



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
 St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

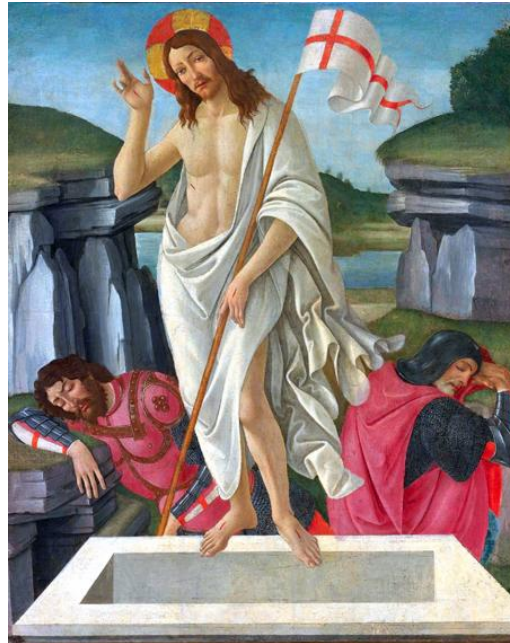
Children's Liturgy:
Every Sunday 11:00am

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 Special Intention



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

SUNDAY 12 th	2 nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)	9:30am 11:00am 3:00pm 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's St Alban's	Eleonora & Jan Zakrzewski Graham Ogilvie (A) Divine Mercy Service People of the Parish
MONDAY 13 th	Easter	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 14 th	Easter	9:30am	St Alban's	Joseph & Lilly
WEDNESDAY 15 th	Easter Funeral Service	9:30am 1:45pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Stefania Petrunew R.I.P. Brian McElroy
THURSDAY 16 th	Requiem Mass	11:00am	St Mary's	Rita Ann Byrnes
FRIDAY 17 th	Easter	12 Noon	St Mary's	Mary Stott R.I.P.
SATURDAY 18 th	Easter Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Danny Colleran R.I.P. Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Joseph Coneron	11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: David Stanton, John Durkin, Kathleen Durkin, Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Sonya Box, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, 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/Paul know so that a visit can be arranged.

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 28th April at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by Fr Andrew Bowden. He will be speaking about "The good life and how to live it"

DIVINE MERCY SERVICE

The Divine Mercy Service will be held in St Alban's today at 3:00pm. There will be an opportunity for confessions at this time.

EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

As usual I will be offering traditional Easter House Blessings with the new Easter water. This can take place any time between Easter Sunday and Ascension Thursday. Please send your details to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or call the presbytery on 01422 352141 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

S.V.P.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 13th April at 7:00 pm in St Alban's Parish Room

HAVE YOU BEEN CONFIRMED?

Are you an adult who, for whatever reason, never received the Sacrament of Confirmation? If you would like to explore the possibility of being Confirmed, please speak to me after Mass or send an email to the office.

PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA

There are still a few places remaining on the pilgrimage to Malta. Forms are available at the back of church. Please take them away and send them directly to Tangney Tours.

200 CLUB

There will be a draw today for the 200 Club March and April lotteries. These were postponed due to the Holy Week Ceremonies. Please consider joining the 200 Club and contributing to the upkeep of the church, as well as being in with a chance to win a monthly prize.

A NIGHT OF MUSIC WITH NICOLA MILLS – LADIES' GUILD

Come and enjoy her wonderful voice and hear her interesting life story. St Alban's church, Thursday 30th April, 7:00pm. Tickets £5 including refreshments.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The Deanery Marriage course consists of three distinct sessions. These will take place at St Mary's after the 11:00am Sunday Mass (for 1 hour) after Easter over three weekends on 26th April, 3rd May and 10th May 2026. All engaged couples intending to marry this year to contact Deacon John Walsh if they wish to attend. Attending a Marriage Course is a mandatory requirement for those intending to Marry in the Catholic Church.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Our Lenten Alms collection for Aid to the Church in Need's Pakistan Appeal raised: **£1705.42**
The Collection for the Holy Places on Good Friday raised: **£603.87**
Thank you for your generosity.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This Sunday bears a number of different names and each of them opens a slightly different window onto what the Church is celebrating. Most simply, today is the Second Sunday of Easter. That might sound a bit obvious but it already tells us something important. Easter is not confined to a single day and then forgotten about. The Church does not treat the Resurrection as an event to be marked and then moved on from. Instead, she holds on to it and the joy of Easter is allowed to unfold slowly and deliberately.

One of the older titles for today is *Dominica in Albis*, the Sunday in white. The name comes from the early centuries of the Church, when those baptised at the Easter Vigil would wear white garments throughout the week that followed. These garments were a visible sign of the new life they had received. Baptism had changed them. They had passed, in a real sense, from death to life and the white garment marked that reality. On this Sunday, they would lay those garments aside. Not because this new life had come to an end but because it had begun to take root within them and was now fully part of who they are.

Closely connected with this is another traditional name: *Quasimodo* Sunday. The title comes from the opening words of the Latin entrance antiphon: *Quasi modo geniti infantes*, "Like newborn infants." It is a striking image. The Church is always realistic about the beginnings of faith. It begins as something new, something that needs care and nourishment. That applies not only to those newly baptised and received but to all of us. Faith can be strong at times and more fragile at others. It grows gradually, it deepens through prayer, through the sacraments and through the steady practice of the Christian life. The image of the newborn child reminds us that growth takes time and that it is sustained by remaining close to the source of life.

In more recent years, this Sunday has also become widely known as Divine Mercy Sunday. That title draws our attention to the Gospel, taken from St John, where the risen Christ appears to His disciples. They are gathered behind closed doors, unsure and unsettled and he comes among them with a simple gift: "Peace be with you." He shows them his wounds and then entrusts to them the forgiveness of sins. This of course, is also connected to the devotion to the image of Divine Mercy as revealed to St Faustina Kawalksa.

All of these names help us to see different aspects of the same reality and all of this leads us to perhaps the most important way of understanding this day, it is the Octave Day of Easter. The eighth day. In the Church's tradition, an octave is not simply an extended celebration. It is a way of dwelling within a mystery. Each day of the octave (just as at Christmas) is treated as though it were the feast itself. The liturgy is repeated again and again with the same joy, allowing it to sink in more deeply. The eighth day, then, is not just the conclusion of a week. It carries a deeper meaning. In the Scriptures, the pattern of creation unfolds over six days, with the seventh set apart as a day of rest. The seventh day marks completion within the order of creation. But the Resurrection takes place on the day after the Sabbath. It is, in that sense, the eighth day. The early Christians saw something profound in this. The eighth day points beyond the sequence altogether. It speaks of a new creation, opened by the Resurrection of Christ. The beginning of something entirely new as opposed to a return to what was before.

That is why Sunday became the day of Christian worship. It is the day of the Resurrection, the day of the new creation. Theologically speaking, it is the day that points beyond time toward eternity. Every Sunday shares in that meaning but today makes it especially clear. We are not just remembering an event, we are being drawn into a living reality. To live as a Christian is, in a sense, to live in the light of the eighth day. It is to belong already to the new creation that Christ has opened. And so the Church holds us here for a moment. She does not rush us away from Easter. She invites us to remain within it, to allow its meaning to settle, to let it begin to shape our lives more fully. Christ is risen. The new creation has begun. The eighth and eternal day has dawned.

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