocking and a sobering reminder of just how dangerous politics can be. Whatever your particular feelings towards Donald Trump are, nothing is a greater “threat to democracy” than trying to murder one of the candidates in an upcoming election. We should all be thankful that he survived this attempt on his life, not just because he is a human being who has the right not to be murdered but because of the potential chaos that could so easily have been unleashed upon the world had the assassin’s bullet veered only another half an inch to the right.

Looking over at the United States makes our own political system seem relatively benign and seeing Mr Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer sharing a friendly chat and a laugh on the way to the King’s speech on Wednesday was potent reminder of how it is quite possible to disagree in an amicable and cordial way. But despite the relative calm, this side of the Atlantic, it is still not difficult to feel a faint sense of panic in the back of the mind, especially one that seems to increase whenever you glance at the latest headlines. I am old enough to now remember that every election is “the most important in our lifetime,” and yet we know enough about history to see that this era is not uniquely awful. Nevertheless, the panic so many feel is real enough, given the tensions that exist in Ukraine, the Middle East and in the Pacific.

Our anxiety about world events is often due to the mistaken belief that we are in control. Erroneously thinking we are single-handedly responsible for saving the world is likely to induce ulcers. Fortunately, that political leader who scares you is not in control either. It is ultimately God who is sovereign over all time and history, and His purposes will be accomplished. When our Lord was brought before Pontius Pilate, He told the Roman governor, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above”. This does not mean that the sinful actions of rulers are caused by God, but it does mean that no matter how hard they rebel against Him, they will not overcome the divine plan for history guided by providence. We must remember that we serve a God “who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness” (Isa. 40:23).

It is in politically tumultuous times such as these that we do well to remember that “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glory” (Philippians 3:20-21). Trusting in God's plan and seeking Christ's kingdom, however, does not mean that we are powerless or that we should disregard our neighbours. On the contrary, Christ’s victory over the powers of this world frees us to serve our neighbour with all our hearts. The fear that kept us apart from them is stilled, and we are free to shower them with grace.

While earthly governments may improve or damage their citizens' quality of life, there is only one thing that can ever or will ever truly save us all. The law of God reveals that we are all sinners incapable of saving ourselves: yes, both we and our political opponents are fully dependent on the grace of God. But the gospel reveals that God loves people of every “tribe and tongue and people and nation” so much that He died on the cross, taking our sins upon Himself and opening for us the path to salvation, if only we should choose to walk it.

Mother Julian of Norwich famously wrote “And all will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.” This was a revelation that took Mother Julian her whole life to comprehend and to fully embed but it is the same message that the Lord speaks to us across the ages and throughout history and one that is true today as it ever was.

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 TBC