



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

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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 September is dedicated to: The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady

SUNDAY 27 th SEPTEMBER	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Irene Allen R.I.P. Leticia Maragh 80 th B'day Priest's Intention
MONDAY 28 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 29 th	Funeral Service	1:30pm	Parkwood	Stephen Ingham
	Holy Archangels	7:00pm	St Alban's	Marie Finn
WEDNESDAY 30 th	St Jerome	9:30am	St Mary's	John Wallis R.I.P.
THURSDAY 1 st OCTOBER	St Theresa of the Child Jesus	9:30am 12 Noon	St Alban's St Theresa's	Joe McCambridge People of the Parishes
FRIDAY 2 nd	Holy Guardian Angels	9:30am	St Mary's	Tom Hogan and Family
SATURDAY 3 rd	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Eric Friend R.I.P.
27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass
	Vigil Mass	5:00pm	St Bernard's	John Boyd

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY			NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Isaac Mellor		9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Tim Widdop		11:00am	Helen Brown
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald		6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Marshal Louie Flores, Eric Friend, Irene Allen

THIS WEEK OUR LADY'S LAMP BURNS FOR: Intentions of Tom Hogan and Family

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.

75TH ANNUAL BATLEY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

The Batley Torchlight procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady will take place **this Monday the 5th of October**, beginning at St Mary's School (WF17 8PH) at 7:30pm.

There is a sign-up list at the back of church for those who would like free transport.

The procession ends with Benediction and is followed by a pie and pea supper.

LADIES' GUILD PARISH QUIZ NIGHT

The Parish Ladies Guild are organising a quiz night to be held at the Halifax Catholic club on Saturday **10th October** at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £7.50 each with supper included. Teams of up to 6 people are allowed. Tickets to be purchased before the day.

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 on sale from this Sunday before and after mass and in the Catholic club. Tickets are £5 each and must be purchased before the event.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

If you wish to be baptised or received into the Church or perhaps are just a Catholic who is yet to be Confirmed, I will be running the RCIA course starting in November beginning on Wednesday 4th at 7:00pm in St Alban's hall. If you are interested in joining the programme, please email me on: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

ST THERESA'S QUEENSBURY NEWS

I will be celebrating Mass at 12 noon on Thursday 1st of October in the church for the feast of St Theresa. This will be followed by a social and an events planning meeting in the hall downstairs.

HAPPY DAYS FOODBANK

Just a reminder that next week it is our turn to collection contributions for the Happy Days Foodbank. Please be as generous as usual. (Nothing perishable please)

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£844.01** Total Approx: **£1617.51** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

If you find yourself in need of something uplifting or cheering over the next few days, I suggest that you watch some of the coverage of the Holy Father's Apostolic Journey to France this weekend. I had written a piece for this week's bulletin about the angels, but as I watched some of the incredible scenes from Paris last night, I decided that they can wait until another time.

There were many highlights from yesterday. Most moving of all was the Holy Father entering the newly restored Notre-Dame Cathedral and celebrating solemn Vespers with the Church of France. Here was one of the great buildings of Christendom, almost destroyed by fire seven years ago, once again filled with prayer, incense and sacred music, with the successor of St Peter enthroned in its sanctuary.

Then, in the evening, was the Stade de France. Around 80,000 young Catholics filled the national stadium for a vigil of prayer with the Pope. They sang, prayed, cheered and listened as Pope Leo spoke to them about the Lord. What a marvellous sight it was to behold. And they managed to arrive, enjoy themselves and leave again without a single arrest or car being set on fire... as is usually the case when the Stade de France is full!

We hear a great deal about the decline of Christianity in Europe. Sometimes, if we listen to that story for long enough, we can begin to believe that we are simply managing decline, preserving the remnants of something which once mattered. And then 80,000 young Catholics fill the Stade de France.

There is something happening in the Church, particularly among the young. Across France there has been remarkable growth in adult baptisms in recent years. Young men and women are discovering the Mass, learning to pray, going on pilgrimage and asking serious questions about God and about what all of this means for their lives.

Perhaps one of the more amusing aspects of the visit has been the anxiety it has caused among some of France's more determined secularists. There have been earnest debates about *laïcité* (secularism), about Catholic schools celebrating the Pope's arrival, about politicians attending events, and about just how visible Catholicism ought to be in modern France. Some of France's best-known atheists and secular campaigners have been having televised meltdowns, which I confess I find rather encouraging!

Our religion is never to be hidden away as an eccentric private hobby. The Gospel of Jesus Christ belongs in the public square and the workplace as surely as it belongs in our churches and homes. The Pope travelling through Paris, the bells of Notre-Dame peeling, enormous crowds gathering for Mass and tens of thousands of young people openly proclaiming their faith inevitably reminds France of something it can occasionally seem determined to forget, Catholicism made France the great civilisation that it is.

Papal visits have done this before. St John Paul II travelled across Europe with his tremendous call: "Do not be afraid!" Millions of young people gathered around him and responded to his cry. Benedict XVI, in his gentler way, reminded Europe that our Christian inheritance is not an embarrassment to be thrown away as we become ever more modern and enlightened, but a living source from which we must draw again. And now Pope Leo is taking up that mission. To rapturous cheers last night, he told the assembled young people... "The Church needs you! Indeed, avoiding evil and striving for good involves fighting... Our only weapon is that of love which gives itself."

France is a land of great saints and cathedrals, of Lourdes, Lisieux, Ars and Paris. Its Catholic foundations run extraordinarily deep. And perhaps the building of Notre-Dame itself gives us the perfect image. I'm sure many of you remember watching it burn in 2019 and wondering whether something irreplaceable had been lost. Yet it has risen again from the ashes. Last night its bells rang, its organ thundered, and the successor of St Peter prayed beneath its ancient and majestic vaults. The faith in France, and indeed throughout Europe, can rise again too. So watch this papal visit and seek out the coverage online. See how huge the crowds are. Listen to the roar of the young people. See the Pope in Lourdes and hear what he says to France and to the world. As Catholics, we have every reason to lift our heads high. The Church is very much alive and Our Lord is still calling people. Young people are still answering. Notre-Dame stands again, the streets are full and the successor of Peter is among his people. What a blessing for the people of France and for us all.

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