



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

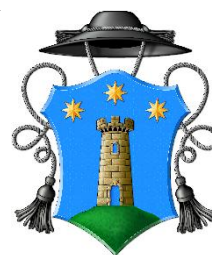
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## HOLY YEAR MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS JUBILEE 2025

### 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:

Mary Tate R.I.P.



### 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 July is dedicated to: The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

SUNDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> JULY	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Timothy Heyes Peter Carolan People of the Parish
MONDAY 21 <sup>st</sup>	No Mass			
TUESDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	REQUIEM	12:15pm	St Alban's	Margret Greenwood
WEDNESDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St Bridget of Sweden	9:30am	St Mary's	Sean Holloway
THURSDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	The Moylett Family
FRIDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	St James, Apostle	12 Noon	St Mary's	Phyllis Whittaker
SATURDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ss Joachim and Anne Parents of the B.V.M.	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Ken Spark R.I.P. Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Shaun Sandhu	11:00am	Helen Brown
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Frances Millington

**PRAYER LIST:** Tom Lennon, Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, David Stanton, 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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

John Joe Hendrick who has died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Silver Jubilee intentions of Fr Simon Lodge, Holy Souls, Bryan Greenwood, Sheila Greenwood

**A HUGE THANK YOU**

To Mary Hargreaves who has so generously donated a new High Mass set of green vestments in memory of her dear late mother, Mary Tate. Please pray for them both.

**SUMMER SCHEDULE**

For the next few weeks until the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, there will be no Tuesday evening Mass and Friday Mass will be celebrated at 12 Noon. Normal times to resume in September. (Funerals may alter this)

**ST ALBAN'S HALL**

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to, or in any way helped with this project. The hall is looking great and the final work (The new door) will be completed in the next few weeks.

**TRIP TO WHITBY – EXTRA PLACES**

Due to increased demand, we have had to book a larger coach. This means that there are still a few places available on the trip. Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**200 CLUB WINNERS – JUNE DRAW**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £75 – No. 120 – Dorothea Baldwin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75 – No. 141 – Annabelle Davis  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £75 – No. 148 – Margaret O'Connor

**MARY'S MEALS**

Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church and we will pass them on. The money raised from this initiative will help Mary's Meals bring hope to more desperately hungry children across the globe. Every 10p is enough to provide a hungry child with a nutritious meal in school. Mary's Meals would like to thank you for your continued support & prayers. There are collections bags at the back of church.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To Elliot Hirst and Siobhan Hanson who were married in St Mary's on Friday.

**BETHLEHEM CARE TRUST CAKE SALE**

Raised a fantastic £403.33 – Thank you for all of your donations!

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

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

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

As I sit here wondering what to write about this week, I am struck by two pieces of tragic news from the Catholic world that have really shaken me in the last couple of weeks. I'm not even particularly sure what to say about them, other than to urge each of you to fervently pray for all involved.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, masked Islamic gunmen attacked the Immaculate Conception Minor Seminary in Ivhianokpodi, Nigeria. The attackers murdered the seminary's security guard and kidnapped three of the seminarians. As of today, they are still being held hostage.

The other piece of news that really hit me quite hard was that of the death of Fr Matteo Balzano, a 35-year-old priest from Novara in Italy. The alarm was raised two weeks ago when he failed to turn up for Mass on Sunday morning. Concerned friends later found Fr Balzano dead in the presbytery, where he had taken his own life. I had never met this priest, I knew nothing of him and yet he was only a few months older than me and had been ordained during the same summer that I had. I cannot begin to imagine how his poor parents must be feeling and I again ask that you commit to praying for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of his family.

Both of these events, so different and yet so bound together by sorrow, bring us face to face with the suffering Church. One is a story of violence, martyrdom, and religious persecution, the other a story of silent suffering, mental anguish, and tragic loss. Both sadly reveal to us the brokenness of the world in which we live. It is tempting, especially when confronted with such darkness, to feel helpless. What can we do? These tragedies occurred far from us. We did not know the people involved. But we must never underestimate the power of prayer or the communion of the Church. The Body of Christ is wounded when any of its members suffer. St Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians: "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it." In that spirit, we do not turn away or distract ourselves from these painful realities, rather, we bring them to the Lord.

Let us pray for the kidnapped seminarians in Nigeria, young men who, like so many others, heard the call to give their lives to God and to His Church. Let us pray for their families, who now wait in fear and anguish for their return. May the Lord protect them, strengthen them, and bring them home safely. Let us also not forget the seminary's guard who was killed: a man who gave his life in service, now counted among those who have shed blood for the sake of the name of Jesus.

And let us pray also for Fr Matteo, a young priest, a shepherd, a beloved son. We don't know the burdens he carried. But we can be certain that he is known and loved infinitely by the Father. We commend him to God's mercy and ask that the Lord, who searches hearts, will bring peace to his family and parish. His death is a sobering reminder that even those who serve at the altar may carry unseen sorrows just like any other person. It is a reminder to be gentle with our friends, our family, our priests, and colleagues. And a reminder never to hesitate to ask for help if and when we need it.

These stories challenge us to renew our commitment to intercessory prayer. There is a sort of holy defiance in refusing to let violence, tragedy, or despair have the final word. By lifting up our hearts in prayer, by offering Masses, Rosaries, or small sacrifices, we participate in God's mysterious but powerful work of redemption. Nothing is wasted in God's economy. Every prayer matters.

As we continue through the summer months, a time when life can feel lighter and more relaxed, I invite you to carry these intentions in your heart. Maybe when you find a quiet moment, pause and offer a prayer: for the persecuted Church, for suffering priests, for those in danger, and those who feel alone. We are never helpless when we pray, and we are never alone in the Body of Christ.

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](mailto:office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)  
The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC  
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404