



# 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:

Trish Farr-Cox Int/Healing



### 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 February is dedicated to: The Holy Family

SUNDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	John Hupalo Marrion & Tony Sweeten 60 <sup>th</sup> People of the Parish
MONDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Milan Gabco</b>
TUESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Sheila Kenedy
THURSDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	No Mass		
FRIDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> <b>ABSTAIN FROM MEAT</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Rita Baxendale</b>
	<b>Funeral Service</b>	<b>12:45pm</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Veronica Lawrence</b>
		7:00pm	St Mary's	Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 28 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	12:15pm	St Mary's	Dec. Mem. Hintze Fam.
		4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Andrea Woodward	11:00am	Anna Davie
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

**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**

John Hupalo (40 Days), Mariana Varga, Deceased members of the Griffin Family

**YEAR OF CATECHESIS**

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00pm.** \*\*\*  
Please take note of this revised date.

**COACH TRIP TO LINCOLN**

This Sunday is the deadline for signing up for the trip to Lincoln Cathedral. Please make payment in cash ASAP.

**DIOCESE OF LEEDS YOUNG MEN'S GROUP FOR AGES 21-35**

The diocese is forming a group for young men from across our parishes to come together to pray, listen to engaging speakers, socialise and grow in faith and fraternity. The group is under the patronage of St Joseph and takes the following format: Devotions to St Joseph, talk from a guest speaker, food and social time and concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The next meeting will be on: **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 6:30pm – 8:30pm** at Hinsley Hall, the diocesan center, in Leeds, LS6 2BX

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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)

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£616.63**Total Approx: **£1445.38** (Inc. standing orders & card)  
Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

## 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.

## FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Lent places before us three simple words: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. They are so familiar that we can almost stop hearing them. Yet the Church returns to them year after year because they describe the basic shape of a healthy Christian life. These practices are not spiritual add-ons for the particularly Gospel-greedy. They are steady disciplines that help us live our baptism more deliberately. Each one directs us in a different way: prayer turns us toward God, fasting orders our relationship with ourselves and almsgiving turns us outward towards other people.

Prayer is the foundation. Without it, the other two become little more than self-improvement projects. To pray is to place ourselves consciously in the presence of God. It can be as structured as the Rosary or the Divine Office, or as simple as ten faithful minutes of silence before the Blessed Sacrament. What matters most is consistency. Many people tell me they struggle with distraction. That is normal. Prayer is not measured by how calm we feel but by our willingness to remain. Lent is a good time to choose something realistic and keep to it. A small daily commitment, honoured faithfully, changes us over time.

Fasting is perhaps the most misunderstood of the three. It is not about punishing the body or proving mental strength. It is about freedom. We are all creatures of appetite to some degree. We reach instinctively for comfort, entertainment, food, noise. None of these things are wrong in themselves, but they can quietly begin to govern us. Fasting loosens that grip. When we voluntarily give something up, we are reminded that we are capable of saying 'no'. That discovery is important. It strengthens the will and makes space for God. Traditional fasting from food still has great value, but fasting can also take the form of limiting media, curbing unnecessary spending, or stepping back from habits that dull our attentiveness.

Almsgiving completes the pattern. Prayer keeps us rooted in God. Fasting disciplines our inner life. Almsgiving ensures that neither becomes self-absorbed. Christian charity is not simply philanthropy, it flows from recognising Christ in others. The needs around us are not abstract. They are local and concrete. A deliberate act of generosity during Lent, whether financial or practical, expresses gratitude for what we have received. It also reminds us that faith is never purely private.

It is important to hold these three together. Prayer without generosity can become inward-looking. Fasting without prayer becomes a diet. Almsgiving without reference to God risks becoming a search for approval. When practised in balance, they support and correct one another.

None of this requires dramatic gestures. Lent is not a competition in austerity. The Church asks for sincerity rather than spectacle. A modest but steady commitment will bear more fruit than an ambitious plan abandoned by the second week.

As we continue through this holy season, it is worth asking quietly: what will help me grow in love of God and neighbour? The answer may be simple. Choose it, persevere with it and entrust the results to the Lord. Over time, prayer deepens, self-discipline strengthens and charity becomes more natural. That quiet work of grace is what Lent is for.

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 Sharon Costello

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404