



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

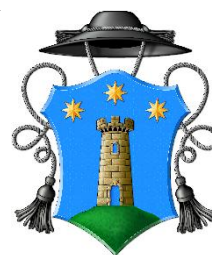
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

Presbytery: Clarence House, 2 Clarence Street, Halifax HX1 5DH

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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 R.I.P.



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 August is dedicated to: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

SUNDAY 17 th AUGUST	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Irene & Thomas Nalepa Maureen Riddeal (A) People of the Parish
MONDAY 18 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 19 th	Feria	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 20 th	St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor	9:30am	St Mary's	Elizabeth & Veronica Noble
THURSDAY 21 st	St Pius X	9:30am	St Alban's	Fr Colman Ryan
FRIDAY 22 nd	Our Lady Mother and Queen	12:00 Noon	St Mary's	John Davis
SATURDAY 23 rd	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Gladys Megson
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY				NEXT SUNDAY			
9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun			9:30am	Lily Hymas		
11:00am	Greg Finn			11:00am	Malcolm Brown		
6:00pm	Frances Millington			6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick		

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, 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 Davis, Frank & Mary Tate & Elizabeth Anne Sampson, May & George Poppleton, George Kenneth Poppleton, Sister Anne Thérèse, Ken Akroyd, Catherine Murphy, Lawrence Maragh, Dec Mem. PLG

SUMMER SCHEDULE

For the next few weeks until the 31st of August, there will be no Tuesday evening Mass and Friday Mass will be celebrated at 12 Noon. Normal times to resume in September. (Funerals may alter this)

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.

PARISH ACCOUNTS

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Tony Wannan who for many years has served as the accountant to this parish. He has been of immeasurable help to me and previous parish priests and I want to publicly recognise his hard work and dedication. After so many years, Tony is now retiring from this role and I would like to thank Bernard Corcoran for so generously agreeing to take this work on.

It has been a couple of months since we submitted the annual return to the diocese for the last financial year but I would like to highlight some of last year's considerable outgoings for your information:

Financial Year 2024/2025

Repairs and Maintenance of Parish Buildings: Both churches, both halls and presbytery: £38,699

Liturgical Costs: Altar breads, candles, incense, sanctuary lamps, vestments, altar wine, altar servers cassocks, bulletin sheets, music, votive candles etc.: £24,035

Utilities: Gas, Electricity and water: £22,465

Insurance Premium: £7,318

Administration Costs: Postage, office supplies, printing etc: £7,205

Last week's loose collection was **£767.14** Total Approx. **£1426.14** (Inc. standing orders & card)

PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FASHION SHOW – Thursday 18th September (St Mary's School)

PARISH CEILIDH – Friday 3rd of October (Pellon Social Club)

60's NIGHT – Friday 17th October (Catholic Club)

AFTERNOON TEA – Saturday 15th November (Catholic Club)

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING – Friday 5th December (St Alban's Hall)

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church and we will pass them on. There is a box back of church.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

After the celebration of yesterday's *Solemnity* of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation, I am reminded of the profound gift that the Church's liturgical calendar is to us. This sacred cycle is more than just a list of dates, it's a spiritual roadmap that invites us to journey through the mysteries of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, alongside Our Lady and the saints. In a world of constant change, the liturgical year offers stability, helping us live our faith intentionally and joyfully.

At its core, the liturgical calendar structures our worship around the Paschal Mystery. It unfolds in a yearly cycle, beginning with Advent and moving through seasons and feasts that mirror the ebb and flow of our human experience. Not all days, however, are equal in this calendar. The Church assigns ranks to liturgical celebrations, guiding our observance and emphasising their significance.

The highest rank is the *solemnity*, like the Assumption that we have just celebrated. *Solemnities* commemorate pivotal events in salvation history, such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and major Marian feasts. They often include certain liturgical actions and prayers such as the recitation of the Gloria and the Creed. Some *solemnities* are holy days of obligation, requiring Mass attendance. These days call for festivity, processions, hymns, family gatherings, food and drink, to immerse us in the joy and celebration.

Next are *feasts*, which honour apostles, evangelists, or key aspects of the faith, like the Feast of the Holy Family or the Chair of St Peter. While not as high as *solemnities*, they feature their own readings and prayers, encouraging deeper reflection without the obligation of attendance midweek (not that you shouldn't go, though!).

Then there are *memorials*, obligatory observances for saints like St Augustine or St Thérèse of Lisieux. These include specific prayers but blend into the weekday Mass readings, reminding us of holy lives to imitate. *Optional memorials* offer flexibility, priests can choose to celebrate them or stick to the ordinary day's liturgy.

At the base are *ferial* days (from the Latin *feria*, meaning "weekday"). These are the "ordinary" days in Ordinary Time, without special *feasts*. Far from mundane, they provide space for quiet growth, focusing on Scripture's continuous narrative through our cycle of daily readings.

This hierarchy of celebration isn't arbitrary, it helps us to prioritise our spiritual focus. *Solemnities* and *feasts* punctuate the year, while *memorials* and *ferial* days form the steady sentences of daily faith. The calendar's seasons further enrich this structure, moving us from penance to praise, through Advent, Christmastide, Lent, Eastertide and Ordinary Time.

Living by this calendar can transform our lives. It synchronises our personal rhythms with the universal Church, with all Catholics across the globe. To live a liturgically ordered life means aligning our days with this cycle, attending Mass on holy days, seeking the saints' intercession, observing fasts, letting the seasons shape our prayer and looking forward to the celebration of the great *solemnities*. It turns time itself into a sacrament, where ordinary moments become encounters with God. As Pope St John Paul II noted, the liturgical year "makes Christ himself present in our midst". By embracing the liturgical calendar, we don't just mark time, we sanctify it, growing in holiness together. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, assumed body and soul into heaven, pray for us as we journey through the rest of this Holy Year of Jubilee.

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