



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

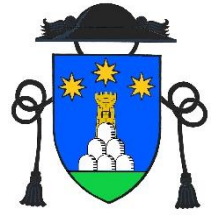
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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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:

Christine & Anne Smith's
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 January is dedicated to: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

SUNDAY 29 th DECEMBER	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Tomasz & Irene Nalepa Filip Makula People of the Parish
MONDAY 30 th	Christmas Octave	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 31 st	Christmas Octave	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 1 st JANUARY	Mary Mother of God	12:00 Noon	St Mary's	Polish Mass
THURSDAY 2 nd	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 3 rd	REQUIEM MASS	11:00am	St Mary's	Margaret Skelton
SATURDAY 4 th	Christmastide	12:15pm	St Mary's	Wasył Lopuszniak
	Sunday Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Wendy Balahura	11:00am	Andrea Woodward
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 Deacons John and Paul know so that a visit can be arranged.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Simon Whitworth, Jean Wilkinson, Cath Keane, Special Intention.
If you have handed in a Mass intention and it has not appeared as received in the bulletin please let me know.

THANK YOU!

As ever, Deacons John and Paul and I are deeply grateful for your Christmas cards, gifts, presents, offerings and good wishes. I have been overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity over the last few weeks. It is a real blessing for me to serve as your Parish Priest and I want to thank each and every one of you for your love, support and continued commitment to this parish and its mission.
May God bless you and those you love.

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2024 - WINNING TICKETS

1st prize - no. 254 Mick Hayes, 2nd prize - no. 175 Shirley Smith, 3rd prize - no. 132 John Mullan, 4th prize - no. 337 Mick Hayes, 5th prize - no. 327 Sandra Moore and 6th prize no. 7 Mary Taylor

Thank you to Harveys of Halifax and to those parishioners who donated raffle prizes and to all parishioners, their families and friends who supported the raffle, which has raised £600 for parish funds.

CATHOLIC CLUB

New Year opening hours: New Year's Eve 12-2pm, 7pm till late - Disco, karaoke and quizzes
New Year's Day CLOSED

REJOICE IN HOPE

Next meeting of praise, worship and teaching will be in St Mary's at 7pm on Friday 10th January.

THE HOLY YEAR 2025

(I'm having a break from writing this week)

A Jubilee Year is a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon in the Catholic Church. It is a time of grace and reflection intended to renew faith, encourage reconciliation, and foster a deeper relationship with God. The tradition of Jubilee Years has its roots in the Old Testament, where the concept of Jubilee was established as a time when slaves were freed, debts were forgiven, and land was returned to its rightful owners every fifty years, as described in Leviticus 25. In the Catholic Church, this tradition has evolved to occur every 25 years, with additional extraordinary Jubilees called by the Pope.

Jubilee Years are marked by various spiritual activities, including pilgrimages, special prayers, and the opportunity for the faithful to receive plenary indulgences—remissions of temporal punishment due to sin. These years serve as a reminder of God's mercy and the call to conversion. They are meant to inspire the faithful to reflect on their lives, seek reconciliation through the Sacrament of Confession, and deepen their commitment to living out the teachings of Christ.

The year 2025 holds particular significance as it marks the 1,950th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Peter, the first Pope and one of Jesus' closest disciples. This anniversary presents a unique opportunity for the Catholic Church to reflect on its roots, the foundations of its faith, and the legacy of apostolic leadership that has guided the Church through centuries of challenges and triumphs.

Pope Francis has announced that this Jubilee Year will be a time to focus on the theme of "Pilgrimage."

Pilgrimages are significant in our faith tradition, symbolising the journey of life and the search for holiness. Throughout the year, the Church will encourage the faithful to embark on both physical and spiritual journeys, fostering a deeper connection with their faith and the global community of believers.

A hallmark of Jubilee Years is the ceremonial opening of the Holy Doors in major basilicas, particularly St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The Holy Door is a symbol of Christ, the source of salvation and mercy. By passing through the Holy Door, pilgrims are reminded of their journey toward God's grace and the transformative power of repentance and reconciliation. Pope Francis has presided over the opening of the Holy Doors this week, signifying the beginning of the Jubilee Year. This act is deeply symbolic; it represents an invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with God and to experience His mercy in a profound way. The Holy Doors are sealed and only opened during Jubilee Years, emphasising the significance of this sacred time. When pilgrims pass through the Holy Doors, they are encouraged to reflect on the journey of their own lives, considering the areas where they seek healing and renewal. This act of crossing the threshold is a physical manifestation of a spiritual commitment to turning away from sin and embracing the grace offered by God.

As we enter into the Jubilee Year in 2025, the Church invites all the faithful to prepare their hearts and minds for this time of grace. It is a call to deepen our faith, engage in acts of charity, and seek reconciliation with one another. The Holy Doors serve as a powerful reminder that God is always waiting for us to return to Him, no matter where we find ourselves on our spiritual journey. The Jubilee Year is more than just a calendar event; it is a transformative journey for individuals and the Church as a whole. As we look forward to 2025 let us embrace this opportunity for renewal and grace. May we walk together on this pilgrimage of faith, seeking to deepen our relationship with God and with one another, and may we emerge from this sacred time filled with the joy and hope that comes from God's boundless mercy.

SUGGESTED NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Give a return on your gifts. When using a gift, say a prayer for the giver. For instance, you could say a Hail Mary for the person who gave you a plant every time you water it. When using clothing or jewellery someone gave to you, say a pray for the giver.

Commit random acts of prayer. Pick someone to pray for throughout your day. It could a politician you hear promoting abortion or assisted suicide, or someone in a passing car, or a shopper in the queue. If someone cuts you off in traffic, pray for them, and your anger will subside — and you will both be blessed.

See Jesus more often. Make a weekly appointment to visit Jesus in the tabernacle. The more time you spend with Jesus, the more he can give to you.

Read the Word. Put a Bible somewhere convenient, and open it up once a day.

End your purchase with a surprise. "Thank you, and have a good day" is so ordinary that cashiers barely hear it. Try saying, "Thank you, and God bless you" with heartfelt expression. They will hear you, usually smile and sometimes respond: "God bless you, too!"

Forget about yourself. Humility leads to holiness. Avoid correcting others if it doesn't matter. Be last in the queue. Thank God for failure, and ask him to lead you to what he wants for you.

Wear a crucifix. It's a silent witness to Jesus' love and sacrifice.

Have a no-complaint day. Dedicate an entire day each week to not complaining. Weather counts.

Have a Happy and Holy 2025!