



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

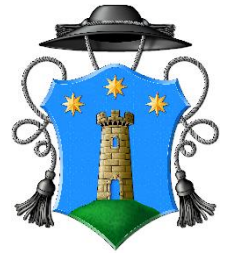
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

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:

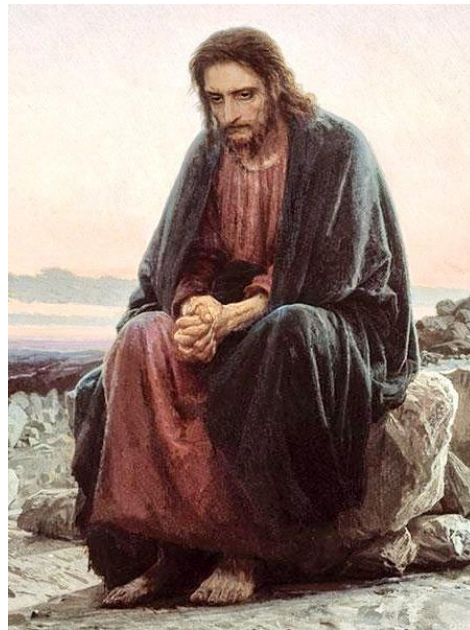
Saturday after 12:15pm  
 Mass

### Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month  
 after 9:30am Mass

### Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

A private intention (SH)



### 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 March is dedicated to: St Joseph

SUNDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> MARCH	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of LENT	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Andrew Antonio Pachowko Fr Peter Ward People of the Parish
MONDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	No Mass		
TUESDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Annunciation	7:00pm	St Alban's	Elsie Ward
WEDNESDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	9:30am 10:15am	St Mary's St Mary's	Joy Plackal Stations of the Cross (Years 3&4)
THURSDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	Lent	10:00am (School)	St Mary's	Tom Ratkowski
FRIDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> Abstain from Meat	Lent	7:00am 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Marie Finn Stations of the Cross & Devotions
SATURDAY 29 <sup>th</sup>	Lent Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Rachel Rouse and Family Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Andrea Woodward	11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

**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:**

Cecilia Mendonca, Peter Carolan x2, Tom, Mary & Leo Dolly, David Costello, Baby Elyza

**ASSISTED SUICIDE**

Kim Leadbeater, the MP behind this appalling and morally reprehensible Assisted Suicide legislation will be speaking at Halifax Minster on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 6:00pm-7:00pm. I encourage as many of you as possible to attend and voice your objections in any way that you can. Here are some examples of proposed safeguards that have been voted down and rejected at the bill's committee stage in parliament:

- × Prohibition on “encouraging” someone towards assisted suicide | Voted down 15-8
- × Requirement to meet with palliative care consultant before choosing suicide | Voted down 15 -8
  - × 6 month terminal diagnosis must have “reasonable certainty” | Voted down 15-8
  - × Strengthen language to exclude disability and mental illness | Voted down 15 – 8
    - × Doctor must record and report drug complications | Voted down 14 – 7
    - × Doctor must remain in room with patient until death | Voted down 13 – 8
- × Doctors must not bring up assisted suicide unless patient mentions it first | Voted down 13 - 8

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To Fr Larkin, the Dean of Halifax, who Bishop Stock has appointed to the Cathedral Chapter of Canons. The date of Canon Larkin's installation will be published in due course.

**PARISH QUIZ**

To be held at the Catholic club on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 each, supper included. Teams of up to 6 people. Tickets on sale soon.

**DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS**

The clergy of the deanery will hear confession from 9:00am until 4:00pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April here in St Mary's. Make sure you go before Easter!

**STUDY COURSES ON THE SACRAMENTS**

This continues this Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of March. 6:00pm in St Alban's parish room. The session, will be on the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Our children will make their First Holy Communion this year on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. The preparation for the Sacrament will begin next month. Will any parents of children in Non-Catholic Schools, who wish their children to be enrolled on the course, please speak to me after Mass.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**

The dates are as follows: 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> April & 13<sup>th</sup> April. The meetings will take place at 12:15pm here at St Mary's.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK**

Next week the annual collection for Catholic Care will take place. Catholic Care is the social care charity of the Diocese of Leeds.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

The next SVP meeting will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in St Alban's parish room.

## **RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

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

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

As Lent unfolds, it has been wonderful to see the parish turn with renewed devotion to the Stations of the Cross - a cherished practice that invites us to walk alongside Jesus on His journey to Calvary. This meditative tradition, rich in history and spiritual depth, holds a special place in the Church, especially during this season of penance and reflection. But what are the origins of this devotion?

The notion of the Stations of the Cross began centuries ago with the faithful who journeyed to Jerusalem as pilgrims, eager to follow the path Our Lord trod to His crucifixion. Known as the *Via Dolorosa*, or "Sorrowful Way," this route through the Holy City became a sacred itinerary, marked by key moments of Christ's Passion. By the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries, pilgrims like Sr Egeria, a Spanish nun, documented their experiences of retracing these steps, laying the groundwork for what would become a widespread devotion.

For most Christians, however, such a pilgrimage was impossible due to distance, cost, or general conflict and pestilence. In response, many churches brought the *Via Dolorosa* home. By the Middle Ages, European monasteries and churches began to erect outdoor scenes or markers representing Christ's journey. These early "stations" varied in number and form—sometimes as few as seven, sometimes more. Over time, the devotion evolved, and in 1731, Pope Clement XII fixed the number at 14, standardising the sequence we know today: from Jesus' condemnation to His burial in the tomb. This structure ensures that every Catholic, regardless of location, can unite in the same prayerful journey.

More than a historical re-enactment, the Stations of the Cross are a profound spiritual exercise. Each station—from Jesus accepting His cross to Veronica wiping His face—offers a window into the depth of His suffering and love. This devotion is not passive; it calls us to active participation. We are invited to imagine ourselves in the scene, to feel the weight of the cross, the sting of the scourging, and the tenderness of Our Lady's sorrow. Through this, we come to see Christ's Passion as personal—not just an event of the past, but a living reality that touches our lives.

The Stations also remind us of our own crosses. Life brings its share of struggles—grief, illness, uncertainty—and Jesus' journey shows us that He has walked this road first. Praying the Stations unites our trials to His, transforming them into opportunities for grace and redemption. Lent, with its 40 days of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, mirrors Jesus' time in the desert and prepares us for the Paschal Mystery—His death and resurrection. The Stations of the Cross are a perfect companion for this season. Traditionally prayed on Fridays during Lent, they draw us into the heart of Christ's sacrifice, which we commemorate on Good Friday. Each station deepens our repentance, helping us to take up our cross and follow Him, as we shed distractions and draw closer to God.

In today's fast-moving world, the Stations of the Cross stand as a countercultural gift. They ask us to pause, to be still, and to ponder truths that transcend time. They teach us empathy as we witness the suffering of Jesus and those who stood by Him—Mary, Simon of Cyrene, the weeping women. They inspire gratitude for the salvation won through His blood. And they renew our hope, pointing beyond the tomb to the glory of Easter. As we approach Holy Week, may this devotion awaken our hearts to the One who carried the cross for us. Through the Stations, we not only remember the past—we prepare for the future, when sorrow and grief will give way to eternal life and joy.

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