



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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 St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



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:

The priests of the diocese



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 March is dedicated to: St Joseph

SUNDAY 1 st MARCH 2026	2 nd Sunday of Lent	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Maria Griffin Teresa Iwanowski People of the Parish
MONDAY 2 nd	Lent	No Mass		
TUESDAY 3 rd	Lent	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 4 th	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Anne Smyth
THURSDAY 5 th	Lent	No Mass		
FRIDAY 6 th ABSTAIN FROM MEAT	Lent	7:00am 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Mavis Brooke Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 7 th	Lent	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Marie Finn Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Anna Davie	11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: John Durkin, Kathleen Durkin, Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, 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 know so that a visit can be arranged.

MASSES RECEIVED

Jan and Eleonora Zakrzewki, Leonilda and Michael Laputa

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 10th March at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by Fr David Reilly. He will be speaking about

"The Church's Faith"

*** The next Q&A will take place on the **Tuesday 24th March at 6:00pm.** ***

Please take note of this revised date.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA

Monday 21st - Friday 25th September. Starting for £1070pp

Flying from Manchester | Stay in the Hotel Argento - St Julian's Bay | Bed & Breakfast - make your own choices for lunch and supper | Daily Mass and Devotions | Light and relaxed programme to allow plenty of free time | Visit to the church of St Paul's Shipwreck | Visit to St John's Co-Cathedral | Visit to St Paul's Grotto | Visit the Mellieħa Cave | Beautiful costal towns and historic streets | Transfers and Tour Guide included | Comprehensive Travel Insurance Included | NB: COST OF FLIGHTS IS ADDITIONAL APROX. £240-260pp | Single room supplement: £200 | **BOOK EARLY TO SECURE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE**

BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH

ST MARY'S PTFA

The PTFA of St. Mary's Catholic Primary Academy are currently asking if all parishioners would kindly donate an Easter egg (big or small) for activities and competitions taking place in the school leading up to the Easter holidays. Please be as generous as you can. Any kind of Easter chocolate will be gladly welcomed. Donations can be placed in a box at the back of church or dropped off at the school reception.

Thank you for your continued support.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The 2026 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place Friday 3rd to Thursday 9th July 2026. It is hoped that there will be two flights from Leeds. The booking process is now open. Bookings can be made online on <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-leeds/> or by phone direct with Tangney (01732 886666)

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.

LENT

Prayer: Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm on Friday in St Mary's. 7:00am Mass resumes next week.

Fasting: Catholic must abstain from eating meat on all Friday's during Lent.

Almsgiving: Please continue to collect money for Aid to the Church in Need's Pakistan Appeal.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

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

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The month of March has always been traditionally dedicated, by the Church, to the foster-father of Our Lord. St Joseph is one of the most important figures in the Gospel and yet he never speaks a single recorded word, that in itself tells us something.

In a world that often equates importance with visibility and influence with volume, St Joseph stands quietly at the centre of salvation history. He is entrusted with the care of Our Lady and the Child Jesus. He names the child, he protects Him from Herod and he provides for the Holy Family through the steady work of his hands. And then, almost without ceremony, he disappears from the pages of Scripture.

The Church gives him the title “Guardian of the Redeemer.” It is a remarkable responsibility. The Son of God is placed under the authority of a simple carpenter from Nazareth. Jesus would have learned from him how to pray the psalms, how to keep the feasts, how to work with wood and how to live as a faithful son of Israel. The hidden years of Our Lord’s life were not empty years. They were shaped by a father.

St Joseph’s fatherhood was not biological but it was entirely real. Fatherhood in the Christian sense is not defined merely by genetics. It is defined by responsibility, fidelity and sacrifice. St Joseph did not choose the circumstances in which he found himself. He accepted them. When the angel spoke to him in a dream, he did not demand explanations or guarantees, he acted. He took Mary into his home. He rose in the night and fled into Egypt. He returned when it was safe. His obedience was practical.

We live in a time when fatherhood is often uncertain or undervalued. Many children grow up without a stable paternal presence. Many men are unsure what fatherhood requires of them. St Joseph offers a model that is neither harsh nor passive. He is strong without being domineering. He leads without drawing attention to himself. He protects without controlling. It is worth noticing that Joseph’s strength is expressed through steadiness. He provides, he remains, he stays. There is nothing glamorous about that but there is something profoundly necessary. A father’s presence, repeated day after day, forms an atmosphere in which a child can grow securely.

St Joseph also shows us that fatherhood involves restraint. When he discovered that Our Lady was with child, his first instinct was mercy. He resolved to act quietly. Even before he understood the full picture, he refused to expose her to shame. Authority in Scripture is never meant to crush. It is meant to guard and to serve.

For those who are fathers, St Joseph is an examination of conscience and a source of encouragement. Fatherhood is not measured by grand gestures but by faithfulness in small things. Listening, setting boundaries, modelling prayer, being present at the table, working honestly, apologising when necessary. These are not dramatic acts, but they shape lives.

For those who did not experience good fatherhood, St Joseph can also be a consolation. The Church calls him “Most Chaste Spouse” and “Terror of Demons,” but she also calls him “Patron of the Universal Church.” His fatherhood extends beyond Nazareth. It includes us. The quiet protection he offered to Our Lord and Our Lady is not withdrawn from the Church.

There is something deeply reassuring about a saint who leads without spectacle. St Joseph reminds us that holiness is often hidden. It is built in workshops, kitchens and long journeys taken in obedience to God.

As we honour him, we are not indulging in sentiment. We are recognising that strong, faithful fatherhood is not optional for a healthy society or a healthy Church. It is foundational. St Joseph does not speak in the Gospel because he does not need to. His life speaks clearly enough.

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 Sharon Costello

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404