



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
 Presbytery: Clarence House, 2 Clarence Street, Halifax HX1 5DH
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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:

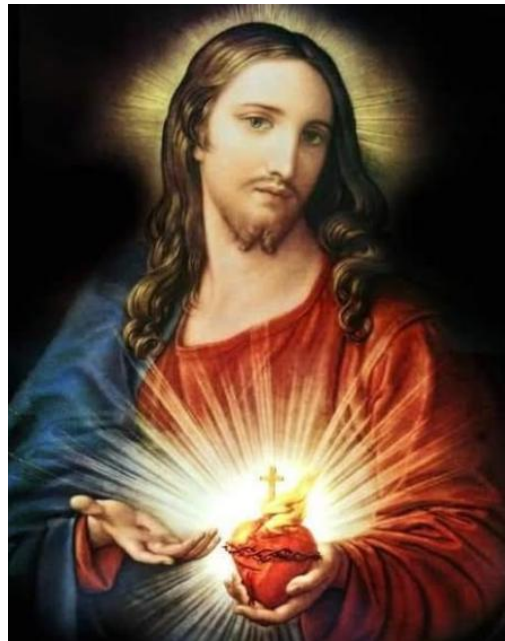
Saturday after 12:15pm
 Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month
 after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

A special Intention



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 June is dedicated to: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

SUNDAY 21 st JUNE	12 th Sunday on Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	John Burwell Gordon Smith People of the Parish
MONDAY 22 nd	Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	9:30am	St Mary's	Edith Toolan
TUESDAY 23 rd	Feria	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 24 th	The Nativity of St John the Baptist	9:30am	St Mary's	Thanksgiving
THURSDAY 25 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Fr Patrick Smith (YB)
FRIDAY 26 th	REQUIEM	11:00am	St Mary's	John Whitworth
SATURDAY 27 th	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour	12:15pm	St Mary's	Marie Finn
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Albina Karuna	11:00am	Shaun Sanju
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Frances Millington

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

Mr & Mrs F. Matthews, Bryan & Sheila Greenwood, Denis & Veronica Smyth

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATION MASS & PARISH PARTY

There will be a special Mass to celebrate all our children who have made their First Confession, First Communion or been Confirmed this year today at 11:00am followed by a party at the Catholic Club. At the Mass our children will be presented with their certificates and gifts.
All are welcome to attend.

CANON MARTIN KELLY SILVER JUBILEE

Canon Martin Kelly celebrates his Silver Jubilee (25 years) as a priest this month and would like to extend an invite to the parishioners of St Mary's to a special Mass to celebrate the occasion. The Mass will take place on Friday 26th June at 7:00pm at St Patrick's Church, Huddersfield.

MONSIGNOR PAUL OWENS RUBY JUBILEE

Similarly, 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 on Friday 24th of July at 7:00pm followed by a party at the Catholic Club. All are warmly invited to attend.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

The School Summer Fayre will be taking place on Friday 10th July. The PTFA are again after donations of any alcoholic bottles or bric-a-brac and unwanted gifts for our two tombolas. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to help out. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns: JBinns@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk with any queries. Thank you for your continued support.

PARISH DONATIONS

I am very grateful to all of you for the regular financial contributions which you make to the parish. I would, however, really appreciate it if those parishioners who currently donate through the loose cash collection would consider changing, **not what you give, but how you give**, by switching to donating by regular standing order. Benefits would include reducing the risks associated with transporting large amounts of money and maintaining a regular level of parish income throughout the year. If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid section of the form. By doing so, **your regular donation would be increased by 25% at no additional expense to you.** Based on the figures for the financial year 2025/26, the parish missed out on £4328.25 of Gift Aid that we could have claimed if people donated the same amount but just in a different way. – I have left standing order forms at the back.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. There will be the traditional retiring collection for Peter's Pence. Amazingly the earliest documentary evidence concerning this collection is found in a letter written from Rome by King Canute to the English clergy in 1031! At that time, Canute was collecting a levy of one penny per household to support Pope Gregory VII. The modern Peter's Pence collection is for the charitable and philanthropic work of the Holy Father, Pope Leo.

CONGRATULATIONS

To both baby Kaellen Fabia and baby Hector Coneron who were baptised yesterday.
Please say a prayer for them and their families.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£934.25** Weekly Total Approx. **£1798.25** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The feast of St John Fisher and St Thomas More falls this week, and their witness feels particularly timely. The Church honours these two saints who occupied very different places in English society. One was a bishop and theologian, the other was a lawyer and statesman. And yet, they died the same death because they would not surrender their consciences to political power.

Their dispute with Henry VIII concerned something so fundamental to the life of the Church in this country that both men were prepared to pay with their lives. The King claimed authority over matters that were not his to command. At the king's order, the Act of Supremacy was passed by parliament on the 3rd of November 1534. It stated that the king was "the only supreme head on Earth of the Church of England" and that the Crown shall enjoy "all honours, dignities, preeminences, jurisdictions, privileges, authorities, immunities, profits and commodities to the said dignity." Fisher and More could not and would not agree. They understood that there are limits to earthly power and that although Kings may govern kingdoms, they cannot rewrite the truth. For that conviction they paid with their lives.

Their example should encourage us today. We live in an age that talks endlessly about tolerance, but there is often little room for those who dissent from prevailing ideas. Catholics who uphold the sanctity of life, the meaning of marriage, or simply the uniqueness of Christ are increasingly seen as obstacles to progress. Most of us will never be asked to die for the faith. Our temptation is usually much smaller. We are tempted to keep quiet, to avoid awkward conversations, to say as little as possible and to persuade ourselves that silence is simply prudence. Fisher and More remind us that there are times when silence itself becomes a kind of surrender.

Neither man sought a fight. St Thomas More was known for his wit and warmth. St John Fisher was a scholar and a pastor, devoted to his people and especially to the poor. They did not go looking for martyrdom. They simply refused to call falsehood truth. In the end, that refusal cost them everything. Our danger is different. We can become so anxious to be accepted that we forget where our first loyalty lies. There is a temptation to treat the faith as something private, something that must never challenge the assumptions of the age. But Our Lord did not establish the Church to baptise whatever the culture happens to believe. He called His disciples to be salt to the earth and light to the world. The Church seeks the good of society and has much to contribute to public life, but she cannot simply repeat whatever happens to be popular. Truth does not change because opinion polls do.

Perhaps that is the great lesson these English martyrs have for us. Conscience is not a licence to invent our own truth. It binds us to the truth God has revealed. Properly formed, it gives a freedom that no earthly power can take away. At a time when assisted suicide is once again rearing its ugly head, when war and instability continue to scar so many parts of the world, and when many people are no longer sure what they believe, we need Catholics who take their faith seriously. We need men and women who know their religion, who pray, who come to Mass faithfully, and who are prepared to speak with charity and confidence.

St John Fisher and St Thomas More did not save England by winning arguments. They saved their souls by remaining faithful. Nearly five hundred years later, their names are still remembered with devotion. The king who condemned them has long since turned to dust. Christ remains. And so does His Church.

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