



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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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:

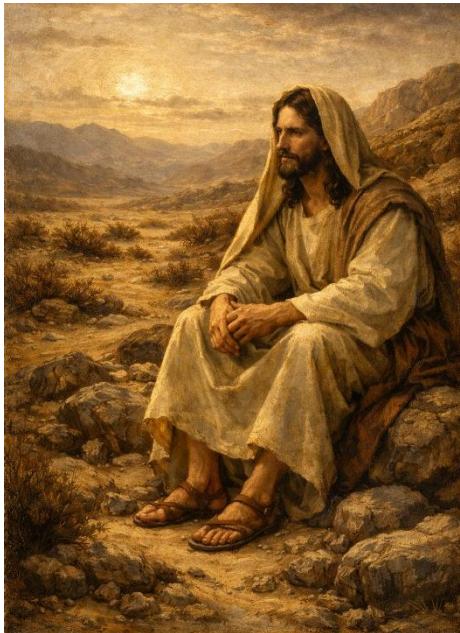
Saturday after 12:15pm
Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month
after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

Healing JB



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 February is dedicated to: The Holy Family

SUNDAY 15 th FEBRUARY 2026	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Maureen Riddeal Patricia Reynolds People of the Parish
MONDAY 16 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 17 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Bryan & Shelia Greenwood
WEDNESDAY 18 th FAST & ABSTINENCE	ASH WEDNESDAY	7:00am 12:15pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Holy Souls Agnes Melia Denis Smyth
THURSDAY 19 th	Lent	9:30am	St Alban's	Winfred Melia
FRIDAY 20 th ABSTAIN FROM MEAT	Lent	7:00am 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Margaret Toolan Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 21 st	Lent	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Stuart Stott Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

John Greenwood

NEXT SUNDAY

Isaac Mellor

9:30am

9:30am

11:00am

11:00am

6:00pm

6:00pm

Andrea Woodward

Frances Millington

PRAAYER LIST: John Durkin, Kathleen Durkin, 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, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Gerard James and Rita Baxendale who have died recently. *Requiem aeternam...*

MASSES RECEIVED

Margaret Read, Kate McGlynn, Timothy Hayes, Paul Connolly, Tomasz & Irene Nalepa

NB: If you do not request a specific date, the time it takes for your Mass to be said is 4-5 months.

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 10th March at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by Fr David Reilly. He will be speaking about
"The Church's Faith"

*** The next Q&A will take place on the **Tuesday 24th March at 6:00pm**. ***
Please take note of this revised date.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAYS IN LENT

Ash Wednesday is day of fasting. That means you may eat one meal that day and two small snacks that when added together would not equal a whole meal.

Ash Wednesday is also a day of abstinence; this means you must not eat meat.
All Catholics must abstain from eating meat every Friday in Lent.

RESOURCES FOR LENT

Today at Mass you will receive the **Parish Lenten Sheet** containing information and dates for your diary. You will also receive a **"Walk With Me" booklet** (Optional donation of £1.50)
And you will also receive a **Lenten Alms Box**. Please make sure that you take them all home.

FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

First Confessions will take place on Saturday **21st of March** for children in Year 3. First Holy Communions will take place on Sunday **7th of June** for children in Year 4.

If your child attends a non-Catholic school and wishes to make either of these Sacraments this year, please let me know as soon as possible. Or contact Helen Mellor on 07931998337.

S.V.P.

Next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 17th February at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall.
New members always welcome.

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Saturday 21st February - Acoustic Night featuring 4 acts. All welcome – 8:00pm onwards.

COACH TRIP TO LINCOLN

Next Sunday is the deadline for signing up for the trip to Lincoln Cathedral. Please make payment in cash ASAP.

DIOCESE OF LEEDS YOUNG MEN'S GORUP FOR AGES 21-35

The diocese is forming a group for young men from across our parishes to come together to pray, listen to engaging speakers, socialise and grow in faith and fraternity. The group is under the patronage of St Joseph and takes the following format: Devotions to St Joseph, talk from a guest speaker, food and social time and concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The next meeting will be on:

Thursday 26th February 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Hinsley Hall, the diocesan center, in Leeds, LS6 2BX

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA

Monday 21st - Friday 25th September. Starting for £1070pp

Flying from Manchester | Stay in the Hotel Argento - St Julian's Bay | Bed & Breakfast - make your own choices for lunch and supper | Daily Mass and Devotions | Light and relaxed programme to allow plenty of free time | Visit to the church of St Paul's Shipwreck | Visit to St John's Co-Cathedral | Visit to St Paul's Grotto | Visit the Mellieħa Cave | Beautiful costal towns and historic streets | Transfers and Tour Guide included | Comprehensive Travel Insurance Included | NB: COST OF FLIGHTS IS ADDITIONAL APROX. £240-260pp | Single room supplement: £200 | **BOOK EARLY TO SECURE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE**

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The 2026 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place Friday 3rd to Thursday 9th July 2026. It is hoped that there will be two flights from Leeds. The booking process is now open. Bookings can be made online on <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-leeds/> or by phone direct with Tangney (01732 886666)

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT MEETING

20th February 2026, 6:30pm at The Newman Centre at St Theresa's, Crossgates. If you are planning on attending for the first time, and haven't done so already, please contact Fr Simon Lodge to register your interest on vocations@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

ST MARY'S PTFA

The PTFA of St. Mary's Catholic Primary Academy are currently asking if all parishioners would kindly donate an Easter egg (big or small) for activities and competitions taking place in the school leading up to the Easter holidays. Please be as generous as you can. Any kind of Easter chocolate will be gladly welcomed. Donations can be placed in a box at the back of church or dropped off at the school reception.

Thank you for your continued support.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£686.52** Total Approx: **£1395.27** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Ash Wednesday is a quiet day. There is no Gloria, no flowers, no fanfare. We come forward in silence and receive the ashes with words that are rather stark and haunting: "Remember thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return." ... In a culture that prefers distraction and easy optimism, the Church begins Lent by telling us the truth. We are not self-sufficient or permanent; we depend upon God for every breath. The ashes are not meant to depress us but to steady us. They place our lives in their proper perspective. There is great honesty in this day. We acknowledge our need for mercy. We admit that we have not loved God or neighbour as we should. Yet Ash Wednesday is about repentance, not shame. The same God who reminds us that we are dust is the One who formed us from that dust with tenderness and care. The ashes come from last year's palms. What was waved in celebration becomes the sign of repentance. Joy and sorrow, praise and penance, belong together. The road to Easter passes through Lent. Lent offers three simple practices: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer re-centres us, fasting loosens our attachment to comfort and almsgiving turns us outward in love. They are not ends in themselves but ways of drawing closer to Christ. The ashes will, of course, fade. The call to repentance must not. Lent has begun. Let us take it seriously and calmly. God asks not for grand gestures, but for our hearts.

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