



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

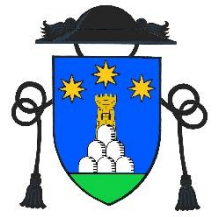
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

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:

Paul Coates' Intentions



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 November is dedicated to: The Holy Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY 17 th NOVEMBER	33 rd 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 Greenwood's Intentions Josie McLaughlin & Gordon Smith Polish Mass Souls on the November Dead List
MONDAY 18 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 19 th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Fr Michael Mahady's Intentions
WEDNESDAY 20 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Christine Smith belated B'day Intentions
THURSDAY 21 st	Presentation of the B.V.M.	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Private Intention
FRIDAY 22 nd	St Cecilia	9:30am	St Mary's	Adrian Finn
SATURDAY 23 rd	St Clement, Pope & Martyr	11:00am	St Mary's	ORDINATION OF PAUL COATES TO THE DIACONATE

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Rachel Fitzpatrick	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Shaun Sanju	11:00am	Nicholas Aigbogun
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Judith McDonald

PRAYER LIST: Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter 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:

Wilfred, Winifred and Francis Coates, Susan Coates, President Trump

PAUL COATES' ORDINATION

The Bishop will ordain Paul Coates to the Diaconate **this Saturday at 11am in St Mary's**
After Mass there will be a celebration and buffet in the Catholic Club. All welcome.

On Tuesday 6:30pm before the evening Mass at St Alban's I will give a talk for those who wish to know more about the permanent diaconate and explain what will happen during the rite of ordination.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

There will be a second collection today to go towards the catering in the Catholic Club after Deacon Paul's ordination (All welcome) and for flowers to decorate the altar.

There will be a second collection next week for National Youth Sunday.

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS

Parish Christmas raffle tickets go on sale today. The draw will take place in the Catholic Club after the Christmas Carol Service on Thursday 19th December (6:30pm start)
Tickets are £1 each or £5 for a book. Great prizes to be won.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH & CHRISTMAS MARKET

Please can all tickets be paid for as soon as possible and collected from the back of church.
Please make sure you have selected your menu for the lunch.

THE NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

Is still open for those who wish to have their deceased loved ones remembered in the Masses this year.
Envelopes available at the back of church.

S.V.P. NEWS

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th November at 6pm in St Alban's parish room.
We are still collecting winter wear for the homeless. Most needed are: warm coats, warm socks, boots and winter shoes, jumper and jeans. Please leave at the back of either church.

A HUGE THANK YOU

To all who gave so generously of their time to clean the church yesterday. I really appreciate it.

THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Will take place on Thursday 19th December at 3.30pm after school till approx. 5.30pm.
Donations of cakes, buns, chocolates, alcoholic bottles, bric-a-brac and toys all needed for our stalls and tombola. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to help out on any of our stalls too. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns (07932 595955) with any queries or if you would like to help

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£624.96** Total Approx. **£1349.96** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

All of the priest in the Halifax deanery are on a 'hospital cover rota', that means that if any patient in Calderdale Hospital requires a priest, the staff can telephone us and a priest will be on the ward as soon as is physically possible, day or night, every day of the year. This week it has been my turn to be on call and as I write this, I have been called out to administer the last rites to four people so far.

As priests, ministering to the sick and dying is one of the greatest privileges of our lives. When we visit people in their last days and hours it allows us to reassure the patient that they are not carrying their cross alone. Jesus, the Word made flesh, who suffered death Himself, is there to comfort them and hold them by the hand.

The way in which the priest brings Our Lord to the hospital or nursing home is primarily through the sacraments. As the priest says the words and celebrates the sacraments, Jesus reaches down from heaven to touch those who are in need of strength and healing. This is our faith, the faith of the Church and we must be very careful not to neglect this practice.

People are often confused or misunderstand the sacrament of the sick, or the last rites, and so it might be useful to say a word about what this sacrament does for us in our moment of greatest need. Firstly, it brings healing to our souls, which are often battered or hardened to a greater or lesser extent by the lives we have led. Our sins are forgiven and we are made one with again God. This is a priceless gift but it is not the only one. A certain physical comfort comes through the reception of this sacrament. Any priest you ask will be able to tell you about the unmistakable signs of this comfort that he has witnessed over the years. People who are very far gone, sometimes even comatose, often and suddenly give some sign that God has touched them. I remember being called to a man who had been unresponsive for several weeks who the minute he had been anointed, opened his eyes and made the sign of the cross as I blessed him. This small, simple but remarkable gesture brought his family unbelievable comfort. Signs like this are the clearest indication that when the efforts of doctors and nurses, even loved ones can no longer reach the sick, God can and does touch them with His loving hand.

Sadly, these days, many people are reluctant to receive this sacrament, as they associate it with the end of life and impending death. Some people in fact, are so afraid of what this might mean, they leave asking for the sacrament until a person is on the very point of death if not already past it. This is a very foolish sentiment which robs those the Lord most wants to help, of the grace that He so wishes to impart. I would like to make an appeal to any parishioners reading this who may need a nudge in the right direction, to fix in your minds the need to get past this strange reluctance and turn to the Lord without delay or hesitation when you realise that you, or your loved one, are in need of His help.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton

PS: Because of modern data regulations and sometimes the lack of thought of lapsed family members it is not always guaranteed that those who work in hospitals or nursing homes will know that you are a Catholic and would like a visit from a priest and to receive of the sacraments. As such, there are cards at the back of church for you to take away and keep in your wallet and purse. You need to sign and date them and keep them on your person. They state explicitly that you are a Catholic and give permission for a priest to be called to you in an emergency. There are plenty of cards available so please feel free to take them for family and friends who may wish to make use of them as well.

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