



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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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:

Joan Fletcher



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 September is dedicated to: The Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Lady

SUNDAY 14 th SEPTEMBER	EXULTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish Lawrence Maragh George McCormack 80 th B'day
MONDAY 15 th	Our Lady of Sorrows	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 16 th	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	6:30pm 7:00pm	St Alban's St Alban's	3 rd Session on the Mass (Talk) Shirley Hilton R.I.P.
WEDNESDAY 17 th	Feria	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Denis Smyth
THURSDAY 18 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Bryan & Sheila Greenwood
FRIDAY 19 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	The Holy Souls
SATURDAY 20 th	Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong & Companions	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Edward Hintze Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Andrea Woodward	11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: 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

John Staden, Timothy Hayes, Irene & Tomasz Nalepa

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT MEETINGS:

Time for prayer, questions, input from a priest and social time. There are two groups meeting simultaneously; under 18s and over 18s. Fridays 6:30pm 8:15pm, 19th September (Hinsley Hall), 17th October (Hinsley Hall), 14th November (Cathedral Hall), 19th December (Hinsley Hall). Under 18 participants must complete and return a permission form prior to attending. For permission forms and to notify of attendance (all participants) please contact Vocations Promoter, Fr Simon Lodge
simon.lodge@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

PARISH CEILIDH FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025
(STARTS 7:30PM) PELLON SOCIAL CLUB

Tickets are now on sale for what will be a night of lively music, dancing and entertainment, whilst raising funds for the Parish. No dance experience? No problem. You'll be guided through the easy-to-follow dances. Two left feet? No problem. It adds to the fun factor. Low on energy? No problem. Half-time supper will be provided to recharge your batteries plus Bar available to keep you refreshed throughout the evening. Ticket price: £20 (inc. supper). Cash only please.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

His Lordship the Bishop will Confirm the young people of the deanery this year on Tuesday 18th of November here in St Mary's at 7:00pm. If your child in year 6 or above and in a non-Catholic school and you wish to enrol them in the course, see me after Mass. (1st session Tuesday 16th September at 5:00pm)

BATLEY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

The annual Torchlight Procession will take place on Monday 6th October and this year the guest preacher is yours truly. We will have a bus going from our own St Mary's, leaving at 6:00pm and departing Batley at 9:30pm. Bus places £15 per person. Sign up at the back of church.

PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FASHION SHOW – Thursday 18th September (St Mary's School)
PARISH CEILIDH – Friday 3rd of October (Pellon Social Club)
TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION – Monday 6th October (Batley)
60's NIGHT – Friday 17th October (Catholic Club)
PARISH RETREAT – Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th November (Ampleforth Abbey)
AFTERNOON TEA – Saturday 15th November (Catholic Club)
CHEESE AND WINE EVENING – Friday 5th December (St Alban's Hall)

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Everyone should have received a programme card with the dates for the next years' worth of talks and sessions. Please take this away with you and put it somewhere at home that you will notice.

Our third session on the Holy Mass is this Tuesday at 6:30pm in St Alban's Hall.

Come along and learn more about your faith, you can join any time.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£648.40** Total Approx. **£1458.40** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The recent death of Katharine, Duchess of Kent, has gone largely passed over in the whirlwind of international news. Yet her life, marked by quiet dignity and deep faith, speaks volumes to us as a Church that must remember what it means to be both in the world but not of it. As tributes have been paid, it's worth reflecting on the quiet but powerful witness this remarkable woman gave through her conversion to the Catholic Church, her devotion to service and her refusal to cling to the trappings of influence and prestige.

Born into the aristocracy and married to the Queen's cousin, the Duchess of Kent spent much of her life at the very heart of the British establishment. In 1994, however, in an act of personal conviction and spiritual courage, she was received into full communion with the Catholic Church. In a country where Catholicism had long been viewed with suspicion and among the upper class, where conversions were rare and frowned upon, her decision was both radical and brave. She did not make a public spectacle of it, nor did she seek attention. Instead, she allowed herself to be led by grace.

Her reception into the Church was overseen by Cardinal Basil Hume, the then Archbishop of Westminster, a man who, through warmth, humility, and intelligence, helped to reframe Catholicism in the British imagination. Cardinal Hume's legacy is still very much with us today. A monk who spoke gently yet clearly, who made Catholicism intellectually respectable and socially acceptable after centuries of marginalisation in English society. It is fitting, then, that the Duchess, so much a part of that social world, found her way to Christ under his pastoral care.

What is so striking is that the Duchess' funeral will take place at Westminster Cathedral. It will be the first time since the Reformation that a member of the British royal family has had a funeral in such a place. That fact alone speaks volumes about how far relations between the Church and the British establishment have come. In a sense, the long exile is over. The doors once locked are now open. Suspicion has given way to acceptance.

But acceptance, as the Church must always remember, is not the same as mission. And while it is right to give thanks for the role figures like Cardinal Hume and the Duchess of Kent played in normalising Catholic presence in public life, we must not become too comfortable with the world's acceptance. The Church is not called to fit in, she is called to stand out. We are not meant to become so respectable that we forget the radical call of the Gospel, the call to conversion, to holiness, and to the transformation of the world around us.

The danger, as history shows us, is that when the Church becomes too embedded in the social order, she risks losing her prophetic voice. The early Christians were not admired for their decorum or celebrated for their polite societal contributions. They were seen as a challenge, a disruption, a community living by a different light. Their lives bore witness to a kingdom not of this world and it was precisely this otherness that changed history forever.

The Duchess of Kent, despite her background, understood this in her own way. After stepping back from royal duties, she chose to live simply, teaching music in a primary school, known only as Mrs Kent. She did not need the attention or applause. Hers was a faith that bore fruit in humility, in service and in quiet fidelity. We can learn something from that. The Church today does not need to chase relevance or social status. She needs saints, men and women willing to follow Christ without compromise, even when the world misunderstands them. The Duchess, in her quiet way, offered such a witness. May her example remind us that true nobility lies not in titles but in the willingness to take up the Cross and follow the Lord wherever He leads. May she rest in peace.

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