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 October is dedicated to: The Holy Rosary

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Paul Ashton Private Intention Priest's Intention
MONDAY 26th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 27th	**Funeral Service**	**2:15pm**	**Parkwood**	**Patricia Snee**
	Feria (Latin Mass)	7:00pm	St Alban's	People of the Parishes
WEDNESDAY 28th	Ss Simon and Jude	9:30am	St Mary's	Bryan & Sheila Greenwood
THURSDAY 29th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Denis & Veronica Smyth
FRIDAY 30th	**Requiem Mass**	**10:00am**	**St Mary's**	**Angela Iannelli**
SATURDAY 31st	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	James Baldwin
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass
ALL SAINTS	Vigil Mass	5:00pm	St Bernard's	Priest's Intention

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Kieron Green	9:30am	Lily Hymas
11:00am	Malcolm Brown	11:00am	Arul Raj
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Frances Millington

PRAYER LIST: Dorothy Laycock, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Bridget "Bridie" Hopkins and Anna Blackson who have died recently.

MASSES RECEIVED

Gerard Humphries, The Horan Family, Timothy Hayes, Evelyn Somerville

THIS WEEK OUR LADY'S LAMP BURNS FOR: The repose of the soul of Anna Blackson

NOVEMBER NOVENA OF MASSES FOR THE DEAD

From the 3rd November – 11th November I will offer nine consecutive days of Masses for the dead, culminating with the **Parish Requiem Mass on Wednesday 11th at 7:00pm**.
If you wish your loved ones to be remembered in this special Novena, place their names and your offering in the envelopes provided at the back of church.

TAMLA MOTOWN EVENING

The Tamla Motown tickets for our Parish Social on **Friday 30th October** to be held at the Halifax Catholic Club will be are sale this Sunday before and after mass and in the Catholic Club. Tickets are £5 each and must be purchased before the event.

PARISH RACE NIGHT

Fancy a night at the races? – We are holding a parish race night on **Friday 13th November** at the Catholic Club starting at 7:00pm.
Across the evening there will be five races with prizes to be won, a raffle and a pie and pea supper. We are looking for sponsors for each of the five races at the cost of £25 each, we will promote their company name on the night. If you're feeling lucky, tickets are £7.50 each and are available after Mass. All proceeds to parish funds.

FR HILTON (Jr) INDUCTION

Some of you may know that my brother, Fr Benjamin Hilton has recently been appointed the Parish Priest of St Anthony's in Beeston. He has asked to extend a warm invitation to any of my parishioners who may wish to join him for his induction as Parish Priest by the Bishop on **Tuesday 10th November at 6:30pm**. The Mass will be followed by a party in the church hall.
St Anthony's Beeston, Old Lane, Leeds, LS11 7AA

THE ORION CHOIR

is making a very welcome return visit to St Bernard's church HX3 6DL on Saturday 14th November at 7:30pm. Join us for an evening of beautiful choral music. Echoes That Remain: including Howells-requiem, Tavener-song for Athene and Parry- Lord let me know mine end. Entrance is by donation for choir and church funds. Refreshments provided in the Hall after the Concert.

THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Will be taking place on **Friday 27th Nov at 3:30pm**. The PTFA are again after donations of any alcoholic bottles or chocolates for our main stalls and tombolas. Please be as generous as possible. We are also in desperate need of any bottle gift bags you can spare too for the bottle bag stall. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to help. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns: JBinns@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk with any queries. Thank you for your continued support.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & RAFFLE

Christmas Cards will be on sale at the back of St Mary's from Sunday 8th December. There will also be tickets available for the annual parish Christmas raffle.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£692.85** Total Approx: **£1403.85** (Inc. standing orders & card)
There will be a second collection today for the Pontifical Mission Societies.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

You may have seen in the news this week that the Government is encouraging us all to prepare for a national emergency by keeping three days' supply of food and water at home and stockpiling things like batteries and medicine. Apparently, we should all be ready to survive for 72 hours without the things we normally take for granted. Quite what sort of emergency is being anticipated that only lasts for three days, I am not entirely sure, but I suppose there is no harm in being prepared for the unexpected.

It did strike me, however, that we can spend a great deal of time preparing for things that might never happen and probably will never happen, whilst giving very little thought or attention to the one thing that most certainly will.

One day, each of us will die. (Happy Sunday 😊) We do not know when, where or how. And yet, for us as Catholics, preparing for that moment ought to be one of the most important things we do. As we approach November, the month when the Church remembers and prays for the faithful departed, perhaps it is a good opportunity to ask ourselves a simple question: Am I ready to meet God?

I don't mean that in a frightening or morbid way. The Church has always encouraged us to pray for the grace of a happy death. That doesn't necessarily mean a death without suffering, or even a death at a ripe old age. It means dying at peace with God, reconciled to Him, trusting in His mercy and ready to enter eternal life.

And how do we prepare for that? Well…It takes more than buying a few extra cans of beans. We do it by doing the ordinary things of our Catholic faith well. By coming to Mass faithfully, making time for prayer, receiving the Sacrament of Confession regularly, forgiving those who have hurt us and seeking forgiveness from those whom we have hurt. Confession, in particular, is something I would encourage you all to attend regularly. There is no more liberating experience than being able to kneel before God, acknowledge our sins and hear those beautiful words: *I absolve you from your sins*. Why carry burdens around that Christ is so willing to take from us?

One of the great dangers in the spiritual life is the temptation to put things off. We tell ourselves that there will be time to make a good Confession, time to put right a broken relationship, time to take our faith more seriously. Perhaps when life is a little quieter, when we are older or when we have fewer things to worry about. But the trouble is that none of us is promised tomorrow. Our Lord reminds us repeatedly in the Gospels to be watchful, to be ready, because we do not know the day or the hour. That isn't intended to frighten us but rather is an invitation to live each day in friendship with God, in a state of grace, so that whenever He calls us, we can go to Him with confidence. We only need to look to the saints for good example. They knew that holiness is not something we suddenly acquire on our deathbed, but something we grow into through the countless little decisions we make each day throughout our whole lives.

And perhaps this is one reason why the Church gives us the month of the Holy Souls. As we pray for those who have died, we are reminded that one day others will be praying for us. We will be the names on the November Dead List, the photographs on the mantelpiece, the people whose graves are visited and whose souls are commended to God's mercy. I know that's a rather sobering thought, but it should also be deeply comforting. Our faith assures us that death does not have the final word, and that the love which unites us in Christ reaches even beyond the grave. So, as we remember our departed loved ones this next month, let us pray for them with real devotion, and let us ask them to pray for us too, that when our own hour comes, we may be ready to meet the Lord whom we have spent our lives trying to love and serve.

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 Sharon Costello
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404