



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

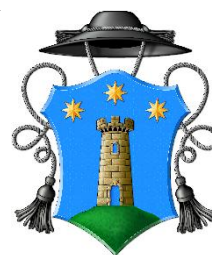
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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:

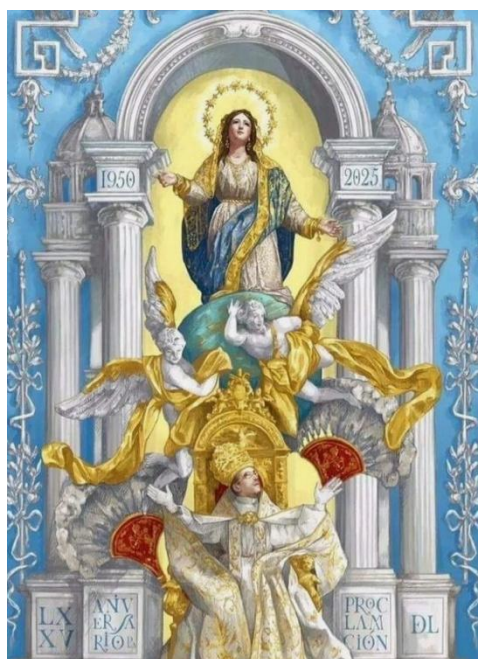
Saturday after 12:15pm
Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month
after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

Intentions of Maureen
Walsh



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 August is dedicated to: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

SUNDAY 10 th AUGUST	OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS (Patronal Feast)	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Michael Toolan Peter Carolan People of the Parish
MONDAY 11 th	St Clare	No Mass		
TUESDAY 12 th	Feria	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 13 th	Feria	11:30am	St Hilda's (Whitby)	Peter George Grainger (YB)
THURSDAY 14 th	REQUIEM	11:00am	St Mary's	Pietro Casale
FRIDAY 15 th HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE B.V.M. 75th Anniversary of Infallible Definition	7:00am 12:15pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish Sidney Smith Kathleen Boyle
SATURDAY 16 th	Feria Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Sijimon & M.L. Chacko Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Greg Finn
6:00pm	Frances Millington

PRAYER LIST: May Ennis, Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden, Peter Staden, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Sonya Box, 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

Lucy and Arthur Ellison, Elizabeth & Veronica Noble

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Terry Meila who has died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church and we will pass them on. There is a box back of church.

BETHLEHEM CARE AND HOSPICE TRUST (BCHT)

Many thanks to everyone who baked or supported our cake stall at church recently. We raised a wonderful £430. This brings our fundraising amount to £3,407 in our £5,000 challenge. Thanks to your compassion and support, we've brought dignity and comfort to those who once faced the end of life alone. In Bethlehem, where 7 in 10 cancer patients are diagnosed too late for treatment, palliative care wasn't just limited—it was non-existent before we began. Your Impact so far:

- 3,200+ home visits
- 227 patients and their families cared for
- 95 patients currently supported in and around Bethlehem

Despite the extreme challenges—economic crisis, travel restrictions, and a population where nearly 30% live on £1.34 a day—The BCHT nurses go out every single day to provide care, comfort, and dignity.

This service was born from faith, built on hope, and continues through your generosity.

Upcoming Events:

There will be a **fashion show** held on September 18th at St Mary's primary school. Tickets are on sale after Mass

A **cheese & wine evening** will also be held in St Albans parish hall (on Friday evening 5th December). Tickets will go on sale in due course.

Many more people in Bethlehem and across the Holy Land are still waiting for help. Please support us if you can to expand our reach and continue this vital work.

PARISH LADIES' GUILD

The next meeting of the PLG will take place Thursday 14th of August at 7:00pm in the hall at St Alban's.

S.V.P.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 5th August 6:00pm in St Alban's Parish Hall. Small Electric Appliances Appeal For the next 2 Sundays - 10th and 17th August - there will be a box at the back of church for any small unwanted kitchen appliances, hairdryers, straighteners, TVs etc. We'd be grateful for anything you can donate. Thank you.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£647.33** Total Approx. **£1430.33** (Inc. standing orders & card)

MONSTRANCE

The historic monstrance from St Mary's has just undergone a £4000 restoration and looks spectacular. It will be on display in the Sacred Heart chapel this weekend. The monstrance is used every Saturday for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

WHITBY DAY TRIP

Our day trip to Whitby will take place this Wednesday. The coach will depart from St Mary's at 9:00am and from St Alban's at 9:10am. We will celebrate Mass at the church of St Hilda upon arrival.

PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FASHION SHOW – Saturday 18th September (St Mary's School)

PARISH CEILIDH – Friday 3rd of October (Pellon Social Club)

60's NIGHT – Friday 17th October (Catholic Club)

AFTERNOON TEA – Saturday 15th November (Catholic Club)

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING – Friday 5th December (St Alban's Hall)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This Sunday we are celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lady of the Snows, the patronal feast of our parish. This feast actually falls on the 5th of August, but we have transferred it to this Sunday so that as many people as possible can participate in the commemoration. This ancient feast is rooted in a miraculous event from the 4th century and invites us to marvel at God's wonders and honour Our Blessed Lady's role in the life of the Church. Quite why St Mary's Halifax was dedicated to Our Lady of the snows, no one seems to remember, perhaps it was due to the harsh winters of the 1830's when my predecessor, Fr Fairclough, founded the parish and built the church.

The story of this feast centres on a divine sign that unfolded in Rome around AD 352, during the reign of Pope Liberius. A wealthy, childless Roman couple, John and his wife, longed to dedicate their fortune to God's service. They prayed fervently for guidance, and Our Lady answered in a dream, instructing them to build a church in her honour on the Esquiline Hill, where snow would miraculously fall as a sign. That same night, Pope Liberius received a similar vision. On the 5th of August, in the sweltering heat of the Roman summer, snow fell on the Esquiline Hill, blanketing a specific area in an unmistakable outline. The couple and the Pope recognised this as a divine miracle and the Basilica of St. Mary Major, originally called the Liberian Basilica, was built on that very spot. The event gave the church its popular name, Santa Maria della Neve, or St Mary of the Snows.

This extraordinary event wasn't just a fleeting wonder, it was a sign of something far greater. The Basilica of St Mary Major, completed under Pope Sixtus III in AD 435, became one of Rome's four major papal basilicas and the first church in the West dedicated to Our Lady. Its construction followed the Council of Ephesus in 431, which affirmed Mary as *Theotokos*, the Mother of God, cementing her central role in our life of devotion. The basilica stands as a testament to this truth, housing treasures like the *Salus Populi Romani*, a venerated icon of Our Lady and child, traditionally attributed to St Luke. This image, carried in processions during times of plague and peril has been a beacon of hope for Romans and pilgrims for centuries, with countless miracles attributed to Our Lady's intercession before it.

By the Middle Ages, the story of the miraculous snow had spread, inspiring devotion across Europe. In Rome, the feast was celebrated with great solemnity, and a unique tradition emerged. During Mass on the 5th of August at St Mary Major, white rose petals are showered from the basilica's dome, symbolising the miraculous snow. This custom continues today, drawing thousands to the basilica to witness this beautiful reminder of God's grace. – Happy Feast!

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