



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:

Private Intention
Healing



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 October is dedicated to: The Holy Rosary

SUNDAY 26 th OCTOBER	30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish Sheila Kennedy Richard Siebierski
MONDAY 27 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Shirley Hilton
TUESDAY 28 th	Ss Simon and Jude	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 29 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Maria Griffin
	FUNERAL SERVICE	11:30am	St Mary's	Iwona Lasota
THURSDAY 30 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Kathleen Ratkowski
FRIDAY 31 st	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Rev. Paul Coates Int.
SATURDAY 1 st NOVEMBER	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Thanksgiving
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Joseph Coneron	11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: Donna Murphy, Sadie Mills, 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

Deceased members of the Hintze Family, Stuart Stott, Danny Colleran, Thanksgiving, Josie McLaughlin, Horan Family, Marie Finn x 5, Tomasz and Irene Nalepa

NEW CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our new children's liturgy continues this Sunday at the 11:00am Mass and will take place at the **same time each week**. Parental consent forms are available at the back of church.

Mary and Greg will also be available should you have any questions.

AMPLEFORTH RETREAT - TRAVEL

We will be traveling to Ampleforth for our parish retreat on Monday 3rd of November by coach. The bus will **leave St Mary's 12 Noon** and depart from the monastery on Wednesday 5th at 3:00pm. Hand luggage only please, no large suitcases.

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Friday 7th November – Acoustic Night with the Four Candles duo. All welcome.

NEXT GUEST SPEAKER – YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Our next guest speaker will be Mgr David Smith on the 11th of November at 6:00pm in St Alban's room. Monsignor will be talking about "Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven"

PARISH LADIES' GUILD – AFTERNOON TEA

The PLG is hosting afternoon tea at the Catholic Club on Saturday the 15th of November from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Tickets available at £10 each.

NOVENA OF MASSES FOR THE DEAD

From the 6th November – 14th November I will offer nine consecutive days of Masses for the dead, culminating with the Parish Requiem Mass on Friday 14th 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.

NOVEMBER CEMETERY SERVICE & BLESSING OF GRAVES

This year the service will take place at Stoney Royd Cemetery, Halifax Sunday 2nd November at 3:00pm. Praying for our dead loved ones is such an important thing to do and helps them on their journey to heaven. After the service has concluded, I will be available to bless individual graves on request.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – 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.

THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

will be taking place on Friday 5th December at 3:45pm after school till approx. 5.30pm. Donations of mainly chocolates and alcoholic bottles are needed for our 2 main tombolas, please be as generous as you can. A box will be made available at the back of church for donations asap. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to help on any of our stalls too. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns (07932 595955) with any queries or if you would like to help.

S.V.P.

Next meeting Monday 20th October at 6:00pm in St Alban's parish room.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£623.43** Total Approx. **£1598.93** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

On the outskirts of Rome, just across the road from one of my favourite lunch spots, the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls stands as a testament to the great Apostle to the Gentiles. Built over the tomb of St Paul, who was martyred around AD 67, this majestic structure is one of Rome's four major Papal Basilicas. Its history is a long and complicated one of destruction and renewal. This church has been ravaged by earthquakes, invasions and devastating fires, yet faithfully rebuilt each time. It is one of the main pilgrimage sites of the Eternal City but few may know of its deep and centuries old connection to the English crown, a link that was brought into sharp relief this week by the State visit of the King and Queen to the Holy See.

This bond goes all the way back to the Anglo-Saxon period, a time when England was a patchwork of kingdoms gradually embracing Christianity. Beginning in the 7th and 8th centuries, Anglo-Saxon kings assumed a special role as protectors of the Basilica. Much like how the kings of France held guardianship over the Basilica of St Mary Major, English monarchs supported the maintenance and preservation of St Paul's tomb and the surrounding abbey. Historical records suggest that kings such as Ine of Wessex, who abdicated in 726 to retire to Rome and Offa of Mercia, known for his holiness and loyalty to the Papacy, contributed to the Basilica's upkeep. These rulers sent money, pilgrims and even materials for repairs, especially after disasters like the Saracen raid of 846, which left the Basilica in ruins.

This patronage was more than simply financial, it was a spiritual alliance. Anglo-Saxon England, converted largely through the efforts of missionaries like St Augustine of Canterbury sent by Pope Gregory the Great in 597, recognised Rome as the heart of Christendom. Kings paid "Peter's Pence," an annual contribution to the Holy See (some things never change) and many made pilgrimages to the Eternal City. The Basilica of St Paul, with its apostolic significance, became a focal point for English devotion. Records from the time, including the writings of St Bede, highlight how English bishops and nobles frequented the site, fostering a sense of unity between our distant island and the papal court. This relationship flourished through the medieval period, with successive monarchs upholding the tradition until the disasters of the 16th century. The so-called "reformation" marked a rupture in this historic tie. Under King Henry VIII, England's break from the Church in 1534 severed formal connections with Roman institutions, including the Basilica. The dissolution of monasteries and the establishment of the Church of England shifted allegiances and the English crown's role as protector faded into memory. For nearly 500 years the link lay dormant, a poignant reminder of the divisions that have plagued the Body of Christ.

Yet, just this week, a very small step has been taken to symbolically revive this bond. Just days ago, the King and Queen visited the Basilica as part of their state visit to the Holy See. In a ceremony presided over by Abbot Donato Ogliari and Cardinal James Harvey, the King was bestowed the title of "*Royal Confrater*" of the Benedictine Abbey attached to the Basilica, a gesture approved by the Holy Father. This "confraternity," meaning spiritual brotherhood, echoes the ancient protectorship. A specially crafted throne, adorned with the royal coat of arms and inscribed with "*Ut unum sint*" "That they may be one" from St John's Gospel, was installed in the apse for the King and his successors. In reciprocity, the Pope was named "*Papal Confrère*" of St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. These are, of course, small gestures and the theological gulf between the Church of England and the Catholic Church is wider than ever but they do offer a moment of reflection, in an age of division, such signs remind us of the need to strive for the unity among believers for which our Lord so fervently prayed.

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