



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

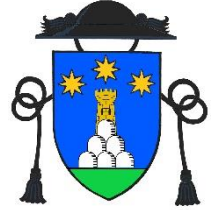
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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

T: 01422 352141 E: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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

St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



## HOLY YEAR MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS JUBILEE 2025

### Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after 9:30am  
Mass

### Holy Rosary:

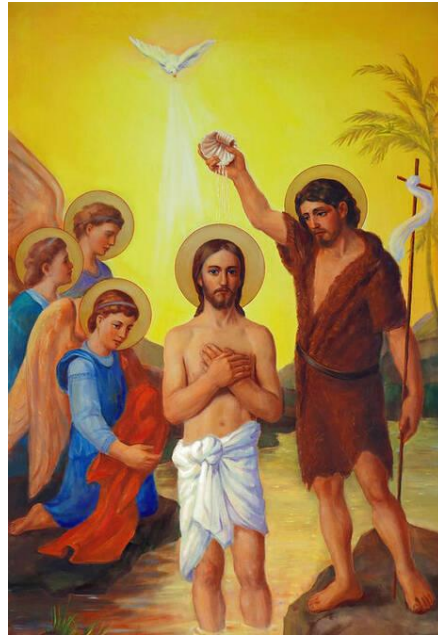
Saturday after 12:15pm  
Mass

### Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month  
after 9:30am Mass

### Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

"Peace in the World"



### 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 12 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Hannah O'Reilly Peter Carolan People of the Parish
MONDAY 13 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 14 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Nicky Mithrush
WEDNESDAY 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am 2:15pm	St Mary's School Hall	Harry Santiuste R.I.P.
THURSDAY 16 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	November Dead List
FRIDAY 17 <sup>th</sup>	St Anthony, Abbot	10:00am	St Mary's	Peter Wallace
SATURDAY 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	The Gray Family
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Kieron Green	9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Ken Rothery	11:00am	Tim Widdop
6:00pm	Richard Siebierski	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

### **HOLY YEAR INDULGENCE**

St Mary's is a Jubilee Pilgrimage Church for the Holy Year 2025.

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable to you or the faithful departed, may be gained each day by a devout visit to the church, together with prayers for the Holy Father's intentions, Holy Communion and sacramental Confession within a few days, and detachment from sin.

### **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, Michael McDonnell 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:**

Rosalie (Prairie) Curran Requiem Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 12 Noon St Mary's

### **MASSES RECEIVED:**

Tom Ratkowki, Elsie Ward, Edith Toolan, Maureen Woodhouse, Vic Toolan, Bryan & Shelia Greenwood, Denis Smyth

### **HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES**

As part of our Jubilee activities, I am going to run several study courses throughout the year for people who wish to learn more about their faith and deepen their knowledge and understanding. The first course of the year will be taking an in depth look at *The Creed*, something that we recite every Sunday and is very familiar but we may not know much about. The study sessions will take the form of a video presentation of around 45/50mins followed by a chance for questions and discussion. These will take place in the parish room at St Alban's at **6pm on a Tuesday** evening. Mass follows at 7pm for those who wish to stay. The other course later in the year will look at: *The Mass* and *The Sacraments*.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January - I Believe

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January - God the Father Almighty

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Jesus, the only begotten Son

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - He suffered death

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Holy Spirit, the giver of life

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic

If you can't make all of the sessions, just come to what you can. Obviously you will get more out of attending the whole course but it is not necessary.

### **FIRST CONFESSION**

The preparation for children making their first Confession will begin soon at St Mary's school. If your child attends a non-Catholic school but wishes to join the classes, please speak to me after Mass.

### **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE**

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day there will be a special Service of Evensong at Halifax Minster starting at 4.00pm. The guest speaker will be Rabbi Douglas Charing (visiting Rabbi of Bradford Synagogue). This year Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp. All are welcome.

### **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£200.48** Total Approx. **£930.98** (Inc. standing orders & card)  
(We lost out a lot due to the snow)

## FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I was delighted to read the other day, that the Holy Father has recently authorised the canonisation of the Martyrs of Compiègne. These were a group of women who I did not know much about until a few years ago. While I was in the seminary in London, every so often tickets to go to the opera at Covent Garden would be made available to us and I was very pleased once to get a ticket to go and see Poulenc's the "Dialogues of the Carmelites" – the opera told the story of the Carmelite Sisters of Compiègne, who have, in the last few days, been declared saints by Pope Francis.

During the tumultuous period of the French Revolution, specifically amidst the Reign of Terror in 1794, the small town of Compiègne witnessed one of the most poignant episodes of religious persecution and martyrdom in Catholic history. The Martyrs of Compiègne were sixteen Carmelite nuns, who, through their steadfast faith, left an indelible mark on the spiritual legacy of the Church.

The story begins with the French government's enactment of the Civil Constitution of the Clergy in 1790, which aimed to secularise the Church. This law forced religious communities to disband, but the nuns of Compiègne chose to remain true to their vows. They continued their life of prayer in secret, despite the growing hostility towards Catholicism in France. Their defiance was not one of rebellion but of profound faith, believing in the sanctity of their religious life over the dictates of a revolutionary government.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 1794, the authorities arrested the nuns on charges of “counterrevolutionary activities”. Their arrest wasn't merely about disbanding their order but was emblematic of the broader attack on religious life. Charged with being counterrevolutionaries, the trial was more a formality; their true crime was their faith. Yet, even in the face of certain death, they maintained a serene acceptance, viewing their martyrdom as a continuation of their prayerful service.

They were taken to Paris, where on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, they faced their execution by guillotine. Remarkably, as they were led to their deaths at the Place de la Nation, they sang hymns, including the "*Veni Creator Spiritus*," demonstrating their unwavering commitment to their faith. Each sister knelt before the prioress, receiving permission to die, symbolising their final act of obedience and sacrifice to God and their community. The prioress, Mother Teresa of St. Augustine, was the last to be executed. As the blade fell, beheading each of the nuns in turn, the hymn became quieter and quatter, until only Mother Teresa's solitary voice was left. With the final drop of the guillotine, there was silence.

The spiritual significance of these martyrs lies in their profound demonstration of faith, courage, and love. Their martyrdom was seen as a sacrificial act offered for the peace and reconciliation of France, which many believe was a factor in the Reign of Terror's conclusion only a short time after. Their story has inspired countless works of art, literature, and music, notably the opera which captures the essence of their spiritual journey and sacrifice.

These women, by choosing to die rather than renounce their faith, embodied the Christian ideal of martyrdom—witnessing to Christ through their very lives and deaths. Their sacrifice is commemorated annually on their feast day, 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

If only we might be granted an ounce of their faith and courage in our everyday lives, just think of the impact we would have on the people and world around us.

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