



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

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:
 Margaret & Peter Saul



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 November is dedicated to: The Holy Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY 16 th NOVEMBER	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Jan & Eleonora Zakrzewski Josie McLaughlin Zdzislawa Ojdana
MONDAY 17 th	St Hilda of Whitby	No Mass		
TUESDAY 18 th	CONFIRMATION	7:00pm	St Mary's	
WEDNESDAY 19 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Maria Griffin
THURSDAY 20 th	Feria Reception of Body	No Mass 5:00pm	St Mary's	Teresa Duda
FRIDAY 21 st	REQUIEM	12:30pm	St Mary's	Teresa Duda
SATURDAY 22 nd	St Cecilia Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Roy Stout Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Malcolm Brown	11:00am	Wendy Balahura
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Theresa (Tess) Duda and Teresa Iwanowska who have died recently.

MASSES RECEIVED

John and Christine Hupalo, Intentions of Fr Joshua Hilton, Intentions of Deacon Paul Coates, Allison Allen, Filomena Kerins, Zdzislawa Ojdana

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Our next Q&A session will take place on
Tuesday 2nd December at 6:00pm
in St Alban's room.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

A variety of religious Christmas cards are available to purchase at the back of St Mary's church.

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets for the Parish Christmas Raffle are now on sale after Sunday Masses and, once again, there are some great prizes to be won.

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

We are holding a wine and cheese evening in St Albans church hall on
Friday 5th December from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
The event is to raise funds for St Mary's & St Alban parish and the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.
Tickets are £10 and are on sale from today.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This year's Christmas Carol Service will be held on Thursday **18th December at 7:00pm** in St Mary's.
Christmas buffet will follow in the Catholic Club.

CONFIRMATION THIS TUESDAY

His Lordship the Bishop is visiting the parish **this Tuesday at 7:00pm** to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the young people of the deanery. All are welcome to attend.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: RED WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday is *Red Wednesday*, an annual day of prayer and solidarity that highlights the millions of Christians around the world who face persecution for the faith. On this day, we are invited to pray for the persecuted Church, raise awareness of their situation, and stand together as a community committed to religious freedom and hope. Please join us for Mass on **Wednesday at 9:30**, followed by a short time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, please see Aid to the Church in Need:
www.acnuk.org

DEAD PRIESTS MASS

The Mass for deceased priests of the diocese takes place at the Cathedral **this Friday at 12:30pm.**

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£ 754.02** Total Approx. **£1544.52** (Inc. standing orders & card)
There will be a second collection next week for the Diocesan Youth Service.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Some of you were very kind about my sermon last Sunday about the Temple and church buildings and asked if you could have a copy of what I said. Unfortunately I only had a few bullet points, but the link between the Jewish Temple and our own churches and liturgy is an interesting discussion. This is a simplified explanation of that relationship.

From the earliest days of Christianity, the Church has understood herself as both the fulfilment and continuation of God's covenant with Israel. The Mass does not simply echo the Temple, it completes it, transforming the sacrificial worship of ancient Israel into the Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ. Before the coming of Christ, the centre of Jewish religious life was the Temple in Jerusalem. This was no ordinary place of prayer, it was the dwelling of God among His people, where priests offered daily sacrifices and the faithful came to encounter the divine presence. The Temple had three principal areas: the Court, accessible to all the faithful, the Holy Place, where only priests ministered and the Holy of Holies, the most sacred space where the Ark of the Covenant rested and only the High Priest could enter once a year. These divisions represented both God's transcendence and His nearness to His people.

Church architecture reflects this continuity. The nave, where the congregation gathers, corresponds to the outer court of the Temple, the meeting place of God's people. The sanctuary, separated by steps or rails, mirrors the Holy Place, reserved for the ordained ministers who serve at the altar. And the altar itself represents the Holy of Holies, the dwelling of God, for it is there that the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered and Christ becomes truly present. Even the use of incense, candles, and vestments originates in Temple practice. In the Old Covenant, incense symbolised prayers rising to heaven, in the Mass, it retains that same meaning. The priest's vestments descend from the garments of the Levitical priests. The tabernacle, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, echoes the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the manna, the staff of Aaron and the tablets of the Law, all of which prefigure the Eucharist.

The first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, mirrors the synagogue service that developed during the Babylonian Exile, when Jews gathered to read the Scriptures and offer prayers when they were cut off from the Temple and deprived of its sacrificial worship. Early Christians continued this pattern, reading from the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms and later, from the Gospels and apostolic letters. The responsorial psalm and homily follow the same rhythm of instruction and reflection that made up the synagogue liturgy.

The second part, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, corresponds to the sacrificial worship of the Temple. Just as the priests offered lambs and other sacrifices on behalf of the people, the priest offers the one perfect sacrifice of Christ, made present in an unbloody manner on the altar. The church altar is therefore a place of sacrificial worship and the fulfilment of the altar in Jerusalem. During the Mass, the priest presents bread and wine just as the Jewish priest presented the offering before God. The words of consecration, "This is my Body... This is my Blood", recall not only the Last Supper but also the covenantal language of sacrifice in the Temple. When the priest elevates the Host, the faithful behold what the High Priest could only glimpse once a year, the true presence of God among His people.

It is important to understand that the Mass does not abolish Jewish worship but fulfils it. Jesus Himself worshiped in the Temple and observed its feasts. The Letter to the Hebrews describes Him as the eternal High Priest who enters not into a sanctuary made by human hands but into heaven itself. The Church, therefore, does not invent a new form of worship, it participates in Christ's eternal offering to the Father. In the end, every Catholic church is a visible sign that the Temple has not vanished but been reborn in a greater form. Where the Temple once stood in Jerusalem, now every altar throughout the world becomes a place where heaven and earth meet. Every Catholic church is a sacred place, a new Holy of Holies in which God once again dwells among His people.

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