



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

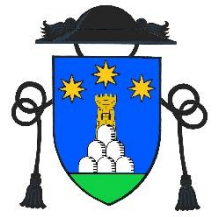
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



## 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:

"The Clergy who  
look after us"



### 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 January is dedicated to: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

SUNDAY 26 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Margaret & Raymond Ints. Elaine Collins People of the Parish
MONDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 28 <sup>th</sup>	St Thomas Aquinas	7:00pm	St Alban's	Joseph Lilly
WEDNESDAY 29 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Fiona Ashton's Intentions
THURSDAY 30 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Micky Grainey
FRIDAY 31 <sup>st</sup>	St John Bosco	9:30am	St Mary's	Maureen & Dominic Colleran
SATURDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Thanksgiving Stephen & Lijya
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Lettie Damolo	11:00am	Shaun Sanju
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, Gladys Megson, John Wallis, William Long, Sonya Box, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Larry Byrne, 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:**

RB Health Intentions, Michael & Judy Coates Golden Wedding, Deceased Members of the Ward Family, Deceased Members of the Smyth Family, Andrew Whitworth, Deceased members of the Hintze family, Paul Connolly, The Holy Souls in Purgatory, Michael Blackburn's B'day intentions.

### **HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES**

Session number two of our course looking at the Creed will take place this Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January  
The theme will be "God the Father Almighty"  
6:00pm in St Alban's parish room. All welcome.

### **S.V.P**

Date of next meeting is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 6 pm in St Alban's parish room

**PILGRIMAGE TO ROME** - Now Full. Waiting list available.

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**

Attending a preparation course is a requirement for those wishing to marry in the Catholic Church. If you are intending to marry within the next 18 months, the Deanery Marriage Course will take place this at 12:15pm (after the 11am Sunday Mass at St Mary's) on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> April. The sessions last approximately 1 hour.

### **FIRST CONFESSION**

The preparation for children making their first Confession will begin soon at St Mary's school. If your child attends a non-Catholic school but wishes to join the classes, please speak to me after Mass.

### **FOODBANK**

Next Sunday is our turn to collect for the foodbank. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

### **NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB**

The next Northern Soul night is on Friday 31st January - £3 admission. All welcome.  
A reminder that subs are due before the end of March.

### **CANDLEMAS: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE**

Next Sunday, we will celebrate the Feast of the Lord's Presentation, 40 days after his Nativity. This Feast marks the conclusion of the celebration of the Christmas mysteries in the liturgy. Next weekend, the Mass with the Blessing of Candles will take place at 11am on Sunday morning.  
Other Masses as normal.

## RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£805.08** Total Approx. **£1595.58** (Inc. standing orders & card)

## FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As I am writing this piece, it is currently Friday morning and I'm very much looking forward to this evening when I will be able to watch the series finale of "The Traitors". I always enjoy rubbish reality TV, but this series is different. It is so much more compelling than other programmes. For those of you who don't watch it, the game brings together a group of contestants known as the "faithful" who must work to identify and eliminate "traitors" among them, who secretly work to sabotage the group's efforts to win a cash prize. The game involves banishing other players, strategy and deception. It's just brilliant. The physiological intrigue, the social dynamics and the element of mystery make for a fascinating insight into the human condition and showcase just how easily people can be manipulated.

At the end of a contestant's time on the show, they have to stand up in front of the whole group and publically reveal, were they a traitor, or were they faithful. I can't help but watch the programme and draw parallels with our own lives. First of all, the phenomenon of treachery is as old as the hills. Even among the Lord's twelve Apostles, there was a traitor in their midst, who made it almost to the very end. Human weakness and sinfulness will always mean that there are people who choose to put their own needs ahead of others and who will willingly lie and cheat their way to their goals. Obviously, this is the aim of the game, *Traitors*, and so ultimately is only for fun and the show has no consequences.

At the end of our lives, however, when the time for judgment comes, the Lord will ask us to give an account of ourselves and ask us if we have been faithful to him. Thankfully for us, as we journey through life, there are no nightly banishments, we are not going to be chucked out of the group forever, but we are regularly faced with opportunities for redemption and growth. Living a life of true fidelity requires God's grace and the cultivation of real integrity. Living out our faith not just in public but in private moments, when no one else is watching, it's about aligning our actions with our beliefs.

I was chatting with some Pentecostal ministers recently, who asked me what would one have to do to be "kicked out" of the Catholic Church? They were quite shocked when I explained to them, that it's almost impossible. We become part of God's family of 'faithfuls' upon our baptism and there's nothing we can do to change that. We might say that some people are more practicing than others, or that some people live lives far more in keeping with what God wants for us – but there is no banishment, the door of mercy is never closed, no matter what we have done or how far we have fallen. (Yes, it is possible to be 'excommunicated' but 1. it is extremely rare and 2. is never irreversible. It is not a punishment but an encouragement to conversion and repentance.)

When the pope dies, all of the cardinals and bishops in Rome lose their positions in the curia until a new pope is elected and reconfirms them in office. All of them, except a bishop who is known as the "penitentiary" – his role involves reconciling people to the church, forgiving grave sins and lifting excommunications, it is for this reason that his office is never vacant, reconciliation is always available.

If we are to live truly faithful lives, there are so many elements from which we can draw strength and support. Primarily, to live a faithful life, is to live a sacramental life, to attend Mass, to receive the Lord in Holy Communion, to regularly confess our sins and experience His forgiveness. The game of life has so many twists and turns along the way, but if we are to attain the eternal prize, of which St Paul speaks, we must fight the good fight, run the race and keep the faith to the end.

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