



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton
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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:
 Peace in the Middle East



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 January is dedicated to: The Holy Name of Jesus

SUNDAY 18 th JANUARY 2026	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Sr Anne Thérèse Lawrence Maragh George Kenneth Poppleton
MONDAY 19 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 20 th	St Fabian, Pope	7:00pm	St Alban's	People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 21 st	St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	"Thersiakutty Peace of Soul"
	Reception of Body	5:00pm	St Mary's	Anne Cox
THURSDAY 22 nd	REQUIEM	11:15am	St Mary's	Anne Cox
FRIDAY 23 rd	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Tom Lenon
SATURDAY 24 th	St Francis de Sales	12:15pm	St Mary's	Maria Griffin
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Joseph Coneron	11:00am	Barbara Gregson
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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Marshal Louie Flores, Josie McLaughlin

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 10th of February at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by my brother Fr Benjamin Hilton. He will be speaking about
The Communion of the Saints.

I had said previously that the next Q&A session would be on the 7th of April. I've only just realised that is, in fact, the Tuesday of Easter Week - I was obviously not paying attention! Please remove that from your diary and keep an eye on the bulletin for a new date in due course.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHOIR ARE RECRUITING

As the New Year begins, now is good time to join the parish choir. Practice takes place every Wednesday from 6:00pm – 7:00pm in St Mary's church. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along and join... As St Augustine said: He who sings, prays twice!

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Annual subs are due to be paid before the end of March - £20 for new members, £15 for existing.
Please support your Club.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR FUNERAL?

When we die, aside from the sadness that our loved ones will endure, there are also practical considerations that will inevitably fall upon them. One way of alleviating the stress of such a difficult time for our families, is ensuring that we have organised our Funeral Liturgy in advance and that we have made our wishes clear. This is especially helpful if our relatives are lapsed or less than Gospel-greedy. At the back of St Mary's there are copies of the Guide to Catholic Funeral Rites including an "Instructions for my Funeral" form. Once completed this can be kept at home or in the parish office.

RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

On Monday 26th January, Holy Redeemer Parish, Huddersfield will have the privilege of hosting the relics of St Gerard Majella. He is popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those looking for work. Come along to pray in front of his relics, participate in Mass at St Patrick's at 7:00pm and receive a blessing with his relics.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

This Sunday there will be a second collection for the Poor Mission Fund.
This collection helps those parishes in the diocese which are poor and unable to support a priest by their own efforts and resources.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISIAN UNITY

There will be a short ecumenical 'Churches Together Service' at St Alban's on Friday 23rd January at 12.00 Noon. The Vatican have worked with the World Council of Churches to agree the theme which is "One Body, One Spirit". We are hosting the other Churches in South Halifax this year. Soup, Bread, Tea, biscuits and cake will be served afterwards in St Alban's Hall.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£593.76** Total Approx. **£1262.51** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I noticed online recently that Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Emeritus Archbishop of New York has started to produce a series of short videos entitled “Worth Recovering”. In these short clips, he talks about traditional Catholic devotions and practices that seem to have fallen out of favour in recent years and suggest, as in the title, that they are worth recovering. Once such devotion that I feel we overlook these days is to the Holy Name of Jesus. What’s in a name? It’s a question we sometimes ask lightly. A name is often simply a label or a convenience, something we use without thinking too much about it and yet in reality, names matter far more than we may realise. They carry within them meaning, history and identity. They tell us who someone is and how we are connected to them. The Church has long understood this. That is why the month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. This isn’t an abstract devotion or a way of being overly pious, it’s an invitation to reflect on who Jesus truly is and what it means to speak His name with faith and reverence.

In the Scriptures names are never accidental. They reveal something essential about the person who bears them. Abram becomes Abraham, Simon becomes Peter, Saul becomes Paul. A new name marks a new mission and a deeper calling. When the angel instructs Mary and Joseph to name their child Jesus, it is not a suggestion but a command. The name is given by God Himself. The name Jesus means “God saves.” It tells us immediately what this child has come to do. He does not arrive to impress or to dominate like Ceaser Augustus or King Herod but to rescue and to restore. Salvation is not an idea or a theory, it’s something deeply personal. It’s bound up with a name that can be spoken prayed and trusted.

St Paul reminds us that “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bend.” This is not about fear or coercion. It is about recognising reality. The name of Jesus is holy because of who He is. That is why the Church has always taken care with how the Holy Name is used. Blasphemy is not simply strong language or a bad cultural habit. It is the misuse of what is holy. To use the name of Jesus casually, carelessly or in anger is to forget who He is and what He has done for us. Reverence in speech is not about being old-fashioned or overly sensitive but about love. We should take care with what we value. We should, in fact, bow our heads at the Holy Name. That’s definitely a practice worth recovering!

Over the centuries the Church has learned that the Holy Name of Jesus carries immense spiritual power. In moments of fear, temptation or distress the saints have often turned not to long complicated prayers but to a simple calling on the name of Jesus. It is a way of anchoring the heart and refocusing the mind on Christ Himself, and in a world full of noise, that simplicity matters. We live in an age where words are used constantly and often cheaply. Opinions are expressed endlessly. Names are invoked to provoke or to score points. The devotion to the Holy Name reminds us to slow down and to speak with intention. The name of Jesus is not a slogan or a reaction. It is a prayer.

This devotion also invites us to reflect on our own names. At baptism we were called by name and claimed for Christ. Our baptismal name is not incidental. It connects us to the saints and to the wider Church across time. It reminds us that faith is always a personal encounter with the living God, who calls us as individuals, not simply as a crowd. To carry a baptismal name is to carry a vocation. We are meant to live in a way that honours the name we were given and the Name into which we were baptised. If we claim the title of Christian then our words and actions must reflect Christ Himself. How we speak about others, how we disagree, how we treat the vulnerable... all become part of our witness.

January can often feel quiet and ordinary. The celebrations of Christmas are behind us and routine returns. Perhaps that is why the Church places this devotion here. It reminds us that faith is sustained not only by the great moments but by steady reverence and daily fidelity. This month dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus invites us to speak less carelessly to pray more deliberately and to remember to whom we belong. What’s in a name? In this name, everything.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton