



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



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:
 "A medical need"



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 28 th	Ss. Peter and Paul	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Denis Smyth People of the Parish
MONDAY 29 th	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 30 th	Feria	7:00pm	St Alban's	Kathleen Smith
WEDNESDAY 1 st JULY	Funeral Service Leavers Mass	10:30am 2:15pm	St Mary's School Hall	Anthony Meade Canon Tom O'Connor
THURSDAY 2 nd	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Bryan Greenwood
FRIDAY 3 rd	St Thomas, Apostle	No Public Mass		Lourdes Pilgrimage
SATURDAY 4 th	Feria	No Public Mass		Lourdes Pilgrimage
	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	Shaun Sanju	11:00am	Helen Brown
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: 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

Honora Hintze, Fr Paul Reid, John Whitworth x2 , Moska Family, Private Int. x 2, Kevin McCorry

MONSIGNOR PAUL OWENS RUBY JUBILEE

Monsignor Paul Owens celebrates his Ruby Jubilee (40 years) as a priest this year and since he is retired from full time parochial ministry, I have invited him to celebrate his anniversary here at St Mary's. There will be a special Mass on Friday 24th of July at 7:00pm followed by a party at the Catholic Club. All are warmly invited to attend.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

The School Summer Fayre will be taking place on Friday 10th July. The PTFA are again after donations of any alcoholic bottles or bric-a-brac and unwanted gifts for our two tombolas. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to help out. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns: JBinns@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk with any queries. Thank you for your continued support.

RED MISSIO BOXES

Karen Hallinan will be collecting the red *Missio* boxes after Mass for the next two Sundays.

WELCOME TO BISHOP MOGER

I am very grateful to Bishop Philip Moger, who will celebrate the morning Masses next week here in St Mary's. His Lordship is, of course, from this parish and it will be good to welcome him home.

LOURDES PRAYER INTENTIONS

If anyone would like me to take their private intentions with me to Our Lady's Grotto in Lourdes, place them in an envelope and hand them to me or pop them through the presbytery door before Friday.

PARISH DONATIONS

I am very grateful to all of you for the regular financial contributions which you make to the parish. I would, however, really appreciate it if those parishioners who currently donate through the loose cash collection would consider changing, **not what you give, but how you give**, by switching to donating by regular standing order. Benefits would include reducing the risks associated with transporting large amounts of money and maintaining a regular level of parish income throughout the year. If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid section of the form. By doing so, **your regular donation would be increased by 25% at no additional expense to you**. Based on the figures for the financial year 2025/26, the parish missed out on £4328.25 of Gift Aid that we could have claimed if people donated the same amount but just in a different way. – I have left standing order forms at the back.

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.

SECOND COLLETION

This Sunday is the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. There will be the traditional retiring collection for Peter's Pence. This collection is for the charitable and philanthropic work of the Holy Father, Pope Leo.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£930.69** Weekly Total Approx. **£1674.44** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This week, several of us from the parish will be travelling to Lourdes with the Diocese on our annual pilgrimage. So why do we bother? After all, God is everywhere. We can pray in our homes, in church, while walking the dog or driving to work. If God is present in every place, why travel hundreds of miles to a small town in the south of France?

The answer is that pilgrimage has never been about finding a God who is somehow absent elsewhere. Pilgrimage is about allowing ourselves to be changed. Sometimes we need to leave behind the familiar in order to hear God speaking to us more clearly. We all know how quickly we can settle into routine. Our days become filled with work, family responsibilities, appointments, shopping lists and endless things that seem to demand our attention. And there is nothing wrong with those things, they are part of ordinary life. Yet they can leave very little room for silence. We can become so occupied with living that we forget to stop and ask where our lives are actually leading.

That is why Christians have always made pilgrimages. They are a reminder that our whole life is a journey. We are travelling onwards towards eternity. Every day brings us one day closer to meeting the Lord face to face. A pilgrimage makes that reality visible. You pack lightly, leave behind what is unnecessary and set out with a destination in mind. The idea is that it becomes a living picture of the Christian life itself. The scriptures are full of people who encountered God while they were travelling. Abraham, Moses, The Holy Family. Our Lord Himself spent much of His public ministry walking from village to village, calling people to follow Him. The first Christians even referred to their faith simply as "The Way." Christianity has always understood itself as a journey before it is anything else.

The town of Lourdes occupies a special place on that journey. In 1858, Our Lady appeared to a poor fourteen year old girl named Bernadette Soubirous. There was nothing remarkable about Bernadette in the eyes of the world. She was poor, often ill and had received very little education and yet God chose her. It is another reminder that the Lord does not judge according to status, influence or success. He looks upon the heart. Since those apparitions, millions upon millions of pilgrims have travelled to Lourdes. Some come praying for physical healing. Others arrive carrying grief that no one else can see. Many bring anxiety about the future, broken relationships, bereavement or questions they have never managed to answer. Some return home cured of illness, and those remarkable healings rightly receive much attention. Yet the greatest miracles of Lourdes are often quieter than that. Again and again, people discover peace.

The illness may remain. The circumstances of life may not change. The difficulties waiting at home are still there when the plane touches down at Leeds Bradford. Yet something within the person has changed. They have remembered that they are not carrying those burdens alone. They have placed them into the hands of Christ through the prayers of our Blessed Lady.

One of the things that always strikes pilgrims is the atmosphere of Lourdes. It is unlike almost anywhere else. The sick are not hidden away or treated as an inconvenience. They are placed at the very centre of everything. Volunteers from every walk of life spend long days pushing wheelchairs, serving meals, helping with personal care and simply sitting beside those who need company. It is exhausting work and yet it is carried out with extraordinary joy. In a world that often measures people by productivity or independence, Lourdes sends a very different message. Every person possesses an infinite dignity because every person is loved by God and made in His image.

Please pray for our diocesan pilgrims over the next week, especially for those who are sick and for all the doctors, nurses, chaplains and volunteers who will care for them. I will be remembering our parish each day, particularly at the Grotto where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette, and I shall commend all your intentions to her maternal care.

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