



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

Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday 11:00am

Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after 9:30am
 Mass

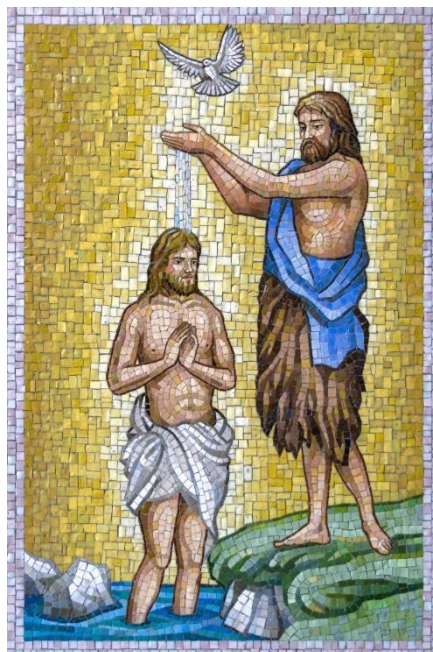
Holy Rosary:

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:
 "A medical issue"



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday 11:00am – 12:00pm
 at St Mary's

Confessions:

Saturday

11:00am-12:00pm
 at St Mary's

Sunday

5:30pm-6:00pm
 at St Alban's
 or on Request

Marriages and Baptisms

by appointment
 See the priest after Mass

The month of January is dedicated to: The Holy Name of Jesus

SUNDAY 11 th JANUARY 2026	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Bryan Greenwood Gerard Burns People of the Parish
MONDAY 12 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 13 th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Maureen Colleran
WEDNESDAY 14 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	The Holy Souls
THURSDAY 15 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Fr Matteo Balzano
FRIDAY 16 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	"Peace of All Soul"
SATURDAY 17 th	St Anthony, Abbot	12:15pm	St Mary's	Ints. of the Moska Family
	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	Helen Brown	11:00am	Joseph Coneron
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: 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

Sr Anne Thérèse, Maureen Colleran, Deceased Members of the Gray Family

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Please note that the Question & Answer session scheduled for the 24th of February is cancelled. The next Q&A session will take place on the 7th of April.

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 10th of February at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by my brother Fr Benjamin Hilton. He will be speaking about The Communion of the Saints.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHOIR ARE RECRUITING

As the New Year begins, now is good time to join the parish choir. Practice takes place every Wednesday from 6:00pm – 7:00pm in St Mary's church. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along and join... As St Augustine said: He who sings, prays twice!

NEWS FROM THE 200 CLUB

Thank you to the members of the Parish 200 Club who have recently handed over a cheque for £1300. This has enabled me to go ahead with the order of the new statue of Our Lady of Walsingham for display in St Mary's Church - She's on her way from Oberammergau as we speak.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR FUNERAL?

When we die, aside from the sadness that our loved ones will endure, there are also practical considerations that will inevitably fall upon them. One way of alleviating the stress of such a difficult time for our families, is ensuring that we have organised our Funeral Liturgy in advance and that we have made our wishes clear. This is especially helpful if our relatives are lapsed or less than Gospel-greedy. At the back of St Mary's there are copies of the Guide to Catholic Funeral Rites including an "Instructions for my Funeral" form. Once completed this can be kept at home or in the parish office.

NEW PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

I am pleased that the diocesan Safeguarding Office has appointed Sharon Costello as our new Parish Safeguarding Representative. I am grateful to Sharon for taking on this important role and I wish to thank, again, Claire O'Neil for having undertaken this work previously. A big thank you to both of them.

RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

On Monday 26th January, Holy Redeemer Parish, Huddersfield will have the privilege of hosting the relics of St Gerard Majella. He is popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those looking for work. Come along to pray in front of his relics, participate in Mass at St Patrick's at 7:00pm and receive a blessing with his relics.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday there will be a second collection for the Poor Mission Fund. This collection helps those parishes in the diocese which are poor and unable to support a priest by their own efforts and resources.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£677.07** Total Approx. **£1407.57** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

It is hard not to feel at times that we are living in a world permanently switched to full volume. Events unfold across the world and within moments they are surrounded by commentary, opinion, outrage, analysis and counter-analysis. Situations in places like Venezuela are only one example. The details quickly become lost beneath layers of reaction and interpretation. The internet and social media ensure that everyone has a platform and that almost everything is instantly judged, explained and argued over.

We are often told that this is a sign of progress. That it is good for everyone to have a voice and good for every opinion to be heard. We are encouraged to believe that every viewpoint carries equal weight and that truth itself is something flexible personal and constantly evolving. It sounds generous and open minded and, in many ways, it appeals to our desire to avoid conflict, but this way of thinking comes with a heavy cost.

Assisted suicide is a clear and sobering example. What was once rightly recognised as a moral outrage has increasingly been reframed as a matter of personal choice. Arguments are made in the language of compassion, autonomy and dignity. Views that would have rightly been unthinkable not long ago are now presented as reasonable simply because they are widely shared and confidently expressed. The volume of opinion begins to substitute for moral clarity. This is where our Catholic faith quietly but firmly challenges the assumptions of our age.

We must be very clear; there is no such thing as a spectrum of truth. Truth is not something we invent nor is it something that shifts according to popular feeling. It is not created by consensus and it is not made stronger just because more people repeat it. Truth is not an abstract idea floating above real life. It is a reality that shapes how we live and how we treat one another. For Catholics truth is not merely a concept. It is personal. Jesus does not say that He offers a truth or proposes one option among many. He says "I am the way the truth and the life." That claim can be either deeply uncomfortable or deeply liberating. It leaves little room for vague compromise. It tells us that truth is revealed rather than negotiated and received rather than manufactured. This truth has been entrusted to the Church not as a weapon to be wielded but as a gift to be protected and handed on. The Church does not create truth nor does she adjust it to suit each generation. Her task is to remain faithful even when that faithfulness is unfashionable or misunderstood. That requires both humility and courage in equal measure.

None of this means that conversation is unimportant or that every opinion should be dismissed. Listening matters and dialogue matters and the experiences of others matter deeply. But listening does not mean surrendering our moral bearings. Not every opinion is equally true or valid. Sincerity is not the same as wisdom and popularity is not the same as authority. Noise can drown out truth rather than reveal it.

We live in a culture that encourages instant reactions. We are all expected to have an opinion on everything and to express it immediately. Silence is often mistaken for indifference and restraint for weakness. Yet Christian discipleship calls us to something more demanding. It asks us to slow down to listen carefully and to discern prayerfully. It asks us to measure what we hear against the Gospel rather than against the mood of the moment. Perhaps one of the most countercultural things a Catholic can do today is to resist the pressure to comment on everything and instead ask a quieter question. Not what do I feel or what are others saying but what is true? That question takes time. It requires formation. It draws us back to Scripture the teaching of the Church and the example of Our Lord Himself.

Christ remains the same yesterday today and forever. In the midst of noise, uncertainty and constant commentary He offers something solid and enduring. If we remain close to Him we need not be afraid of the volume around us. Truth is not fragile. It does not need reinventing. It needs to be lived and that is perhaps where our task lies now. Not to add to the noise but to be rooted in what is true and to let that truth quietly shape our lives and our witness in the world.

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 Sharon Costello
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404