



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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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:

Deceased members of
Armstrong, Burnley and
Arnold Families



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 October is dedicated to: The Holy Rosary

SUNDAY 19 th OCTOBER	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish John Grant – 80 th B'day Micheal & Timothy Child
MONDAY 20 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Deceased members of the D'Alesdandro Fam.
TUESDAY 21 st	<i>Reception of Body</i> Feria	5:00pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Alban's	Rita McGirk Shirley Hilton R.I.P.
WEDNESDAY 22 nd	REQUIEM	11:15am	St Mary's	Rita McGirk
THURSDAY 23 rd	Feria	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 24 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
SATURDAY 25 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Helen Brown	11:00am	Joseph Coneron
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: Donna Murphy, Sadie Mills, 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

Micheal Dempsy, Joy & Annie, Joseph & Lilly, Marshal Louie Flores

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Eileen Latthe, Rita McGurk, and Danny Colleran who have all died recently.

NEW CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our new children's liturgy continues this Sunday at the 11:00am Mass and will take place at the same time each week. Parental consent forms are available at the back of church.

Mary and Greg will also be available should you have any questions.

NEXT GUEST SPEAKER – YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Our next guest speaker will be Mgr David Smith on the 11th of November at 6:00pm in St Alban's room. Monsignor will be talking about "Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven"

PARISH LADIES' GUILD – AFTERNOON TEA

The PLG is hosting afternoon tea at the Catholic Club on Saturday the 15th of November from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

Tickets available at £10 each.

NOVENA OF MASSES FOR THE DEAD

From the 6th November – 14th November I will offer nine consecutive days of Masses for the dead, culminating with the Parish Requiem Mass on Friday 14th at 7:00pm.

If you wish your loved ones to be remembered in this special Novena, place their names and your offering in the envelopes provided at the back of church.

NOVEMBER CEMETERY SERVICE & BLESSING OF GRAVES

This year the service will take place at Stoney Royd Cemetery, Halifax Sunday 2nd November at 3:00pm.

Praying for our dead loved ones is such an important thing to do and helps them on their journey to heaven. After the service has concluded, I will be available to bless individual graves on request.

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.

THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

will be taking place on Friday 5th December at 3:45pm after school till approx. 5.30pm. Donations of mainly chocolates and alcoholic bottles are needed for our 2 main tombolas, please be as generous as you can. A box will be made available at the back of church for donations asap. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to help on any of our stalls too. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns (07932 595955) with any queries or if you would like to help.

S.V.P.

Next meeting Monday 20th October at 6:00pm in St Alban's parish room.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£710.15** Total Approx. **£1518.15** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

From time to time and especially since the appointment of Sarah Mullally as the Archbishop of Canterbury some people have asked me with concern and thoughtfulness, why the Church does not ordain women as priests. It is an important question, especially in a world where the role of women in leadership has rightly received greater attention in recent years. As your parish priest I want to offer a reflection that is honest and grounded in both Scripture and Tradition.

Let me begin by saying that this is not a question about the dignity or worth of women or indeed their ability. I am sure there are plenty of women who would make marvellous priests on a practical day to day level. But the teaching of the Church regarding the priesthood is about 'being' not about 'doing', the reasons are spiritual and theological, not functional. The Church teaches clearly and without hesitation that men and women are equal in dignity, both created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). Women have played vital roles in the life of the Church from the very beginning. Our Blessed Lady, the Mother of God, stands above all the saints, Mary Magdalene was the first witness of the Resurrection and many women, from the early martyrs to modern saints like Thérèse of Lisieux and Catherine of Siena, have helped shape the Church through their witness, holiness and leadership.

The question of the priesthood, however, is not about power or status. It is about a particular sacramental role within the life of the Church. The priest is not simply a leader or a preacher, he is to be a living icon of Christ in the world. The priest is ordained to act in *the person of Christ*, especially in the celebration of the sacraments, above all in the Eucharist. When the priest says "This is **MY** body" or "**I** absolve you", it is Jesus Christ who speaks. The priest therefore must have a spousal relationship to the Church, which is Christ's Holy Bride.

At the Last Supper, Our Blessed Lord instituted the priesthood when He said to the Apostles, "Do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19). From the beginning, the Church has understood that He entrusted this specific role to the Apostles, who were all men. This is not because women were unworthy or incapable. Jesus regularly broke social conventions by speaking with women, healing them and praising their faith. He had many women among His followers. Yet, when it came to choosing those who would share in His priestly ministry in this particular way, He chose men. Some might say this was simply a reflection of the culture of the time. But Jesus was never afraid to challenge social norms. His decision to choose only men as Apostles was deliberate and purposeful and the Church has always understood this as binding.

St John Paul II in his 1994 apostolic letter *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, affirmed infallibly this unbroken tradition. He wrote, "The Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful." In other words, this is not something the Church is free to change, even if she wanted to. It is not a matter of 'discrimination' in the modern sense of the word but of fidelity to Christ's example and intention.

This can be hard for some to accept, especially when we see the gifts, holiness and leadership of so many women in the Church. It is right to desire that these gifts be fully recognised and valued. The Church needs women in theology, catechesis, pastoral care and leadership. Women serve as religious sisters, consecrated virgins, theologians, canon lawyers, spiritual directors and much more. Their role is essential to the life and mission of the Church. But the priesthood is not the only or the highest form of service. All of us, by baptism, share in the priesthood of Christ. And holiness is the greatest vocation of all. As St Thérèse of Lisieux once said, "In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love." That is the call for each of us, man or woman, to be love in the heart of the Church.

I know that some will still find this teaching difficult. I understand those feelings and I do not dismiss them. But I hope this explanation helps a little bit, to show that the Church's teaching is not based on inequality or fear of change. It is rooted in faithfulness to Christ, who gave us the sacraments and entrusted the priesthood to the Apostles and their successors. Anyway, its all well above my paygrade. So don't shoot the messenger 😊

God Bless you all,
Fr Hilton