



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

Parochial Administrator:

St Bernard's Halifax and St Theresa's Queensbury

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](mailto:office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Website: [www.stmaryshalifax.com](http://www.stmaryshalifax.com)

St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



## MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

### Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday  
11:00am



### Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the  
month after 9:30am  
Mass



### Holy Rosary:

Saturday after 12:15pm  
Mass



### Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after  
9:30am Mass



### 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

### Marriages and Baptisms

by appointment  
See the priest after Mass



The month of September is dedicated to: The Seven Sorrows of Mary

|                                             |                                             |                             |                                      |                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY 13 <sup>th</sup><br>SEPTEMBER        | 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary<br>Time | 9:30am<br>11:00am<br>6:00pm | St Mary's<br>St Mary's<br>St Alban's | Kathryn Semp R.I.P.<br>Sr Marie Lichfield<br>Priest's Intention |
| MONDAY 14 <sup>th</sup>                     | Exultation of the Cross                     | No Mass                     |                                      |                                                                 |
| TUESDAY 15 <sup>th</sup>                    | Our Lady of Sorrows<br>(Latin)              | 7:00pm                      | St Alban's                           | People of the Parishes                                          |
| WEDNESDAY<br>16 <sup>th</sup>               | St Cornelius<br>New Term Mass               | 9:30am<br>11:00am           | St Mary's<br>School Hall             | Pauline Regan<br>Fr M. Murry (YB)                               |
| THURSDAY 17 <sup>th</sup>                   | Feria                                       | 9:30am                      | St Alban's                           | Dorothy Riley & Margaret<br>Lambert                             |
| FRIDAY 18 <sup>th</sup>                     | Feria                                       | 9:30am                      | St Mary's                            | Evelyn Duckworth                                                |
| SATURDAY 19 <sup>th</sup>                   | Feria                                       | 12:15pm                     | St Mary's                            | Edward Hintze                                                   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in<br>Ordinary Time | Vigil Mass<br>Vigil Mass                    | 4:00pm<br>5:00pm            | St Mary's<br>St Bernard's            | Polish Mass<br>James Duffy                                      |

### READERS ROTA

| THIS SUNDAY |                    |  | NEXT SUNDAY |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 9:30am      | Kieron Green       |                                                                                     | 9:30am      | Lily Hyman         |
| 11:00am     | Tim Widdop         |                                                                                     | 11:00am     | Lettie Damolo      |
| 6:00pm      | Rachel Fitzpatrick |                                                                                     | 6:00pm      | Frances Millington |

**PRAYER LIST:** Dorothy Laycock, Maureen Brown, Brendan Fernandes, Sadie Mills, David Stanton, Kathleen Durkin, Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, David Sutcliffe, 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.

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Mary and Tony Hallinan (A), "Baby S", George Kenneth Poppleton, Thanksgiving for (SM) prayers answered, Mary and George Poppleton

**THIS WEEK OUR LADY'S LAMP BURNS FOR:** Lawrence Maragh R.I.P.

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?**

If you wish to be baptised or received into the Church or perhaps are just a Catholic who is yet to be Confirmed, I will be running the RCIA course starting in November beginning on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in St Alban's hall. If you are interested in joining the programme, please email me on: [office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**LADIES' GUILD PARISH QUIZ NIGHT**

The Parish Ladies Guild are organising a quiz night to be held at the Halifax Catholic club on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £7.50 each with supper included. Teams of up to 6 people are allowed. Tickets to be purchased before the day.

**LEEDS CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND THE SIXTEEN**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 3:00pm, Leeds Cathedral. The Cathedral Choir performs with members of internationally-renowned choir The Sixteen and the Genesis Sixteen young artist programme, conducted by Harry Christophers. Admission free, with a suggested £10 donation.

**TAMLA MOTOWN EVENING**

The Tamla Motown tickets for our Parish Social on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October to be held at the Halifax Catholic Club will be on sale from this Sunday before and after mass and in the Catholic club. Tickets are £5 each and must be purchased before the event.

**LEEDS CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND THE SIXTEEN**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 3:00pm, Leeds Cathedral. The Cathedral Choir performs with members of internationally renowned choir The Sixteen and the Genesis Sixteen young artist programme, conducted by Harry Christophers. Admission free, with a suggested £10 donation

**ST MARY'S SCHOOL**

The school will be holding a Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept in the school dining hall 9:30am till 11:00am and also an afternoon session 3:00pm till 4:00pm. All parishioners are welcome to come for a cuppa and a cake in exchange for a small donation to this this fantastic cause! Any cake and bun donations are also very welcome. See you there!

**ETERNAL REST: THE ART OF DYING WELL**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, St Alban's Hall, 6:00pm  
*Episode 3: The Hour of Our Death*  
*Episode 4: The Faithful Departed*

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£744.91** Total Approx: **£1449.41** (Inc. standing orders & card)

Today there will be a second collection for the Catholic Education Service

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

This past week, each day at Mass I have been reading the Communion Antiphon: “I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Those words have really struck me this week, particularly in the light of two very different events in the news.

Last Saturday more than 10,000 people gathered in London for the annual March for Life UK. What struck me most in the photographs and footage and from speaking to friends who attended, was the joy of those marching. There were families, young people, priests and religious, people praying the Rosary, singing, smiling and walking peacefully through the streets. Fifteen Catholic bishops took part. It was, quite literally, a public witness to life.

Alongside them were pro-abortion counter-protesters. People have every right to disagree with the Church and to protest peacefully but some of what happened went much further. Protesters shouted abuse, swore, spat, attempted to drown out speakers and a group even entered Westminster Cathedral and disrupted Holy Mass. There was something very revealing in the contrast: on one side prayer, hymns and smiling families; on the other, anger and bitterness so intense, that even our worship inside a church could not be left in peace. The light of life seemed distinctly absent from one side.

Then, on the other side of the Atlantic, there was the deeply disturbing trial of Lindsay Clancy, the American mother who killed her three little children, Cora, Dawson and Callan. Her defence argued that she was suffering from severe postpartum psychosis; prosecutors argued that the killings were deliberate. The jury could not agree and a mistrial was declared.

Mental illness must always be treated with compassion, and the terrible reality of postpartum psychosis should never be dismissed. Yet I found the public reaction deeply unsettling. Hundreds of women gathered outside the courthouse in support of Lindsay Clancy. Many said they were highlighting failures in maternal mental-health care, which is a legitimate concern. But amid the placards, applause and public identification with the accused, I could not help wondering: where were the people gathering for Cora, Dawson and Callan? I struggle to imagine the same response if a father had killed his three young children. Somehow, in all the discussion about the adult at the centre of the case, three tiny lives risked becoming almost secondary.

Perhaps this is one consequence of what St John Paul II called the “culture of death”. It does not mean that people consciously choose cruelty. More often, it means that our moral vision becomes clouded. We begin deciding that some lives count more than others, that some may be inconvenient, burdensome or disposable, and eventually we become less able even to recognise what has been lost. If children can be aborted up until birth, defending the actions of Lindsey Clancy becomes the natural conclusion.

The Christian vision is different. Our Lord speaks of the “light of life”. Christianity begins with the conviction that life is a gift, that every human being bears the image of God, and that no life is without value. The unborn child, the frightened mother, the disabled person, the elderly person, the person suffering severe mental illness: all possess the same God-given dignity, and all deserve our love.

Faith is not meant to make us gloomy. Research repeatedly finds an association between active religious practice and greater happiness and wellbeing. The Pew Research Centre found across 35 countries that people actively involved in religious communities were generally more likely to describe themselves as happy. An earlier Pew study found that Catholics attending Mass weekly were significantly more likely to call themselves “very happy” than Catholics who attended less often. Harvard researchers have likewise linked regular religious participation with “greater life satisfaction, positive affect, social connection and a stronger sense of purpose.” That should not surprise us though, should it? The Gospel is, after all, Good News.

A culture of life should look like life. It should be joyful, hopeful, generous and peaceful. It should make room for children, care for mothers, protect the vulnerable and refuse to give up on anyone.

“I am the light of the world,” says the Lord. If we follow him, people should be able to see something of that light in us and in how we live our lives and most of all, in how we care for those around us.

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](mailto:office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)  
The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Sharon Costello  
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404