



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:

"The priests of our diocese"



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 July is dedicated to: The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

SUNDAY 27 th JULY	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Jan Moska Timothy Hayes (A) Sonia John- Exam Success
MONDAY 28 th	No Mass	No Mass		
TUESDAY 29 th	Martha, Mary & Lazarus	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 30 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Thomas Ward
THURSDAY 31 st	St Ignatius Loyola	9:30am	St Alban's	People of the Parish
FRIDAY 1 st	REQUIEM	11:00am	St Mary's	John Joe Hendrick
SATURDAY 2 nd	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Paul Griffin
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Helen Brown	11:00am	Joe Coneran
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: Tom Lennon, Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, David Stanton, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Pietro Casale who has died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED

Fr Matteo Balzano, Sonia Exam Success, Tony Lennon, Holy Souls, Sheila & Bryan Greenwood x 2
Denis Smyth, Peter & Peggy Travis

SUMMER SCHEDULE

For the next few weeks until the 31st of August, there will be no Tuesday evening Mass and Friday Mass will be celebrated at 12 Noon. Normal times to resume in September. (Funerals may alter this)

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church and we will pass them on. The money raised from this initiative will help Mary's Meals bring hope to more desperately hungry children across the globe. Every 10p is enough to provide a hungry child with a nutritious meal in school. Mary's Meals would like to thank you for your continued support & prayers. There is a box back of church.

PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PARISH CEILIDH – Friday 3rd of October (TBC)
60's NIGHT – 17th October (Catholic Club)
AFTERNOON TEA – 15th November (Catholic Club)
More details about these events to follow soon.

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Northern Soul Night - Saturday 2nd August, 4:00pm onwards. £3 admission - All welcome.

A YEAR OF CATECHESIS

For most of us, our Catholic education ends on the day that we leave school. The only real input from then on is the sermon on Sunday and I understand, all too well, that these can vary in usefulness! Following on from the success of our talks earlier this year on the *Creed* and on the *Sacraments*. I would like to make the new academic year, a 'Year of Catechesis' in the parish. This means a year of events to help you learn more about your faith and deepen your understanding of our religion. This will include a series of talks from visiting priests, video presentations and question and answer sessions where you will be able to ask the questions that you have always wondered about but never had a chance to ask. I will publish a timetable for the year with all the relevant dates in September, concluding with a closing Mass on the feast of the Sacred Heart, which His Lordship the Bishop has very kindly agreed to celebrate for us. For now, the dates of the first presentations are as follows:

BISHOP ROBERT BARON ON THE MASS

2nd September 6:30pm – A Privileged encounter | 9th September 6:30pm – Called out of the World
16th September 6:30pm – God Speaks our Story | 23rd September 6:30pm – Responding to God
30th September 6:00pm – Preparing for Sacrifice & The Real Presence

All these sessions will be in St Alban's Hall followed by Mass.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£ 682.25** Approx. **£1438.25** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our life in Christ, the beating heart of our existence as His disciples. It is in the Holy Mass that we encounter this mystery most profoundly, where heaven stoops to earth, and we are drawn into the very life of God. Yet, in our frenetic, distraction-saturated world, I know many of us wrestle with making Sunday Mass a priority. Sports clubs, football games, family commitments, days out and a host of other activities clamour for our time, whispering that they are just as important. I want to reflect on why Sunday Mass is not merely important but utterly indispensable.

Let's begin with the heart of the matter, the Eucharist is Jesus Himself. This is no mere symbol, no poetic metaphor, but the Real Presence, Christ's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, offered for us. When we gather for Mass, we step into a cosmic drama; we are in the Upper Room, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist, we stand at the foot of the Cross, where He poured out His life and we glimpse the Resurrection, where He triumphed over death. The Mass is not just a ritual, it's a participation in the eternal liturgy of heaven, where angels and saints worship the Lamb. To miss this is to miss the very centre of reality, the axis around which our lives must turn.

I understand the challenges that we all face. Sunday mornings are crowded with all sorts of events that try to claim that they are equal or even more important than our commitment to worship. But let's be clear, these activities, while good and valuable, are not ultimate. They build community, foster discipline, and bring joy, but they cannot save our souls or give us eternal life. Only Christ can do that, and He waits for us in the Eucharist. To prioritise a game or a social event over Mass is to misalign our loves, to let the penultimate eclipse the ultimate. It's like choosing a flickering candle over the blazing sun of God's presence.

Our parish is committed to making the Mass accessible to all. We offer three opportunities each Sunday to encounter this mystery: two morning Masses at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM, and an evening Mass at 6:00 PM. These times are a deliberately designed to weave the Eucharist into the fabric of a busy day. If morning commitments loom large, the evening Mass stands ready to welcome us. If evenings are packed with activities, the morning Mass invites us to begin our day with Christ. I invite you to plan your week around this sacred hour, just as you would a critical appointment. The sacrifice of adjusting your schedule, waking up early or rearranging plans, is itself an offering, a way of saying to God, "You are my priority." (If Sunday is totally packed, there are plenty of Saturday Vigil Masses in Halifax)

We should also think about the communal dimension of the Mass. When you come to church, you're not just here for yourself, you're here for your brothers and sisters. Your presence strengthens the Body of Christ, just as your absence diminishes it. Parents, your children are watching. When you choose Mass over something else, you teach them that God is the source of all that is good. You show them how to order their lives correctly, with Christ at the centre. Moreover, your attendance builds up our parish family. Each person in the pews encourages others, creating a ripple effect of faith and devotion that transforms our community.

In a culture that pulls us toward lesser goods, entertainment, achievement, comfort, the Mass calls us to lift our eyes to the eternal. Let's resist the tide of distraction and recommit to making Sunday Mass the non-negotiable heart of our week. Choose a time that works, morning or evening and make it a sacred appointment with your Lord and your God.

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