



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:

Pope Francis



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 February is dedicated to: The Holy Family

SUNDAY 23 rd FEBRUARY	7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish (Rosealie) Prairie Curran May & George Poppleton
MONDAY 24 th	Feria			
TUESDAY 25 th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Shelia Greenwood
WEDNESDAY 26 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Filip Makula
THURSDAY 27 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Dominic Flynn Int.
FRIDAY 28 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Andrew Whitworth R.I.P.
SATURDAY 1 st MARCH	St David	12:15pm	St Mary's	Marie Finn
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Kieron Green	9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Barbara Gregson	11:00am	Greg Finn
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

HOLY YEAR INDULGENCE

St Mary's is a Jubilee Pilgrimage Church for the Holy Year 2025.
A Plenary Indulgence, applicable to you or the faithful departed, may be gained each day by a devout visit to the church, together with prayers for the Holy Father's intentions, Holy Communion and sacramental Confession within a few days, and detachment from sin.

PRAYER LIST: Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, David Stanton, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Larry Byrne, 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.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Tadeusz & Jadwiga Lecznar, Andrew Antonio Pachowko, Tomasz & Irene Nalepa, Gladys Megson

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE LATELY DEAD

Alan Spencer – Funeral Service – Park Wood 1:30pm Wednesday 26th February
John Holloway – Funeral Service – St Mary's Church 11:00am Tuesday 4th March
Gladys Megson – Requiem Mass – St Alban's Church 12 Noon Wednesday 12th March

FOOD BANK

It's our turn to collect next Sunday.

HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES

Session number five of our course looking at the Creed will take place this Tuesday 25th February at 6pm in St Alban's parish room.
The theme will be "The Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of Life".

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocese of Leeds will travel on pilgrimage to Lourdes this year from the 4th – 10th of July.
If you wish to make a booking, this can be done through Tangney Tours:
www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-leeds
or call: 01732 886666

THE SCHOOL EASTER FAYRE

will be taking place on Friday 28th March at 3.30pm after school till approx. 5.00pm. We would very much appreciate it if parishioners would be kind enough to donate Easter eggs for our Easter egg tombola and any cakes or buns would also be very welcome, nearer to the date, for our cake stall. Please be as generous as you can. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to come and help out too. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns (07932 595955) with any queries, or if you would like to help. Easter eggs can be left at the back of church or dropped off at the school reception. Thank you once again for your continued support.

THE HUDDERSFIELD AND BRADFORD BOYS' CHOIR

will be visiting us to sing the 11 O'clock Mass on Sunday 2nd March.

S.V.P

Next meeting of the Monday 24th February 6 pm St Alban's parish room.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£636.52**Total Approx. **£1430.52** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Arriving in Rome is always an experience like no other. As I reached the city centre last Monday afternoon, even though I have been there so many times before, I still experienced the thrill of stepping into that place where the divine blends so effortlessly with the everyday. The charm of Rome lies not only in its iconic landmarks but in the serene moments of prayer and reflection that it offers in so many of its magnificent churches. The eternal city has a spiritual resonance that it is hard to imagine elsewhere. One of the sounds that punctuate any stay in Rome is that of the city's hundreds of church bells that ring on so many different junctures throughout the day. I love the sound of church bells and so I thought I'd say a little about them here. (In St Mary's we have one iron bell and one electric)

In the Catholic tradition, bells are more than mere instruments; they are voices of the sacred, echoing through time to call the faithful to prayer, mark the rhythm of the liturgical day, and sanctify the ordinary moments of life. From the gentle chime during Mass to the commanding peal from church towers, bells weave a sonic tapestry that unites heaven and earth. Bells are not simply installed and rung; they undergo a solemn ritual of blessing—often called a “baptism”—that imbues them with spiritual significance. This practice, dating back to at least the 8th century, reflects the belief that bells are more than tools of sound; they are voices of the Church, set apart to proclaim God's presence, summon the faithful and ward off evil. The “baptism of bells” is a vivid example of how the Church sanctifies the material world, turning bronze and iron into physical vessels of God's grace.

The bell is first cleansed, inside and out, with holy water. This act recalls baptismal purification, symbolising the removal of profane use and the bell's preparation for sacred duty. Next, the bell is anointed with two oils: the Oil of the Sick on the exterior and Sacred Chrism on the interior. The dual anointing is unique to this rite. The Oil of the Sick, linked to healing, reflects the bell's traditional role in dispelling evil spirits or calming storms. Chrism, used in baptism and confirmation, signifies consecration to God's service, marking the bell as a herald of divine truth. Incense is then burned beneath the bell, its smoke rising as a symbol of prayer ascending to heaven.

One of the most well-known uses of bells in the Church is the ringing of the Angelus. Traditionally sounded three times daily—at 6am, noon, and 6pm (although here at St Mary's, we forgo the 6am bell for the sake of our neighbours!)—the Angelus bell summons us to pause and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. The prayer itself commemorates the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel announced to Our Lady that she would bear the Son of God. The bell's rhythm, three sets of three rings followed by nine consecutive tolls, mirrors the structure of the prayer, with its three Hail Marys and concluding collect.

Within the Eucharistic liturgy, bells take on a more intimate role, emphasising the most profound moments of the Mass. The ringing of bells typically occurs at three key junctures: the epiclesis (the calling down of the Holy Spirit), the Consecration (when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ) and at Holy Communion (when the priest completes the sacrifice by consuming the Precious Blood).

In an age of so much digital noise, the voice of the bell retains such power. It cuts through distraction, inviting us to hear what Pope Benedict XVI once called “the sound of the eternal breaking into time.” So the next time you hear the church bell—whether at noon or during the elevation of the Host—pause. It's not just a sound; it's a summons to the sacred. Gibbet Street may feel a little removed from St Peter's Square in Rome, but the Lord's call to each one of us, rings out just as loud here as it does across the eternal city.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton