



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

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MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

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:

Mgr P. Owen's Int.



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

or on Request

Marriages and Baptisms

by appointment

See the priest after Mass

The month of July is dedicated to: The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

SUNDAY 26th JULY	17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Timothy Hayes Tom, Mary & Leo Dolly Deidre Murphy
MONDAY 27th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 28th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Maureen Ryan
WEDNESDAY 29th	Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus	9:30am	St Mary's	Catherine O'Neil & John Hinch
THURSDAY 30th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	People of the Parishes
FRIDAY 31st	St Ignatius of Loyola	9:30am	St Mary's	Kayleigh Jade Ennis
SATURDAY 1st AUGUST	St Alphonsus Liguori	12:15pm	St Mary's	Dec. mem of the Griffin Family
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass
	Vigil Mass	5:00pm	St Bernard's	Priest's Intention

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Malcom Brown,	11:00am	Arul Raj
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: 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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Peter and Peggy Travis, Bryan and Sheila Greenwood, Denis & Veronica Smyth, Marshal Louie Flores

VERONA FATHERS MISSIONARY APPEAL

Next Sunday we will be joined with by one of the Verona Fathers who will be with us to preach the annual mission appeal. Father will be speaking at all three Masses.

ST BERNARD'S VIGIL MASS

From next Saturday I will be taking up my appointment as the Parochial Administrator of St Bernard's and St Theresa's. As such next Saturday will be the first of the new vigil Masses at St Bernard's at 5:00pm. If this Mass time is more convenient for you, do come along and support it.

SVP

The next meeting of the SVP will take place this Tuesday 28th at 6:00pm in St Alban's Hall. New members looking to put their faith into action are always welcome.

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Next Saturday 1st of August, there will be a tabletop sale at the Catholic Club. BBQ with burgers and hotdogs. Contact Maggie at the club to reserve a table and raise money for your chosen charity. From 3:00pm onwards.

200 CLUB JUNE DRAW

1st prize (£75) no. 145 Barbara Lecznar
2nd prize (£50) no. 81 Marie Sedgwick
3rd prize (£25) no. 47 Ann Griffin

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Liturgy of the Word for children is now on a break for the summer. We will resume in the new term from Sunday 6th of September. Children welcome from Foundation Stage until First Holy Communion.

BETHLEHEM CARE HOSPICE TRUST – FASHION SHOW

We are holding a fashion show at St Mary's primary school on 24th September at 7:00pm. Tickets are £5 and monies will be shared between the BCHT and parish funds. They are on sale after Mass today.

PILGRIMAGE TO OSMOTHERLEY

This year, the annual Middlesbrough Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley, DL6 3AP, will take place on Sunday the 16th August. The Rosary will be prayed at 2:30pm, and at 3:00pm, Bishop Stock will preside at the Celebration of Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

If you are traveling on holiday in the coming weeks, I hope that you have a lovely time away and enjoy a safe journey. A special welcome too to any visitors who may be joining us over the summer holidays.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£743.78** Weekly Total Approx. **£1426.78** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This week the Church celebrates the relatively new Feast Day of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus. The Gospels give us only a handful of glimpses into the home of these siblings and yet those scenes have an extraordinary warmth about them. Bethany seems to have been one of the places where The Lord could simply enjoy being with the people who loved Him. He spent much of his public ministry surrounded by crowds, interrupted by endless demands and challenged by those looking for a way to undermine Him. The village of Bethany was a different kind of place, it was a place where he could rest, eat, talk and spend time with His friends.

We rightly think of Jesus as our Lord and God and Saviour, yet the Gospels also show him living ordinary human relationships. St John says plainly, "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." Those simple words remind us that the Son of God chose to have friends. Friendship was woven into His earthly life and not merely an incidental part of it.

When St Luke tells us about Martha and Mary, the scene feels very familiar. Martha is busy preparing the house while Mary sits listening to Jesus. Martha becomes frustrated, and few of us would struggle to understand why. Jesus' response is gentle. He is not criticising hard work or hospitality, He simply reminds Martha that people matter more than tasks. There are moments when conversation should take priority over the list of things still waiting to be done. The death of Lazarus also reveals another side of friendship. Martha speaks honestly to Jesus while Mary weeps at His feet. Jesus does not stand back from their grief. St John's straightforward words, "Jesus wept," tell us that He shared the sorrow of those He loved before He called Lazarus out from the tomb. We must remember that friendship means being present in another person's joy but also in their pain and distress.

These episodes invite us to think about friendship itself more deeply. We often speak about family, marriage and community, yet friendships can shape our lives just as deeply. Most of us can remember someone who listened patiently when we needed to talk, encouraged us or stayed beside us when others drifted away. Those friendships become part of our life story, even if they rarely attract as much attention as a wedding or a baby. Real friendship takes time. It grows slowly through shared experiences, ordinary conversations and simple acts of kindness. Trust is one of those things that cannot be hurried, neither can affection. Modern life often leaves us connected to hundreds of people while making it harder to spend unhurried time with any of them. We exchange messages throughout the day, yet genuine conversation is becoming increasingly rare. The friendships that matter most usually grow around a dining table, during a walk or over a drink, where the time we spend is valued and not rushed.

For us as Catholics, friendship also has a profound spiritual importance. Good friends encourage what is best in us. They notice when we are struggling. They are honest enough to challenge us when we are heading in the wrong direction, and humble enough to accept correction themselves. Many of the saints treasured close friendships because they understood that nobody grows in holiness alone. God often works through the encouragement, wisdom and example of another person, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps that is one of the lessons of Bethany. Jesus did not keep people at a distance. He welcomed friendship and gave it His time. If the Lord Himself valued those relationships, we should not dismiss them as something secondary to the Christian life. As we celebrate Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus this week, it is worth thanking God for the friends who have walked beside us over the years. Some remain part of our daily lives, others are now with the Lord, though their kindness is still remembered. Their presence has often been one of God's greatest gifts. May we also become the sort of faithful, generous and dependable friends through whom other people can catch a glimpse of Christ's love.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton