



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

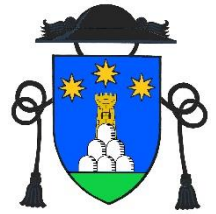
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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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:

Rest of the Soul of
John Davies



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 25 th AUGUST	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Michael Brenan RIP John Davies Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 26 th	Blessed Dominic Barberi	12 Noon	St Mary's	Fr Hilton Ordination Ann.
TUESDAY 27 th	St Monica	7:00pm	St Alban's	Mary Coates
WEDNESDAY 28 th	St Augustine	9:30am	St Mary's	Brenda Biggins' Intentions
THURSDAY 29 th	Beheading of John the Baptist	11:30am	Ushaw College	Brian Wilkinson RIP
FRIDAY 30 th	Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	9:30am	St Mary's	Priest & People of St Joseph's Parish, Chorley
SATURDAY 31 st	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Hugh Finn

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Lettie Damolo
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Paul Coates

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:

Karen Yates, Ken Akroyd, Mary Coates, Frank & Mary Tate & Anne Sampson, Edward Hintz, Sr Marie Morris, Lucy & Arthur Ellison, M&J Coates Thanksgiving, Seamus Costello
If you have put a Mass in and it does not appear on this list please let me know.

'40 HOURS' DEVOTION

Bishop Stock has requested that all parishes across the diocese take part in a period of extended Eucharistic Adoration for the specific intention of an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This will take place in St Mary's from 8:00am on Friday 13th of September until a (one off) vigil Mass at 7:00pm on Saturday 14th of September. It is not feasible for us to keep all 40 hours but there will be 21 hour long slots for people to sign up for to keep watch and pray with Our Lord on the altar.
I'll speak about this at Mass this Sunday.

PARISH TRIP TO USHAW COLLEGE AND DURHAM

The trip to Ushaw and Durham takes place this Thursday. The coach will leave from St Mary's at 9:00am, picking up at St Alban's shortly after. Please be aware, I have just found out that although entry into Durham Cathedral is usually free of charge, they do charge £5 per head for group visits, so please bear that in mind.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH LADIES GUILD

The next meeting of the PLG will be on Thursday September 12th at St Alban's church at 7pm. Our speaker is a representative from the Bethlehem hospice trust who will be travelling from Sheffield to tell us about the project that Fr Martin set up before his move to Huddersfield. This event is being opened up to all parishioners. We really need your support for such a worthy cause. Light refreshments after.

October 18th our guild is hosting a social/ fundraising evening in St Alban's church at 7pm. We are to be entertained by "The 3 Pitches", a trio of local ladies singing modern day songs. Light refreshments after.
This is for all of the parish. Tickets costing £7.50 each will be on sale after each Sunday mass starting from this Sunday.

HAPPY DAYS FOODBANK

Next Sunday is our week for collecting provisions for Happy Days.

S.V.P

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 3rd September 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Hall

200 Club Draw Winners

1st prize 70 Raymond Fearnley | 2nd prize 46 Ann Griffin | 3rd prize 106 Nuala Smith

Progressing Supper for the Bethlehem Care Trust

The tickets for the supper are on sale today at the back of Church. The event will be held on Friday 27th Sept. Guests will meet at St Alban's church hall at 6.30pm on the Friday and will be given their itinerary.
Each guest will be given the first name and address of where they go for the starter course.
After the first course each guest will be given name and address of where they go for next course and then again for the dessert course. The tickets cost £25 each, and include a three course meal with drinks included.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Over the last few weeks, the Church has presented us with this extended reading of Chapter 6 of the Gospel of St John, sometimes referred to as the Bread of Life discourse, in which Our Blessed Lord explains to His disciples and the crowd that He truly is to give His flesh for the life of the world. This gift that God has given to us, the gift of His very self, of His own dear Body and Blood to be eaten and consumed by us is so awesome that in many ways it defies description. And yet it is foundational to our religion. God makes Himself small, humble, defenceless and gives of Himself freely to us to nourish our souls and to lead us to Heaven.

The real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is a none-negotiable tenant of the faith, if we don't believe it, then we cannot, in all honesty, claim that we are a Catholic. It staggers me that so often people will happily accept that God has existed outside of time and space for all eternity, has created the universe out of nothing, has become a human being and been born of a virgin but then decide that the doctrine of the Eucharist is too difficult to accept. Nothing is impossible to God and Our Lord's teaching in John chapter 6 could not be more explicit or clear. He will go to the most incredible lengths to show how much He loves us and yet how often are we ungrateful or dismissive of this supreme gift.

The way that Our Lord decided to establish His Church was by the instituting of the Sacraments, these special and particular ways in which we continue to feel His touch and receive His teaching here on Earth are our gateway to Heaven and life eternal and they are all closely linked and interwoven. The Lord tells us, unless we eat His Body and drink His Blood, we can have no life in us. And we cannot have the Eucharist without priests and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. No priest, no Mass. No Mass, no Eucharist.

The seventh anniversary of my ordination happens to fall this week and it is a poignant reminder to me of just how blessed we are to have the priesthood. Not *priests*, but the *priesthood*. We know that priests come in all different shapes and sizes; good, bad and ugly. We all have our catalogue of faults and flaws that are probably very obvious to those around us and the people whom we serve and yet, it is our sharing in the priesthood of Jesus Himself, which makes the Sacramental life possible. We priests are not priests by or for ourselves, we share in the priesthood of the eternal High Priest and it is He who ministers to His people through these unworthy servants.

Someone who knew this well and professed this truth to her dying breath was St Margaret Clitherow, whose memory we keep this Friday. Margaret who lived in York during the so called 'reformation' was imprisoned for holding true to her Catholic faith and refusing to attend Anglican services. Her end came when a secret room in her house that she was using to hide and shelter priests was discovered. For this crime she was sentenced to death by being brutally crushed under a wooden door loaded with boulders.

Margaret went willingly to her death to save as many others as she could, refusing to give evidence or betray those around her. Her devotion to the Mass, the Priesthood and Our Lord's Body and Blood were unflinching even in the face of torture and worse. The words of John chapter 6 were engraved upon her heart and those words spoken by the Lord still echo across the ages to the present day. The way we honour her sacrifice and those of countless other martyrs must be to renew our own devotion to the Blessed Eucharist. Ideally by spending more time in His presence but also in small and easy ways; make a mindful effort to genuflect properly, receive Holy Communion reverently and to maintain a respectful silence in church. We do not realise how blessed we are.

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