



# 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:**  
 Gretta Tobin R.I.P.



**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 22 <sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2026	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Passiontide begins	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Wilfred Winifred Francis Coates Marie Finn People of the Parish
MONDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent	No Mass		
TUESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	<b>6:00pm</b> 7:00pm	<b>St Alban's</b> St Alban's	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b> Joy & Annie
WEDNESDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Annunciation of The Lord</b>	9:30am	St Mary's	Ann Patricia Staden
THURSDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am 2:00pm	St Alban's School Hall	Fr Gerald Hargreaves (YB) School Passion Play
FRIDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> <b>ABSTAIN FROM MEAT</b>	Lent	7:00am 1:30pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Daniel Colleran Stations with Years 5&6 Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 28 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Elyza Stephen Thanksgiving Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Lettie Damolo	11:00am	Shaun Sandhu
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/Paul know so that a visit can be arranged.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Pauline Regan, Gretta Tobin and Marion Gill who have died recently. *Requiem aeternam.*

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Graham Ogilvie, Christine Farrar, Lawrence Maragh, Elaine Denton, Thanksgiving, Thomas Ward, Fred Greenwood, Fr Peter Ward, Brian Diggins, Bryan & Sheila Green, Denis & Veronica Smyth, Margaret & Frank Tinker, Pauline Regan

**HOLY WEEK**

Please make sure you take home the Holy Week sheet with all the details of the forthcoming services.

**YEAR OF CATECHESIS**

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by Fr Andrew Bowden. He will be speaking about "The good life and how to live it"

\*\*\* The next Q&A will take place this **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00pm.** \*\*\*

**S.V.P.**

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 6:00pm St Alban's Parish Room

**DAY OF CONFESSIONS AT THE CATHEDRAL IN LEEDS**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7:00am – 7:00pm. Confessions available all day with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**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 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE DIOCESES OF LEEDS & MIDDLESBROUGH**

As part of the consultation currently taking place across our two Dioceses, there is an opportunity for all clergy, religious and members of the lay faithful to contribute by completing an online questionnaire, either individually or as a parish group. Prayerful reflection should be given to the questions so that the Holy Spirit may guide this process of discernment. Prayer resources and a presentation are available on the diocesan website to support this process. Responses should be submitted no later than Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026. For more information and to complete the questionnaire, please visit:

<https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/leeds-middlesbrough-consultation-2026>

**CHURCHES TOGETHER - LENTEN REFLECTIONS**

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March St Albans are hosting Churches Together for Lenten reflections. The session will take place between 14.00 and 15.30. The theme for the reflection is "Jesus' Last Week" and will be accompanied by tea and biscuits.

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£934.63** Total Approx: **£1713.61** (Inc. standing orders & card)

## FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

There are moments in the life of a society when it becomes clear that something has shifted in a profound way. We seem to be living through such a moment now. In recent days Parliament has moved to decriminalise abortion up until the moment of birth. A prospect so monstrous that it would make even the Vikings blush. At the same time the war in Iran continues to escalate with devastating consequences and the question of assisted suicide remains very much present in public life. These are not isolated issues. They are all very much connected and point to a deeper problem about how we understand the dignity of the human person and the value of life itself.

It would be easy to feel overwhelmed by the evils around us or to retreat into a sort of petrified silence but unfortunately, the Gospel does not allow us that option. As Catholics we are called to see these things clearly for what they are and to respond faithfully. The Church has always taught that human life is sacred from its beginning to its natural end. That teaching does not change with majority opinion or political pressure. It is rooted in the unchangeable truth that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God with an immortal soul from the moment of conception.

When laws are passed that weaken the protection of the most vulnerable, it should remind us that the moral fabric of a society depends upon the convictions of those who live within it. If those convictions weaken, the consequences are felt most sharply by those who have no voice of their own. In times like these it is important to begin at home. The renewal of society does not begin in parliament. It begins in the hearts of ordinary people who take their faith seriously. That means looking again at the foundations of our own lives as Catholics and what we bring to society and the world around us.

The first of these is the Mass. The Sunday obligation is not a formality. It is the centre of our life with God. If we neglect it, everything else begins to lose its shape. To stand before the altar each week, to hear the Word of God, to receive the Body of Christ, is what forms us as Christian people. It strengthens us to live in the world in a way that reflects the truth we profess. In a time of confusion, fidelity to the Mass is an act of deeply important witness. Alongside this, must come a renewed commitment to prayer. The problems we face are not only political or social. They are spiritual. They touch upon the deepest questions of truth and conscience. A parish that prays faithfully is a community that remains rooted and solid.

There is also, however, a responsibility that extends beyond our own personal practice. Many of us have family members or friends who have drifted away from the life of the Church. This is a moment to reach out to them with patience and love. A word of invitation or a willingness to accompany someone back can make a huge difference. We hear little bits and bobs on the news about a revival of Christian faith at the moment, which of course, is a wonderful thing. However, our society stands no chance of recovery unless we get our act together in getting the lapsed back to church. It really is that serious. We no longer have the luxury of pretending to them that the faith is an optional hobby that need not be taken too seriously.

At the same time, we are called to be attentive to the moral choices we make in public life. The decisions we take, including how we vote, have consequences. As Catholics we are asked to form our consciences in the light of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church. We must find out where political candidates stand on issues, especially on the sanctity of life. And, if they are not in accord with the Truth we know be revealed by God, we can not and must not vote for them. Otherwise, we are complicit in their evil.

None of these issues call for anger or hostility. What they do call for is seriousness and for clarity. The temptation in every age is to allow the surrounding culture to shape our priorities. The Gospel forces us to do the opposite, to allow Christ to shape the way we think, speak and act. The history of the Church shows us that, especially in difficult times, faithful witness bears fruit. The present moment asks that we really take our faith seriously. Not as a private comfort, but as a way of life that will reshape the world around us. It is your duty to be a witness to the dignity of every human life and it is your duty to be a witness to the peace Christ, that the world is so desperately in need of.

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