



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton
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HOLY YEAR MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS JUBILEE 2025

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:

Jean Hirst's Intentions



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 November is dedicated to: The Holy Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY 23 rd NOVEMBER	CHRIST THE KING	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Maria Griffin Steven Ramsden People of the Parish
MONDAY 24 th	St Andrew Dung-Lac	No Mass		
TUESDAY 25 th	St Catherine of Alexandria	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 26 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Catherine Lopuszniak
THURSDAY 27 th	Feria	No Mass		
FRIDAY 28 th	Feria	No Mass		
SATURDAY 29 th	Feria Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Fr Hubert McNamara Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	John Greenwood	9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Wendy Balahura	11:00am	Albina Karuna
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Frances Millington

PRAYER LIST: Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, 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

Ramon Espares Sr, Fr Hubert McNamara (A), Patrica and Wilf Burke, Shirley and John Hilton, Tony Moylett

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Our next Q&A session will take place on
Tuesday 2nd December at 6:00pm
in St Alban's room.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

A variety of religious Christmas cards are available to purchase at the back of St Mary's church.

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets for the Parish Christmas Raffle are now on sale after Sunday Masses and, once again, there are some great prizes to be won.

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

We are holding a wine and cheese evening in St Albans church hall on
Friday 5th December from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
The event is to raise funds for St Mary's & St Alban parish and the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.
Tickets are £10 and are on sale from today.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This year's Christmas Carol Service will be held on Thursday **18th December at 7:00pm** in St Mary's.
Christmas buffet will follow in the Catholic Club.

LADIES' GUILD NEWS

A big thank you to all who attended the PLG Afternoon tea last Saturday. Also thank you to those who supported the event with donations of any kind. The event raised **£964.**

PARISH CENSUS

If you have not already completed a parish census form or have recently moved house or changed address, please complete one of the forms at the back of church.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£669.16** Total Approx. **£1543.66** (Inc. standing orders & card)
There will be a second collection today for the Diocesan Youth Service.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD

Encouraged by the great success of our diocesan vocations promotion initiative that now sees more than 40 young men across the diocese actively exploring the possibility of a vocation to the Priesthood, the Bishop has asked the following prayer be said at the end of every Mass in the diocese from next week, the First Sunday of Advent:

*Our Lady of Unfailing Help! Pray that the Lord of the Harvest
will send labourers into His harvest and that He will grant an abundance of vocations
to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life within the Diocese of Leeds,
and throughout the world. Amen*

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This week the Church celebrates the feast days of several martyrs, St Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions and also St Catherine of Alexandria. We may well think of martyrdom as something from the distant past, something that belonged to the Roman arenas or the missionary journeys of the 17th century. Yet, as Red Wednesday (Aid to the Church in Need's fundraising and awareness day) reminded us only last week, it is worse today than at almost any time in the past 2000 years.

On the 24th of November the Church celebrates St Andrew Dung-Lac and the 117 Vietnamese martyrs who died with him between 1745 and 1862. Priests, catechists, farmers, mothers and their children, ordinary Catholics who refused to stamp on a crucifix or burn incense to the emperor. They were strangled, beheaded, or torn apart by elephants. One bishop, St Paul Le-Bao-Tinh, wrote from prison: "In the midst of these torments, which frighten others, I am, by the grace of God, full of joy and gladness." That joy is almost incomprehensible to us who have never had to choose between Christ and survival.

Two days later, on the 26th of November, we keep the memorial of St Catherine of Alexandria, the young scholar who, sacred tradition tells us, confounded fifty pagan philosophers in debate before she was broken on the wheel and finally beheaded in the early 4th century. Her witness reminds us that martyrdom is not only about physical courage, it is also about the courage to speak the truth when silence would be safer or more comfortable.

These ancient stories can feel remote until we look at the world in 2025. According to the latest reports from Open Doors and Aid to the Church in Need, more than 365 million Christians live in places where they face high or extreme levels of persecution. That is one in seven Christians worldwide. In Nigeria, entire villages are raided by armed groups, priests are kidnapped and churches burned. In North Korea, to own a Bible can mean a lifetime in a labour camp or worse. In parts of the Middle East, the Christian population has fallen by more than 80% in a single generation. And even in countries where there is no bloodshed, Christians face discrimination, exclusion and social hostility simply for wearing a crucifix or refusing to conform.

So what can we do, sitting comfortably in Halifax this morning? Firstly, we can inform ourselves. Ignorance is the persecutor's friend. Take five minutes this week to read one testimony from a persecuted Christian. The stories are readily available from Aid to the Church in Need. Let a real name and a real face disturb your peace and bring this reality home. (www.acnuk.org/reports-and-publications)

Second, we can pray with purpose. On the feast of the Vietnamese martyrs, perhaps we could offer our daily rosary for Christians in Vietnam and throughout Asia. On St Catherine's day, we could ask her intercession for Christian students and teachers who face mockery or difficulty due to their faith.

Thirdly, we can give. Even small, regular gifts to ACN keep schools open in Syria, help displaced families in Nigeria and train seminarians in countries where the Church is growing precisely because it is persecuted. As I said in my sermon last week, persecution, paradoxically, always leads to growth.

Finally and perhaps hardest of all, we can examine our own lives. We may never be asked to *die* for Christ but we are asked every day to *live* for Him, to speak of our faith when it is socially awkward, to forgive when it hurts and to defend Holy Mother Church when she is misrepresented

In the words of St Andrew Dung-Lac himself, "Those who die for the faith will rise again with Christ." May our lives, long or short, easy or hard, be a clear answer to their sacrifice, 'Yes, Lord, it was worth it. You are worth everything.'

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
The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404