



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

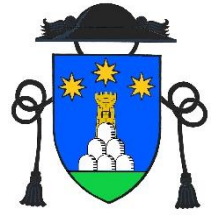
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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



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:

Maria Griffin's Intentions



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 February is dedicated to: The Holy Family

SUNDAY 16 th FEBRUARY	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Maureen Riddeal (A) Leslie Maragh & Angela Payn People of the Parish
MONDAY 17 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 18 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 19 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
THURSDAY 20 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 21 st	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Fr Robert Whiteside
SATURDAY 22 nd	St Peter's Chair Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Paul Connolly Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Joseph Coneran	11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Frances Millington

HOLY YEAR INDULGENCE

St Mary's is a Jubilee Pilgrimage Church for the Holy Year 2025.

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable to you or the faithful departed, may be gained each day by a devout visit to the church, together with prayers for the Holy Father's intentions, Holy Communion and sacramental Confession within a few days, and detachment from sin.

PRAYER LIST: Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, David Stanton, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Larry Byrne, 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:

Eileen Haylett, The Moylett Family, Private Intention (PC)

HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES

There will be a break this week while I am away in Rome. Session number five of our course looking at the Creed will take place next Tuesday 25th February at 6pm in St Alban's parish room. The theme will be "The Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of Life".

200 CLUB WINNERS

November 2024

1st prize £75 No. 56 - John Greenwood

2nd prize £50 No.105 - Janet Wild

3rd prize £25 No. 39 Jeanette Roberts

December 2024

1st prize £75 No. 79 - John Coates

2nd prize £50 No. 141 - Annabelle Davis

3rd prize £25 No. 21 - Ken Rothery

Congratulations to the winners! Envelopes with joining packs are available at the back of both churches.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocese of Leeds will travel on pilgrimage to Lourdes this year from the 4th – 10th of July.

If you wish to make a booking, this can be done through Tangney Tours:

www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-leeds

or call: 01732 886666

THE SCHOOL EASTER FAYRE

will be taking place on Friday 28th March at 3.30pm after school till approx. 5.00pm. We would very much appreciate it if parishioners would be kind enough to donate Easter eggs for our Easter egg tombola and any cakes or buns would also be very welcome, nearer to the date, for our cake stall. Please be as generous as you can. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to come and help out too. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns (07932 595955) with any queries, or if you would like to help. Easter eggs can be left at the back of church or dropped off at the school reception. Thank you once again for your continued support.

THE HUDDERSFIELD AND BRADFORD BOYS' CHOIR

will be visiting us to sing the 11 O'clock Mass on Sunday 2nd March.

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Friday 21st February - Halifax Acoustic Club. Four great musical acts.

All welcome.

S.V.P

Next meeting of the Monday 24th February 6 pm St Alban's parish room.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£696.76** Total Approx. **£1425.76** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

It is part of the human condition to struggle against temptations for what we know to be bad for us and for others. The virtue of temperance is what helps us fight these temptations. It helps us to keep from doing what is wrong, even when we have strong feelings towards it. In other words, temperance is what keeps us from sinning, even when we want to. Temperance always comes last in the list of the cardinal virtues: temperance is about maintaining the good, but you can only maintain the good if you already have some idea of what the good is and how to acquire it. Prudence is how we know the good, justice and fortitude helps us to do it.

Many — if not most — people see the major goal of the Christian life as the avoidance of sin. Many people would answer the question “What makes a good Christian?” in purely negative terms: someone who doesn't fornicate, or get drunk, or do drugs, or steal, or get angry, gossip or say nasty things. Those are all things a good Christian should not do, but that is pretty sad and sorry answer. A good Christian, on the other hand, is not just someone who doesn't do certain things, but rather someone who does do certain things, someone who seeks the good, who strives to promote beauty, health, holiness, love, friendship, truth, and so on. Our Christian faith calls us to focus on doing good rather than simply avoiding evil. That is why temperance is always considered the last in the order of virtues, though it is as necessary as all of the others.

We need the virtue of temperance because of one of the effects of Original Sin we call “concupiscence”. Concupiscence is just a fancy theological word that describes the human desire for things we know are not good for us. Diabetics crave sugar, alcoholics desire whisky, and we all sometimes just long for something that we know to be sinful. We want something good, but in a disordered way. We want something good, but we want too much of it. We want something good, but in a way that could be bad for us. Temperance prevents us from acting on these dangerous urges. It allows us to govern our desires, instead of allowing our desires to govern us. For an intemperate person — that is, someone who permits their impulses to run rampant — it is much harder to see the truth, and much harder to do what is right.

Temperance protects whatever good it is that we are pursuing. If a person pursues a good in a disordered way, they are sure to end up hating that good. Alcohol, for example, is a good thing, but nobody hates alcohol more than an alcoholic. They hate it because it has separated them from everything else: their family, their job, their self-respect. Again, Anger can be righteous and help us to put right that which is wrong, but it can so easily, without temperance, become a destructive force within us and can hurt others too. Goods pursued in a disordered way can make us addicted to them, slaves to them, in such a way that our lives are dominated by something that should bring us happiness but in actual fact lead to sorrow.

We should have a healthy desire for food and drink, for health and exercise, for relationships, for high achievement, and so on. These are goods created by God as gifts to us that lead us to happiness in this life. Temperance allows us to appreciate all the goods and joys of human life as coming from God, without misusing those gifts and leading to heartache for ourselves and others.

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