



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

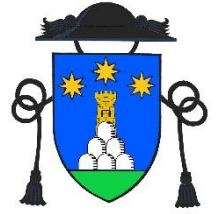
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

Margaret & Raymond  
Fearnley Diamond Wedding



### 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

The month of September is dedicated to: The seven sorrows of Mary

SUNDAY 15 <sup>th</sup> SPETEMBER	24 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Thanksgiving M&J Coates Lucy & Arthur Ellison Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	No Mass		
TUESDAY 17 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Margaret Toolan
WEDNESDAY 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Maria (Health & Wellbeing)
THURSDAY 19 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am 2:15pm	St Alban's School Hall	Thanksgiving (B.B.) Fr Denis Norman
FRIDAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	St Andrew Kim Taegon and companions	9:30am	St Mary's	Anne Smyth
SATURDAY 21 <sup>st</sup>	St Matthew the Apostle	12:15pm	St Mary's	Frank & Mary Tate & Anne Sampson

### READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Kieron Green	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Nicholas Aigbogun	11:00am	Barbra Gregson
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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE LATLEY DEAD**

Especially: Canon Joe Taylor, Ellen Fabia, Harry Santiuste and Antonia Palka.  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.  
Amen.

**MASSES RECEIVED:**

Margaret & Raymond Fearnley Diamond Wedding Thanksgiving, Fred Budds

**S.V.P.**

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 24th September 6 pm St Alban's Parish Room

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Next Saturday (21<sup>st</sup>) at St Alban's.  
10am to 12 Noon.  
Buns, biscuits and cakes would be appreciated

**BISHOP PHILIP MOGER**

It was announced from Rome yesterday that the Holy Father has appointed Bishop Philip Moger, of this parish, as the new Bishop of Plymouth. Please keep him and his new diocese in your prayers. He will be enthroned on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at St Mary and Boniface's Cathedral.

**ANNUAL BATLEY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION**

Monday 7 October 2024, 7:30pm. St Mary's Catholic Primary School processing to the nearby St Mary of the Angels' Catholic Church. Led by Mgr Paul Grogan, and the sermon preached by Fr Simon Lodge, the Torchlight Procession is a fine expression of our Catholic faith and gives honour to Mary, Mother of God. Refreshments will be served in the parish hall afterwards.

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY OPEN DAYS**

Come and See for new starter children for Sept 2025 are as follows: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Times 9.30am-11.30am and 1.15pm-3.00pm.

**NEWS FROM THE PARISH LADIES GUILD**

October 18<sup>th</sup> "The 3 Pitches", a trio of local ladies singing modern day songs. Light refreshments after.  
Tickets £7.50 each.

The Ladies will be hosting an Afternoon Tea on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
Tickets on sale soon.

**REJOICE IN HOPE**

Friday 13 September, 7pm, St Patricks Church, Elland, HX5 0PU  
Mission Halifax invite you to 'Rejoice in Hope' (formerly Come & See) – a monthly prayer group looking towards the Year of Hope. There will be Adoration, praise & worship, prayer, and opportunity for social time following. All welcome.

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£620.09** Total Approx. **£1294.09** (Inc. standing orders & card)

## FROM YOUR PARISH PREIST

Here at St Mary's we are blessed with a relic of the True Cross, which was exposed for veneration yesterday. While this is only a tiny splinter, it is encased in a beautiful reliquary, of crystal, silver and gold. It is from the wood of the Cross on which Jesus died, discovered by the Empress Helena in the Fourth Century. It is that discovery, and the dedication of the large church on Calvary in Jerusalem, that was commemorated on yesterday with the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Our celebration, however, was not of two historical events; it was a celebration of the mystery of the Cross in the story of salvation and in our own personal paths to holiness.

It is easy to see a cross simply as a symbol of our faith, or even as a pretty decoration. That it became the most recognised religious symbol in the world, a symbol to us of God's love, forgiveness and redemption, is a miracle in itself. To the ancient Romans and Jews it was a sign of degradation and death. Crucifixion was a death so brutal that it was reserved for only for slaves and conquered peoples. The cross was a terrible thing. Christians have always looked to the cross in times of suffering. One of the most striking images after the atrocity of 9/11 in New York was that of a cross, formed by two iron beams — by providence, more than coincidence — which towered over the scene of wreckage and carnage. That cross stood as a sign of hope and strength in the midst of unbelievable tragedy.

The cross was the means of the suffering and death of the Son of God. And yet it is through the Cross that we are led to eternal life. Death was not the final word; Christ was raised from the dead and ascended in power and glory. The entrance antiphon for the feast of the Holy Cross reads: "We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered." This salvation is a wonderful gift, freely won through Christ's death. But in accepting that gift, we also have to follow Christ's example. Like the apostles, we are perfectly willing to follow the Lord when the going is easy, when the miracles are happening, the birds are singing, and love is in the air. And then comes the cross, or pandemic or war, or darkness, or pain.

When the apostles were challenged to follow our Lord to the Cross, they fled like sheep, as Isaiah prophesied they would. They could only see the Cross as a defeat. But the power of the Resurrection raised them up too, and they brought the message of the Cross and the Resurrection to the whole world.

We are the successors to the disciples. We are the followers of Jesus in 2024. And each one of us is being called to follow Him, not only into the presence of God and the glory of heaven, but also to the Cross. Because every one of us is being given a particular cross, and being nailed to it: a cross of betrayal, a cross of persecution, a cross of injustice, a cross of unrequited love, a cross of serious illness of ourselves or those we love, a cross of loneliness following the death of a loved one. And the smaller crosses can be just as painful: an insult or criticism, the reopening of an old wound, the misunderstandings and little conflicts that arise in our families or relationships.

To followers of the Risen Christ, the crucifixion is never the end. The crosses that we find ourselves nailed to will not last forever, because the Lord has united them to His own and suffers with us. The Resurrection that follows crucifixion means a new and glorious life. The cross moves from being a symbol of human cruelty at its worst to a symbol of triumphant victory. It is our way to heaven. We are certainly an Easter People – but only because we are in the first place a People of the Cross. And we embrace that Cross just as we are to embrace the crosses of our own lives.

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](mailto:jbcoates@btinternet.com)) again by Wednesday evening. The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC