



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

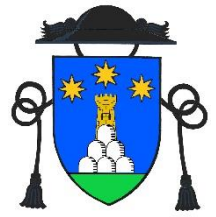
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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

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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:

Intentions of D R



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 February is dedicated to: The Holy Family

SUNDAY 2 nd FEBRUARY	The Presentation of the Lord (CANDLEMAS)	9:30am	St Mary's	Wilfred, Winfred & Francis Coates John Davis People of the Parish
		11:00am	St Mary's	
		6:00pm	St Alban's	
MONDAY 3 rd	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 4 th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Peace in the world
WEDNESDAY 5 th	St Agatha	9:30am	St Mary's	Robert Pearson
THURSDAY 6 th	St Paul Miki and Companions	9:30am	St Alban's	November Dead List
FRIDAY 7 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Dominic and Maureen Colleran
SATURDAY 8 th	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Tony Moore (Sick)
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Shaun Sanju	11:00am	Helen Brown
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Richard Siebierski

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.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Tony Moore (Sick), Private Intention x2, Pat Reynolds, Maura Ruane, Jan Moska, Josie McLaughlin, Angelina Ong

HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES

Session number three of our course looking at the Creed will take place this Tuesday 4th February
The theme will be "One Lord Jesus Christ"
6:00pm in St Alban's parish room. All welcome.

S.V.P

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

200 CLUB

Since renewing the Parish lottery registration in November 2024, I have taken the opportunity to review the lottery arrangements. Hence, the postponement of the November and December 2024 lottery draws.

For current members (those paid-up for the months of November, December, January and February) there will be two draws on Sunday 9th February to cover the November and December 2024 draws and two further draws on the 2nd March to cover the draws for January and February 2025. We will then be back on track with regular monthly draws from the end of March.

A tombola has been purchased specifically for use in all future draws which will be made from the altar following the 11am Sunday Mass.

If anyone wishes to join the 200 Club from March 2025, application forms, along with standing order forms, are available from John Coates. Please note that, in order to simplify administration, it is preferable that all future membership payments (by current and new members) be made by standing order either annually (£48 per lottery number) or six-monthly (£24 per lottery number). This helps to keep a check on current paid-up members and to ensure that the amount of prize money is set at a level appropriate to the income received. If any parishioner wishing to join does not have a bank account, then a cheque for the annual or six-monthly membership fee will be accepted in these circumstances.

Thank you and good luck!

THANK YOU!

To a very generous parishioner who has donated the new digital poster display at the back of St Mary's. If you would like to display a poster for an event or a meeting please see me after Mass or send an email to the parish office.

FOODBANK

Today is our turn to collect for the foodbank. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£665.72** Total Approx. **£1456.22** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I am painfully aware that I check my phone far too often. Primarily, I think it's due to a lack of patience. I heard another priest remark recently, "If you ask God for patience. You are asking God for suffering." It caught me by surprise, but after reflecting on it I was convinced it was true. Our lives contain so many opportunities for suffering, and patience calls us to bear those sufferings well, with hope and joy.

Today we face a huge obstacle to patience: our phones. Attachment to smartphones prevents us from growing in patience because our phones are set up to comfort and pacify us. They offer an escape from suffering. How can we practice patience well when we carry the internet around in our pockets? Before devising how to be patient in the age of perpetual internet connection, we must understand what patience is. The overused phrase, "patience is a virtue," is undeniably true but doesn't tell us what patience actually means.

When I think about the times I've heard people say, "patience is a virtue," it is usually in response to some annoyance, like having to control a small child or wait in queue at the post office. While we may associate patience with annoyances, the virtue is principally concerned with how we respond to the quiet, awful sufferings that each of us carries around, too often in secret. I remember a lecture in the seminary that described patience as "the virtue by which a man bears up against the evils that tend to make him sad and break his spirit." In fact, the word patience comes from the Latin *pacio* – to suffer. By nature of our being human, suffering is never far from us. We are accustomed to failure and rejection, sin and death, our own weaknesses and those of others. Loneliness, anxiety, depression and illness do not discriminate based on material wealth. We are all subject to them.

Our constant connection to cyberspace through our phones prevents us from dealing with the things that make us sad. In fact, using social media can make us sadder. Social media and smart phones incentivise impatience. They promise a quick fix – instant connection – but almost never deliver on that promise. Using them can make us feel lonelier and more isolated. We are not expected to go it alone – to patiently bear suffering requires the support of friends – but our grasping for connection online can keep us from growing in relationships with those people who can help us in our real lives.

We cannot allow our phones to enslave us and lead us to impatience. If our default reaction in moments of boredom, confusion, or awkwardness is to pull out our phones, we will have trouble building good relationships. If you're feeling lonely, don't automatically start scrolling through Facebook. Instead, call a friend you haven't talked to in a while and catch up. If you're in a waiting around at the bus stop, say a decade of the rosary instead of checking your phone for the 10th time.

Above all, we must love God even in suffering. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote that, "Patience is possible only when the soul loves something good with a love strong enough to make it bear up against oppressing evils." The best part is that patience bears fruit by its action! Choosing to face our suffering with hope and joy will bring us peace and confidence – things that social media could never give us. Our Lord was able to suffer with patience because of His Love for the Father and His love for us. He knew that His patience would bear fruit in our salvation. We are called to the same thing, and we must do it, even if it means putting down our phones.

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 again by Wednesday evening to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404