



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:



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 July is dedicated to: The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

SUNDAY 19 th JULY	16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Ann Widdecombe R.I.P. Bridget Hayter (A) People of the Parish
MONDAY 20 th	St Apollinaris	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 21 st	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Bryan & Sheila Greenwood
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	St Mary Magdalen	9:30am	St Mary's	Micheal Byrne
THURSDAY 23 rd	St Bridget of Sweden	9:30am	St Alban's	Private Intention
FRIDAY 24 th	Jubilee	7:00pm	St Mary's	Mgr Owens' 40th Ordination Anniversary
SATURDAY 25 th	St James, Apostle	12:15pm	St Mary's	Honora Hintze
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Barbara Gregson	11:00am	Malcom Brown,
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: Sadie Mills, David Stanton, 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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Bridget Hayter (A)

MONSIGNOR PAUL OWENS RUBY JUBILEE

Monsignor Paul Owens celebrates his Ruby Jubilee (40 years) as a priest this year and since he is retired from full time parochial ministry, I have invited him to celebrate his anniversary here at St Mary's. There will be a special Mass **this Friday 24th of July at 7:00pm** followed by a party at the Catholic Club. All are warmly invited to attend.

ST THERESA'S QUEENSBURY

The last Mass at St Theresa's will be on Saturday 25th July at 6:30pm. It would be lovely if representatives from each parish in the deanery could join us for this final Mass.
You would be very welcome.

Just a reminder that I take up my new responsibilities as the administrator of St Bernard's and St Theresa's from the 1st of August.

BETHLEHEM CARE HOSPICE TRUST – FASHION SHOW

We are holding a fashion show at St Mary's primary school on 24th September at 7:00pm. Tickets are £5 and monies will be shared between the BCHT and parish funds. They are on sale after Mass today.

WELCOME

To Fr David Reilly who is visiting as part of his summer holiday, he will be known to many of you already and will be celebrating the 11:00am Mass today.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

St Mary's School broke up on Friday and we wish all of our children and staff a well-earned and peaceful break. Please keep our Year 6 leavers in your prayers as they prepare to begin secondary school in September - If you are traveling on holiday in the coming weeks, I hope that you have a lovely time away and enjoy a safe journey.

A special welcome too to any visitors who may be joining us over the summer holidays.

CAFOD EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE

Help our neighbours affected by the Venezuela earthquakes with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your help to reach more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. Please donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today:
www.cafod.org.uk/Venezuela

PILGRIMAGE TO OSMOTHERLEY

This year, the annual Middlesbrough Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley, DL6 3AP, will take place on Sunday the 16th August.

The Rosary will be prayed at 2:30pm, and at 3:00pm, Bishop Stock will preside at the Celebration of Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£565.71** Weekly Total Approx. **£1274.46** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I went for a day out a few weeks ago, just as the heatwave began, to Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate. Now I'm no gardening expert, but I was absolutely blown away by how spectacular the place was. Every border had been carefully planned, every colour thoughtfully paired with another. Even the buildings seemed to belong perfectly in their surroundings. There was a real sense of harmony about the whole place. I found myself simply stopping and staring.

Then, only a few days later, I experienced exactly the same feeling again in Lourdes. Standing on the steps of the Rosary Basilica, looking down at the thousands of pilgrims below holding their candles aloft and singing the *Ave Maria*, I was struck by a different kind of beauty, but beauty nonetheless. It was no less moving than the gardens. If anything, it was even more powerful.

Why is it then that beauty affects us so deeply? Why does a spectacular flower make us stop and look? Why does a summer sunset make us stand and wait? Why do we instinctively reach for our phones to photograph a beautiful view? Perhaps it is because we were made for beauty.

The Church has always taken beauty very seriously. In fact, it has always insisted that beauty is not a luxury. It is something that speaks to the soul. Long before most people could read, the Church taught the faith through beautiful buildings, stained glass, paintings, statues and music. These things were not just meant to be decoration. They were meant to lift the human mind and heart towards God.

Beauty has a way of opening doors that arguments never can. Many people have walked into a church with no intention of praying, only to find themselves sitting quietly because something has touched them. It might be the light through a stained glass window, the smell of incense lingering after Mass, the sound of an organist practising, or simply the peace of the place. Beauty reaches parts of us that words often cannot.

Pope Benedict XVI once wrote that beauty "wounds us". It is an interesting way of putting it. He meant that real beauty disturbs our complacency. It reminds us that there is something more than the ordinary routine of life. It awakens a longing that nothing in this world can quite satisfy. Maybe that is why the beauty of nature affects us so much. The roses outside the presbytery door last only a short time, sadly. The magnificent displays of summer flowers will soon begin to fade. Before we know it, autumn will be with us. Yet that very passing quality makes them more precious. They remind us that this world, beautiful though it is, is not our final home. Every beautiful thing we encounter is, in its own way, a reminder of that truth. Beauty stirs a longing for something greater because it reflects the God from whom all beauty comes.

We live in a world that often settles for what is merely functional. Buildings are built as cheaply as possible. Music becomes background noise. Even churches can sometimes be tempted to think that beauty is an unnecessary extra. Yet the Church has always understood that beauty is a form of evangelisation. Before someone understands the faith, they can often be touched by it. A beautiful church, a reverent liturgy, sacred music sung well, flowers lovingly arranged before the altar, these things proclaim that God is worthy of our very best. They prepare the heart to receive the Gospel.

Perhaps that is what linked Harlow Carr and Lourdes for me. They are very different places, yet both left me standing in wonder. One revealed the beauty of creation, lovingly cultivated by human hands. The other revealed the beauty of faith, expressed in prayer, devotion and worship. Both reminded me that beauty has the power to lift us out of ourselves. It makes us pause and wonder. Sometimes God catches our attention in unexpected ways and is always filling His world with signs of His presence.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton