



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

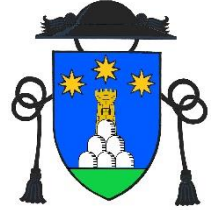
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HOLY YEAR MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS JUBILEE 2025

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:

Michael & Ann Griffin



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 19 th JANUARY	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Kathleen & Kenneth Wadsworth The Hupalo Family People of the Parish
MONDAY 20 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 21 st	St Agnes	7:00pm	St Alban's	Joy & Annie
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Paul Griffin R.I.P.
THURSDAY 23 rd	REQUIEM	12:00 Noon	St Mary's	Rosalie (Prairie) Curran
FRIDAY 24 th	St Francis de Sales	9:30am	St Mary's	Frances Mahon R.I.P.
SATURDAY 25 th	The Conversion of St Paul Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Domingo & Jesuine Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun	9:30am	Lily Hymas
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Lettie Damolo
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Frances Millington

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:

Katrina Bezushko and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Christopher Colleran, Thomas Ratkowki, Kevin & Edith Toolan, Victor Toolan, Bryan & Shelia Greenwood, Dominic & Maureen Colleran, Michael & Ann Griffin (With thanks)

HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES (STARTING THIS TUESDAY)

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 21st January - I Believe

Tuesday 28th January - God the Father Almighty

Tuesday 4th February - Jesus, the only begotten Son

Tuesday 11th February - He suffered death

Tuesday 25th February - Holy Spirit, the giver of life

Tuesday 11th 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME - Now Full. Waiting list available.

S.V.P

Date of next meeting is Monday 3rd February 6 pm in St Alban's parish room

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Attending a preparation course is a requirement for those wishing to marry in the Catholic Church. If you are intending to marry within the next 18 months, the Deanery Marriage Course will take place this at 12:15pm (after the 11am Sunday Mass at St Mary's) on 23rd March, 6th April and 13th April. The sessions last approximately 1 hour.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£661.09** Total Approx. **£1501.59** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I see that the new film *Conclave* is leading the way in terms of nominations for this year's BAFTA awards, according to the paper this morning. If you haven't seen it yet, I wouldn't bother. I went to see it a couple of weeks ago with a few of the Fathers and being the only one who had read the book previously, I knew about the absurd and ridiculous twist that was coming at the end of the film. I didn't spoil it for them because I wanted to see their reactions but needless to say, they weren't very impressed. Nor were we particularly enthralled by the poorly researched costumes or scenery... but only we would probably notice that. Anyway... One question that seems to always interest people and I get asked about often relates to the nature of the Church's hierarchy. What really is a Cardinal? Yes, they wear red, but what else do they do and how are they chosen? (Famously, their red cassock is symbolic of their willingness to shed their own blood for the Church.)

A cardinal is one of the most senior ecclesiastical positions within the Church. Cardinals are considered the chief advisers and officials of the Pope, and they play crucial roles in governance. Cardinals are appointed directly by the reigning Pope. This selection is totally personal and is often based on the individual's service, loyalty, and contributions to the Church. The title "cardinal" actually comes from the Latin word "*cardo*," meaning hinge, signifying their role as pivotal to the Church's structure.

The Pope looks to appoint men from different countries and cultural backgrounds, emphasising the universal nature of the Church. This diversity is not just geographical but also reflects various traditions and perspectives across the Catholic world. Beyond administration, however, cardinals are called to be spiritual leaders. They are expected to exemplify holiness, providing spiritual guidance not only within their local dioceses but also on a global scale through their significant public influence. As things stand there are currently 244 living cardinals (407,730 priests, 5340 bishops). However, only cardinals under the age of 80 are eligible to vote in a *conclave* to elect a new Pope. These are known as cardinal-electors and there are currently 139 of them. This number does fluctuate though, as members of the college turn 80 and new members are appointed. (Interestingly, the word that we use for a papal election, *conclave*, comes from the two Latin words *con clave*, literally meaning, *with a key*, referring to the fact that cardinals are locked in Sistine Chapel as they deliberate and vote).

Within the College of Cardinals, there exists a distinction between those who are primarily diocesan bishops and those who hold positions in the Roman Curia. (That is the name for the central administrative departments of the Vatican which govern the Church throughout the world. There are 16 Vatican departments in total, each headed by a "prefect", these prefects effectively make up the Pope's cabinet.) *Diocesan bishops*: These cardinals are heads of (arch)dioceses around the world. They are primarily focused on pastoral care, governance, and the spiritual leadership of their local Church communities. A cardinal who is an Archbishop of a major city like New York or Paris serves both as a leader of his local Church and as a member of the College of Cardinals. E.g. Cardinal Nichols of Westminster. *Curial Cardinals*: While their work might seem more administrative, as heads of departments, it carries a profound spiritual dimension. They help shape Church policy, clarify doctrine, and promote universal pastoral initiatives. Their roles require prayerful discernment to ensure that the Church's governance reflects her divine mission. E.g. Cardinal Roche, our former bishop.

Not the most spiritual reflection, I know, but hopefully this will answer a few questions that I've had since the film came out. Despite what we thought, I'm sure it will win plenty of awards...

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 can be sent to again by Wednesday evening to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404