



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

Parochial Administrator:

St Bernard's Halifax and St Theresa's Queensbury

Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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

T: 01422 352141 E: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.stmaryshalifax.com

St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday
11:00am



Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the
month after 9:30am
Mass



Holy Rosary:

Saturday after 12:15pm
Mass



Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after
9:30am Mass



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

Marriages and Baptisms

by appointment
See the priest after Mass



The month of August is dedicated to: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

SUNDAY 23 rd AUGUST	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Bridget Carroll B'day Peter Carolan People of the Parishes
MONDAY 24 th	Nuptial Mass	2:30pm	St Mary's	Thomas O'Donohoe and Geneva Roxas
TUESDAY 25 th	St Louis	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 26 th	Blessed Domic Barberi	9:30am	St Mary's	Fr Hilton 9 th Ordination Anniversary
THURSDAY 27 th	St Monica 60th Wed Anniversary	9:30am 6:30pm	St Alban's St Theresa's	Mary & Eddie Coates Bob & Doris Frost
FRIDAY 28 th	St Augustine	9:30am	St Mary's	Fred Greenwood
SATURDAY 29 th	The Beheading of St John the Baptist	12:15pm	St Mary's	Gabrielle Child
22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass
	Vigil Mass	5:00pm	St Bernard's	Gonzales Family

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY			NEXT SUNDAY		
9:30am	Isaac Mellor		9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun	
11:00am	Andrea Woodward		11:00am	Anna Davie	
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick		6:00pm	Frances Millington	

PRAYER LIST: Maureen Brown, Brendan Fernandes, 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

Deceased Members of the Parish Ladies' Guild, Edward Hintze, Lucy and Arthur Ellison, Timothy Hayes, Linda Stalley Int., Jennie and Jeff Int., Paula Williamson R.I.P. x3

THIS WEEK OUR LADY'S LAMP BURNS FOR: "A private intention"

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY - MELIA FUNERAL SERVICES

We are looking for someone to join our long-standing, family funeral business as a compassionate first point of contact for families, handling enquiries, computer-based data input, and supporting the administration of funeral arrangements. We are looking for someone proactive, self-sufficient and organised, with genuine compassion and warmth. Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday - Friday. These hours can be discussed, with occasional flexibility required

To apply or make an enquiry please email anne@meliafunerals.com

ETERNAL REST: THE ART OF DYING WELL

Following on from the success of last year's catechetical sessions, I hope, time permitting, to offer similar sessions periodically in the months ahead. We all have very real questions about death. What happens when we die? What does Scripture teach about death? How do we prepare for the life to come? In September, we will be showing *Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well*, a four-part series exploring the Church's teaching on death and eternal life. It approaches these difficult questions with wisdom, truth, gentleness and compassion, helping us to think about death and prepare for it in the light of Jesus Christ, the Author of Life. The series consists of four half-hour programmes that will be shown at **6:00pm**.

Tuesday 8th September, St Alban's Hall

Episode 1: The Story of Death

Episode 2: The Afterlife

Tuesday 15th September, St Alban's Hall

Episode 3: The Hour of Our Death

Episode 4: The Faithful Departed

Through *Eternal Rest*, I hope that we can gain a deeper understanding of our faith and, above all, a greater sense of Christian peace and hope as we contemplate the life to come.

WWI VESTMENT

At the back of St Mary's church, on display, is a black vestment that was purchased at the end of WWI to honour the dead of the parish and to be worn when Mass was offered for them. Over the years it has become very worn and damaged and is in much need of specialist repair. The total cost of repairing all 5 pieces, (Chasuble, Burse, Maniple, Veil and Stole) will be about £1800. It would be lovely to be able to use this vestment in the future, especially on Remembrance Sunday. If you would like to contribute to the cost of this work, please label any envelopes "WWI Vestment". Thank you!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2026

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated for the children of the deanery this year on Tuesday 24th November at 7:00pm in St Malachy's church. Children in Year 6 who attend St Mary's will have their preparation classes during school time. If your child is in year 6 or above and wishes to be Confirmed this year, please speak to me after Mass or send an email to the office.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£727.44** Total Approx: **£1435.44** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Today there will be a second collection for the retired priest's fund. (Delayed)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

“Mass is boring...” “I don’t get anything out of coming to Mass...”

These are phrases I hear from time to time. They are sentiments, perhaps, that you might occasionally express yourself. You might even be sitting reading this now thinking just those very thoughts. And if you are, I sympathise. We all go through phases when our spiritual lives are not quite as we would like them to be, and there are times when even coming to Mass can feel like a bit of a drag.

But, dear reader, might I gently suggest that the problem may not always be with the Mass... If we come to Mass expecting to be entertained, we will almost certainly be disappointed. Mass is not meant to be thrilling, exciting or enjoyable in the ordinary sense of those words. It is meant to be extraordinary, literally something outside the ordinary course of our lives.

At Mass, heaven touches earth. We encounter the living God in His Word and, most especially, in the Blessed Sacrament. We stand at Calvary and we join our worship to that of the angels and saints. Christ Himself becomes present upon the altar and gives Himself to us in Holy Communion. Perhaps, then, the question is not simply, “What did I get out of Mass?” but also, “What did I bring to it?”

So, over the next few weeks, might I suggest six very small things, little way in which you can bring more to the celebration of Mass. Give them a try and see whether anything changes.

- 1. Try to arrive in good time.** Try not to arrive as the opening hymn begins, still thinking about parking, breakfast or everything waiting for you at home. Give yourself ten minutes to sit quietly, look towards the tabernacle and remember where you are. Ask God to help you pray. You may be surprised how much difference those few minutes make.
- 2. Leave your phone in the glove compartment.** Unless you genuinely need it for some important reason, leave it behind. For one hour, allow yourself to be unavailable. The world can manage without you for sixty minutes. We spend so much of our lives being interrupted, distracted and summoned by little screens. Mass offers us the rare opportunity simply to be present to God.
- 3. Read the readings before Mass.** The Sunday readings are easily available online and on many Catholic apps. Read them once during the week, or even on Sunday morning before you leave home. Then, when they are proclaimed at Mass, you will already be familiar with them. A phrase or image may strike you in a way that it would not if you were hearing it for the first time.
- 4. Pray silently after receiving Holy Communion.** Those moments after Communion are among the most precious moments of the week. Christ is sacramentally present within you. Speak to Him. Thank Him. Tell Him what is troubling you. Pray for someone you love. Or simply sit quietly and allow yourself to be with Him. Do not let those moments slip past unacknowledged.
- 5. Make a thanksgiving after Mass.** There is no need to rush immediately for the door. Stay behind for two or three minutes. Thank God for the Mass you have just attended and for the gift of the Eucharist. Ask Him to help you carry what you have received into the week ahead. A little silence after Mass can help us recognise that something extraordinary has just happened.
- 6. Speak to someone you do not know.** Before you leave, introduce yourself to someone you have seen many times but never spoken to. Say hello to a visitor. Ask someone how they are. The parish is not just a collection of individuals who happen to worship in the same building. We are the Body of Christ, and part of our worship is learning to recognise Christ in one another.

The Mass itself does not need improving. The mystery taking place before us could hardly be greater. But perhaps our attention, preparation and participation sometimes do. So, if Mass has begun to feel boring, dry or routine, try these six things for a few Sundays. You may find that the Mass has not changed at all. But you have.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton