



# 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:

Julie Bell Hartley 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 September is dedicated to: The Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Lady

SUNDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Catherine Murphy R.I.P. Frank & Mary & Tate + Anne Elizabeth Sampson People of the Parish
MONDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St Padre Pio	6:30pm 7:00pm	St Alban's St Alban's	4 <sup>th</sup> Talk on the Mass Teresa Costello B'day
WEDNESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Funeral Service</b> New Term Mass	<b>10:30am</b> 2:15pm	<b>St Mary's</b> School Hall	<b>Maria Iwanowski</b> Peter George Granger
THURSDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Thanksgiving
FRIDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Feria <b>Funeral Service</b>	9:30am <b>11:30am</b>	St Mary's <b>St Mary's</b>	Tony Garnier <b>Jan Sana</b>
SATURDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	St Vincent de Paul Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Alberto Gonella Polish Mass

## READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Kieron Green	9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Ken Rothery	11:00am	Tim Widdop
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Frances Millington

**PRAYER LIST:** 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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Tony Hegarty, Mavis Brooke and Vincent Haddley who have all died recently.  
And for all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Timothy Hayes, Mavis Brooke, Micheal Nagy, Eddie & Mary Coates

**YEAR OF CATECHESIS**

Everyone should have received a programme card with the dates for the next years' worth of talks and sessions. Please take this away with you and put it somewhere at home that you will notice.

**Our fourth session on the Holy Mass is this Tuesday at 6:30pm in St Alban's Hall.**

Come along and learn more about your faith, you can join any time.

**PARISH CEILIDH FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025**

**(STARTS 7:30PM) PELLON SOCIAL CLUB**

Final Sunday for tickets on sale. Anyone who hasn't already bought tickets and wishes to go, please let Julie Anderson or Sharon Costello know today.

**BATLEY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION**

The annual Torchlight Procession will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October and this year the guest preacher is yours truly. We will have a bus going from our own St Mary's, leaving at 6:00pm and departing Batley at 9:30pm. Bus places £15 per person. Sign up at the back of church.

**BETHLEHEM CARE HOSPICE TRUST**

Great News - the Fashion Show in support of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust (BCHT) raised £838! This now means our Parish's £5000 challenge has been exceeded and now stands at a whopping £5170 with the last event - a Cheese and Wine night - planned for December. A huge thank you to everyone involved in helping to alleviate the suffering in the Holy Land.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

Prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil outside the MSI abortion facility, Leeds L7. 24<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7:00am to 7:00pm. The last sign of hope and first sign of mercy to those attending MSI Leeds. Over 24,000 lives saved by campaigns worldwide since 2007. (Please take a flyer from the back of Church). To get involved as a prayer partner or as a vigil volunteer, contact:

Chris Redding 07815681343 | email [40daysforlifeleeds@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifeleeds@gmail.com)

Further information at [www.40daysforlife.com/leeds](http://www.40daysforlife.com/leeds)

**PRIESTLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT MEETINGS**

Time for prayer, questions, input from a priest and social time. There are two groups meeting simultaneously; under 18s and over 18s. Fridays 6:30pm - 8:15pm on: 17<sup>th</sup> October (Hinsley Hall), 14<sup>th</sup> November (Cathedral Hall), 19<sup>th</sup> December (Hinsley Hall). Under 18's participants must complete and return a permission form prior to attending. For permission forms and to notify of attendance (all participants) please contact Vocations Promoter, Fr Simon Lodge [simon.lodge@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:simon.lodge@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£628.92** Total Approx. **£1466.92** (Inc. standing orders & card)

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

Until last week, I suspect that most people in this country had never heard of Charlie Kirk, (whose funeral takes place today). His recent assassination has propelled his name to the into the headlines and his tragic death has made news all over the world. This atrocity forms part of a disturbing, indeed, alarming trend both in the United States and here in Britain, towards political violence, including, politically motivated murder. An American legislator and her husband were killed in June of this year in the State of Minnesota and of course, Jo Cox and Sir David Amess, members of our own parliament were both murdered in very recent memory.

First and foremost, this is a tragedy on a human level. A young husband and father was shot in the throat, his jugular ripped open by a rifle bullet in front of a crowd of thousands, including his wife and young daughter. A more traumatic and dreadful event is hard to imagine. It would be reasonable to expect that such an incident would elicit universal sympathy, dismay and condemnation and yet, remarkably, this has not been the case. The most shocking part of this whole sorry affair, to my mind at least, has been the glee that so many of Kirk's detractors have taken in his murder. In some quarters there has been open celebration, in others, a sort of victim blaming and hand wringing 'he brought it on himself' and the like.

Having reflected further on this, however, I realised that perhaps I should not have been so surprised to see such callousness. An atmosphere of mutual antagonism which often descends into outright hatred has been fostered in our society for too many years. And it is precisely this hate filled attitude which makes the idea of political murder appealing to some and excusable to others. This is not entirely new, since our civilisation became forgetful of God, or even hostile towards Him, large numbers of people have embraced these wicked ideas. History gives us many examples of this way of thinking: the Jacobins of the French Revolution, the Communists of the Russian Revolution, the Nazis of the German Revolution. In each case, political murder was praised as a way of building the society they wanted: "He deserved it, he's a monarchist." "He deserved it, he's a capitalist." "He deserved it, he's a Jew." We must be honest, whenever we hear or think to ourselves, "he deserved it, he's one of them," we hear the echo of that very same evil.

What was Charlie Kirk's crime then? Speaking truths that too many people refuse to hear. Truths that until just a few years ago we all took for granted. Men cannot have babies. A woman cannot become a man. Human life begins at conception etc. These are not radical or extreme ideas; they are simply statements of reality and very basic teachings of the Church. "Hate speech" is what he was accused of by some. Rather, it was simply speech that people hated to hear. He was feared by others because he was changing the minds of college students, revealing to them the insanity of what they were being taught. He once said "when people quit talking, that's when you get violence". He invited discussion and debate, in fact, the speaking tour that he was participating in when he was murdered was entitled "*Prove me Wrong*", he freely welcomed challenge and questioning of his opinions. We can never and must never hate our brothers and sisters simply for their ideas, no matter how fervently we may disagree with them.

Our faith's response to this has always been clear from the very beginning, and I quote from the First Letter of St John: "Do not be like Cain, who was of the Evil One and murdered his brother... We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." It is this final sentence which brings this home to us. None of us have done such violence to another, please God. But have we allowed ourselves to descend into hatred? Have we turned on the news, opened a newspaper or gone on the internet and felt hatred, even if it seemed like they deserved it. St John does not say "everyone who hates his brother... except the really nasty ones." He condemns all hatred. Our response to this and any such tragedy must always be one of love and prayerful compassion. Each and everyone one of us is made in God's image and likeness and until we start treating each other as such, history is doomed to repeat itself.

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