



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

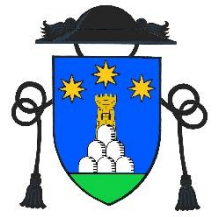
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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:

Dee and Ken



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 December is dedicated to: The Immaculate Conception

SUNDAY 15 th DECEMBER	3 rd Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete</i> Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Joe Riddeal (A) Susan Coates Polish Mass People of the Parish
MONDAY 16 th	Advent	No Mass		
TUESDAY 17 th	Advent	12:10pm	York Oratory	Day trip to York
WEDNESDAY 18 th	Advent	9:30am	St Mary's	Rose Marie Rothery
THURSDAY 19 th	Advent	9:30am	St Alban's	Maria Mithrush
	CAROL SERVICE	6:30pm	St Mary's	
FRIDAY 20 th	REQUEIM	10:30am	St Alban's	Josie Brennan
SATURDAY 21 st	Advent	12:15pm	St Mary's	Denis Smyth

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Greg Finn	11:00am	Malcom Brown
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, 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:

Josie Brennan and Paul Griffin (Griff) who have died recently.
Josie Brennan - Requiem Friday 20th December 10:30am St Alban's
Margaret Skelton - Requiem Friday 3rd January 11:00am St Mary's
Paul Griffin - Requiem Friday 10th January 10:00am St Mary's

MASSES RECEIVED:

May & George Poppleton, Leslie Maragh & Angela Payne, Alice, Kevin "Meggy" Megson, The Connolly Family, Paul Griffin x 5

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Will take place this Thursday 19th of December at 6:30pm. This will be followed by a buffet in the Catholic Club. All welcome! The parish Christmas raffle will be drawn at the party.

CHRISTMAS TRIP TO YORK

The trip to the York Oratory and Christmas market takes place this Tuesday. The coach will leave St Mary's at 10am and pick up at St Alban's *en route*. We will attend the 12:10 Mass at the Oratory and the coach will depart York at 4pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

NB: Christmas Mass Times will be slightly different this year. Please take away one of the flyers and put it on the fridge. **Midnight Mass is at Midnight!**

READERS AT SUNDAY EVENING MASS

We could do with a few more volunteers to read at the 6pm Mass. If you would be willing to help with this please let me know and we can put you on the rota.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

The collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to the parish priest which makes up a substantial part of our annual taxable income. You can still make your gift on the card machine and if you wish to make a bank transfer the details are:
Diocese of Leeds St Mary's Church | 40-27-15 | 21023225
Please mark your transfer as "Christmas offering"

THE DIOCESAN ALMANAC

The new diocesan directories have arrived. They cost £5 each and are available at the back of church.

S.V.P.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 7th January at 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Room

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Thurs 19 December - Parish Party / buffet after Carol Service
Fri 20 December - DAMES Singing Group Christmas Singalong, including faith supper and raffle. All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support.
Sat 21 December - The return of The Flying Scotsman, Chris Williams. A night of music and fun.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£748.06** Total Approx. **£1559.56** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The name for this Sunday, '*Gaudete*' itself means 'joy' or 'rejoice', from the beginning of the Introit of this Sunday's Mass, '*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.*' which we translate as 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.' On this day we briefly enter a pause in the penitential and sombre nature of this time of Advent to focus on the joy that we are expecting to come in the season of Christmas. The white of Christmas blends into the purple of Advent and the Church celebrates in rose coloured vestments.

We hear a lot from John the Baptist in Advent. All the stories concerning him and his relationship with our Lord are presented to us. On one occasion, John sent his disciples to our Lord to ask, 'Are you He who is to come, or are we to look for another?' He did this not because he doubted in any way that his kinsman, Jesus, was the One. The question is more for the benefit of his own disciples. He had pointed out to them that here was the Lamb of God, and in case any doubted John's gesture, he was sending them to explore for themselves. There were doubtless some among the little group who wanted John to be the Christ, and clung stubbornly to this view. However, this was an erroneous opinion, one which John, so just and honest, would have been quick to correct. So they went to Jesus and put their question to Him, and received His answer. Are we to look for another? No, He says — we are not to look for another. Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and furthermore, there is no name under Heaven or on earth, by which we may be saved.

Advent is about the coming of our Lord, and of His coming in several different senses. In the first part of this season, we have been made to ponder the strange, dark teachings of Jesus concerning the end times, the Judgement and the warning that, for all of us, the sands of time are running out. So we have some eschatological fireworks, interlinked with the dreary certainty of our mortality. But there is also, threaded through this, the bright and hopeful expectation of the coming of our Lord as a baby at Christmas. The Lord is coming and we are expected to jump up and run to meet Him.

I think that many Catholics aren't really too sure what this means. How do we prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming, both at Christmas and at the End, 'when He shall come again to judge the living and the dead.' The thought that the secret thoughts and actions of all will be laid open can fill anyone with a measure of trepidation. Perhaps this is because we fear what others might think of us were they to be presented with the completed and unvarnished truth about us. I think it only fair to say that come that day, we are most likely to be worrying about our own sins, rather than anybody else's. Besides, is this what the Lord wants? He wants us to look forward to his coming with joy.

You know how it is when you are awaiting the arrival of a family member or friend. The eager anticipation, with which you have made the necessary (and some unnecessary) preparations. You just want the visit to be perfect and enjoyed by all. Surely it is the same for the coming of Christ. True, we may have forgotten some provisions, but we have made the room neat and clean. The important thing is to make joyful preparations. For us, it is a matter of getting our lives sorted: the spring clean of the soul, the sincere effort to conform ourselves to our Lord's teaching and will, employing the gifts with which He has endowed us, which sometimes we leave lying idle around. For now, we must fix our hearts on Him with whom true joys are to be found, and not lose sight of the goal and the prize, one that will bring us joy beyond our deepest imaginings.

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