



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:

John Wallace R.I.P.



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

SUNDAY 19 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Danny Colleran Patrick, Elieen & James Geraghty People of the Parish
MONDAY 20 th	Easter	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 21 st	Easter	7:00pm	St Alban's	Marie Finn
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	Easter	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Joy & Annie
THURSDAY 23 rd	St George	9:30am	St Mary's	Joseph & Lilly
FRIDAY 24 th	Easter	12 Noon	St Mary's	Fr Sean Leonard (YB)
SATURDAY 25 th	St Mark, Evangelist	12:15pm	St Mary's	David Costello (A)
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Kieron Green	9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Barbara Gregson	11:00am	Malcolm Brown
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Frances Millington

PRAYER LIST: David Stanton, John Durkin, Kathleen Durkin, Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, David Sutcliffe, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

John Wallis who has died recently. *Requiescat in pace.*

MASSES RECEIVED

Sister Margaret Costello's Intentions, Paul Connolly, Rose Marie, Annie & Ken Rothery B'days

PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA

Due to changes in the available flights, the pilgrimage to Malta will now run from the 21st to the 24th of September, returning on the Thursday evening rather than early on Friday morning. Because of this change the new package price is: £990pp for a double room

HAVE YOU BEEN CONFIRMED?

Are you an adult who, for whatever reason, never received the Sacrament of Confirmation? If you would like to explore the possibility of being Confirmed, please speak to me after Mass or send an email to the office.

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"

EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

As usual I will be offering traditional Easter House Blessings with the new Easter water. This can take place any time between Easter Sunday and Ascension Thursday. Please send your details to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or call the presbytery on 01422 352141 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

A NIGHT OF MUSIC WITH NICOLA MILLS – LADIES' GUILD

Come and enjoy her wonderful voice and hear her interesting life story. St Alban's church, Thursday 30th April, 7:00pm. Tickets £5 including refreshments.

DIOCESE OF LEEDS YOUNG MEN'S GORUP FOR AGES 21-35

The next meeting of the Oratory of St Josphe will be on: **Thursday 30th April 6:30pm – 8:30pm** at Hinsley Hall, the diocesan center, in Leeds, LS6 2BX. The Speaker will be Fr John Church O.P. His talk is entitled "Facing your fears: How to grow in Courage" Fr John Bernard is a Dominican priest currently assigned to Holy Cross Priory, Leicester. He is the Promoter of Dominican Young Adults. He studied Classics at Oxford before Joining the Order in 2018. He was ordained a priest in 2025.

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.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£769.61** Total Approx. **£1508.59** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

There has been much coverage in recent days of the growing disagreement between President Trump and Pope Leo and it has prompted a fair bit of comment. Moments like this can unsettle people, particularly when they touch on the person of the Holy Father himself. It is worth taking a step back, however, and placing these things in a wider perspective. Popes, after all, have been around for two millennia.

The relationship between the Church and political authority has never been a simple one. From the earliest centuries, we Christians have had to find our place within societies shaped by rulers who did not always share our convictions. There have been periods of cooperation and there have also been moments of tension. None of this is anything new. If we look across the history of the Church, we find many occasions when popes and rulers have found themselves at odds. In the fourth century, after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, there was a new closeness between Church and state, yet even then disagreements arose. Later, in the medieval period, disputes between the papacy and European monarchs could become quite sharp. The conflict between Pope Gregory VII and the Emperor Henry IV over the appointment of bishops shows how serious such matters were considered. Here in England, of course, the clash between King Henry VIII and the papacy led to a break whose effects are still felt today.

Alongside these moments of conflict, there is also a steady continuity. The Church continues her mission and the papacy will always endure. The figure of the Pope remains a point of unity for Catholics across the world. Individual disagreements come and go, but the office itself is immovable. That is why it is helpful to recall who the Pope is. He is not simply one religious leader among others, nor a commentator on world affairs whose words can be weighed in the same way as a politician. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ. That title expresses something essential. He is entrusted with a particular role in the life of the Church, to shepherd us and to teach with authority in matters of faith and morals.

It is often said that the Church should keep out of politics altogether. That idea sounds straightforward, but it does not reflect reality. Politics concerns how we live together, how laws are made and how human life is protected or neglected. The Church exists within that world and cannot step aside from it. Her teaching touches on the dignity of the person and the responsibilities we owe to one another. For that reason, the Church will always have something to say about public life. This is not about party allegiance or political advantage, it arises from the Gospel itself. When the Church speaks, she does so to form consciences and to remind society of truths that do not change with circumstances.

At the same time, the Church is not aligned with any political programme. She does not exist to advance a particular party or leader. Her role is to offer guidance rooted in faith, leaving room for lay people to apply those principles in the practical decisions of civic life. When disagreements arise between the Pope and political figures, it is important to keep that distinction in mind. The Pope is not engaging in party politics. He is exercising his responsibility to speak on matters that affect the human person and the moral order.

For our part, the right response is a calm one. The history of the Church shows that she has passed through far more testing situations than a public disagreement. Through it all, she has continued her mission of proclaiming the Gospel and celebrating the sacraments. It is also a reminder of the importance of prayer. We pray for the Pope, that he may be guided in his ministry. We pray for those in positions of authority, that they may act with wisdom and a sense of responsibility. These are part of our duty as Christians. In the end, moments like this can serve a useful purpose. They remind us that the Church does not simply echo the prevailing mood of the age. She speaks from a deeper source. At times that will resonate with those in authority. At other times it will lead to disagreement. What remains constant is the presence of Christ with His Church. The office of the Pope, as the Vicar of Christ, is a sign of that continuity. It points beyond the passing circumstances of any particular time to something far more enduring.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton