



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

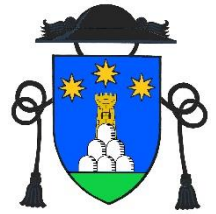
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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

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Website: [www.stmaryshalifax.com](http://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:

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 22 <sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER	25 <sup>th</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	Margaret & Raymond Fearnley 60 <sup>th</sup> People of the Parish Polish Mass Whitley Family Intentions
MONDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Padre Pio	No Mass		
TUESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of Walsingham	7:00pm	St Alban's	Brian Wilkinson R.I.P.
WEDNESDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Private Intention
THURSDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Gerard Newham
FRIDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	St Vincent de Paul	9:30am	St Mary's	Fred Budds
SATURDAY 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mass of Our Lady	12:15pm	St Mary's	Judy Benson

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick
11:00am	Barbra Gregson	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
6:00pm	Paul Coates	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

**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: Barbara Ignatiou and all whose anniversaries occur around this time.  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.  
Amen.

**MASSES RECEIVED:**

Filip Makula, Margaret & Raymond Fearnley Int., Barbra Ignatiou, Peter Wallace, The Hupalo Family

**CALLING ALL PARISHONER**

Paul Coates' ordination to the Diaconate will take place here in St Mary's on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. To ensure that the church is looking its best for this very special occasion we will be having a big clean the week before on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30am. (Mass that day will be at 10:00)  
This appeal is directed to those who do not normally help with church cleaning and I'm asking for your help as a one off. There will be lots to do and many hands make light work. Hopefully this will give you plenty of notice to get it in your diary. Refreshments and entertaining conversation provided.

**S.V.P.**

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

**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 11<sup>th</sup> October, 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 **£671.15** Total Approx. **£1345.15** (Inc. standing orders & card)

## FROM YOUR PARISH PREIST

I have not looked forward to writing my piece for the bulletin this week because I know what people always say about priests, and all jokes aside, it is something that I have been putting off, but the time has come when I need to address this issue. Please read this carefully and in the spirit in which it is written.

I want to begin by acknowledging the huge generosity of the people of this parish, financially speaking but also the generosity of time and spirit that we have here in Halifax, your help and contributions make running the parish so much easier and for all of your efforts I am very grateful.

Over the last two and a half years as your parish priest, I have done my best to make significant improvements to both St Mary's and St Alban's churches and have done my best to treat their maintenance and upkeep equally. My sincere hope is that these various works have enhanced the experience for all who worship in our parish, making our churches fitting places for the worship of Almighty God. With these improvements, however, come increased costs and bills.

I have done my best to avoid this topic for some time, but recent events have prompted me to take a fresh look. Due to circumstances beyond our control and for reasons of health and safety, the diocese required us to perform urgent works on the end wall of St Mary's Hall that overlooks the car dealership, these works came to £14,613.00 The recent redecoration of St Alban's church came to just under £5000.00, last week I place a standard order for votive candles, incense, altar wine and bread, this came to just over £1000.00 and repairing a hole in the roof at the back off the hall to prevent further decay, last month cost £3280.00. Insurance costs us £7000.00 annually. Two weeks ago all of the fire extinguishers in the parish were serviced or replaced, that cost £724.00. The average monthly cost of printing the bulletin is £240.00 and mowing the lawns and maintaining the grounds costs £100.00 per month. I offer these a just a few small examples of the regular types of outgoings that the parish experiences, the list goes on and on.

You may have noticed that two weeks ago when it was raining on Sunday, two of our altar servers slipped and nearly injured themselves on the sanctuary due to the wet marble floor. This is a result of the leaking roof above St Mary's altar and is a dangerous problem that needs fixing before the winter sets in. Similarly Deacon John received an electric shock recently when turning off the lights in the chapel of the Polish Madonna. The flat roof above the chapel and the confessionals is wet through and rotten. This needs to be remedied urgently (That'll be another £5000.00). And finally, I do understand how cold it can be in church, I really do. We now have marvellously effective heating systems in both churches but turning them on comes at a huge cost. To give you some idea; we have two Masses at St Mary's on a Sunday and three during the week, that's five Masses, roughly 5 hours per week. Last winter we were paying up to £1500.00 per month in gas just to cover those Masses.

I know that the cost of living crisis affects all people in different ways and if you are unable to respond to this appeal I completely understand. This request is not for you. If, however, you are in a position to reassess how much you are contributing to the parish, my invitation would be for each person to consider increasing their weekly offering or standing order by **£2 per head**. If most parishioners were able to make this increase, collectively this would make an enormous difference to the parish and effectively cover the heating for the winter. Again, I say, if this is not possible, just forget all about it.

Contrary to popular belief, priests really do not like talking about money and I promise that next week the bulletin will return to the usual spiritual reflection. Please give what I have said some serious thought and consideration.

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