



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:

Mary James & Family



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 March is dedicated to: St Joseph

SUNDAY 15 th MARCH 2026	4 th Sunday of Lent <i>Laetare</i> Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Jan & Eleonora Zakrzewski Timothy Hayes People of the Parish
MONDAY 16 th	Lent	No Mass		
TUESDAY 17 th	St Patrick	7:00pm	St Alban's	Mary Harding (YB)
WEDNESDAY 18 th	Lent	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Thomas Edmund Staden
THURSDAY 19 th	St Joseph	9:30am	St Mary's	Holy Souls
FRIDAY 20 th ABSTAIN FROM MEAT	Lent	7:00am 1:30pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	J.B. Stations with Years 3&4 Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 21 st DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS 9:00am-4:00pm	Lent	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Maria Griffin Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun	9:30am	Lily Hymas
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Lettie Damolo
6:00pm	Frances Millington.	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: 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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Kathleen Smith, Gerard James x 2, Bindhu R.I.P., David Costello (A)

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”

*** The next Q&A will take place on the **Tuesday 24th March at 6:00pm.** ***

DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS

The priests of the deanery will once again be hearing confessions all day in St Mary's

on **Saturday 21st of March.**

9:00–10:00 — Fr Hilton 10:00–11:00 — Mgr Owens 11:00–12:00 — Canon Larkin 12:00–13:00 — Fr Hall 13:00–14:00 — Fr B Owen 14:00–15:00 — Mgr McQuinn 15:00–16:00 — Fr Hilton

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.

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.

CHURCHES TOGETHER - LENTEN REFLECTIONS

On Monday 9th and Monday 23rd March St Albans are hosting Churches Together for Lenten reflections. These sessions will take place between 14.00 and 15.30 on each of the Mondays. The theme for the reflection is "Jesus' Last Week" and will be accompanied by tea and biscuits.

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE DIOCESES OF LEEDS & MIDDLESBROUGH

As part of the consultation currently taking place across our two Dioceses, there is an opportunity for all clergy, religious and members of the lay faithful to contribute by completing an online questionnaire, either individually or as a parish group. Prayerful reflection should be given to the questions so that the Holy Spirit may guide this process of discernment. Prayer resources and a presentation are available on the diocesan website to support this process. Responses should be submitted no later than Friday, 22nd May 2026. For more information and to complete the questionnaire, please visit:

<https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/leeds-middlesbrough-consultation-2026>

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£845.16**Total Approx: **£1576.14** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

We have reached the middle point of the holy season of Lent. When Ash Wednesday arrived it may have seemed that the weeks stretched comfortably ahead of us. Yet time moves quietly and steadily and here we are already some distance along the road that leads us toward Holy Week and the celebration of Easter (Please take a Holy Week sheet away with you today.)

The middle of Lent is a good moment to pause and take stock. Most of us began the season with some intention in mind. We may have decided to pray a little more seriously, to give something up or to be more attentive to the needs of others. These resolutions are often made with enthusiasm and yet as the weeks pass by, they can easily fade into the background of ordinary life. That is simply part of being a human being. The purpose of Lent is not to make us discouraged about that fact but to call us gently back again. The Church, in her wisdom, gives us forty days for a reason. The journey is long enough for us to begin again if we have lost our way a little. If the first weeks have gone well for you, then give thanks to God and continue as you have begun. If they have slipped by rather unnoticed, there is still plenty of time to enter more deeply into the spirit of the season.

One very simple way to do this is through the rhythm of prayer in the parish. On Friday mornings during Lent we celebrate Mass at 7:00am. It is an early start and I realise that it will not be possible for everyone. Yet for those who can manage it, there is something rather special about beginning the day in church during these weeks of preparation. The quiet of the early morning lends itself naturally to prayer. It can set the tone for the whole day that follows. Even if you are only able to come once or twice during the remaining weeks of Lent, you may find it a helpful way of marking the season.

Later on Fridays, we gather again in the evening at 7:00pm for the Stations of the Cross. This devotion has accompanied the Lenten journey of the Christian people for centuries. In walking the way of the Cross we accompany Our Lord on the road to Calvary. We reflect on the events of His passion, not as distant history but as the saving work by which our sins were redeemed. The Stations do not take very long, yet they invite us to slow down for a while and to place ourselves alongside Christ in the final hours of His earthly life. If you have never made a habit of attending the Stations of the Cross, Lent is a good time to try. Many people discover that this simple devotion speaks to the heart in a quiet and powerful way.

Above all, as we reach the middle of Lent, it is important to remember the sacrament which stands at the very centre of the season. Lent is a time of repentance and renewal. For that reason, the Church expects us to make a good confession during these weeks.

Next Saturday will be the deanery day of confessions. Priests from across our local parishes will be available for confession throughout the day. Opportunities like this are a great gift. They allow us the time and space to examine our consciences calmly and to approach the sacrament without feeling rushed.

Confession can sometimes feel daunting, especially if it has been a long time since we last went. Yet those who make the effort are often surprised by the sense of peace that follows. The sacrament is not intended to weigh us down with guilt. It is Christ's way of lifting that burden from our shoulders. In confession we hear again those words of mercy which we so desperately need to hear. If it has been some time since your last confession, I encourage you to take advantage of the deanery day next Saturday. It would be a wonderful way to mark the middle of Lent and to prepare your heart for the weeks that lie ahead. And remember, none of us know if this may be the last confession we ever make... (Not trying to scare you...it's just true.)

Anyway, the road to Easter continues before us. With a little prayer, a little perseverance and the grace of the sacraments, these remaining weeks can still become a fruitful time for each and every one of us.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton