



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

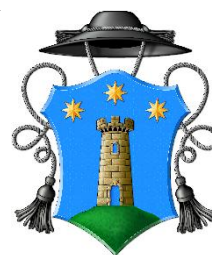
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

Presbytery: Clarence House, 2 Clarence Street, Halifax HX1 5DH

T: 01422 352141 E: office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.stmaryshalifax.com

St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



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:

A Private Intention



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 June is dedicated to: The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

SUNDAY 29 th JUNE	Saints Peter and Paul	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Laurina & Graeme Curry 50 th Wed. A Colin Affleck R.I.P. People of the Parish
MONDAY 30 th	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 1 st JULY	Feria	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 2 nd	Feria	No Mass		
THURSDAY 3 rd	St Thomas the Apostle Funeral Service	9:30am 1:30pm	St Alban's Parkwood	Ken Spark R.I.P Michelle Kirbyson-Moore
FRIDAY 4 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Kathleen Hoins
SATURDAY 5 th	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Holy Souls
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Ken Rothery
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Tim Widdop
6:00pm	Frances Millington

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

Marget Greenwood who has died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MASSES RECEIVED

Ken Spark, Tony Garnier, Irene & Thomasz Nalepa, Divine Mercy Prayer Group, Gloria B. Ozako, Maria Griffin, Paul Coates, Maureen Riddeal, Michael & Timothy Child

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATION MASS

Today at 11:00am we will have our Mass of Celebration for all of our children who have made first Confession, first Communion and Confirmation this year.
Children are free to re-wear their special outfits and there will be a reception in the Catholic Club after Mass. All are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL SUMMER FAYER

The School Summer Fayre will be taking place on Friday 11th July at 3:30pm after school. All donations of cakes, buns, alcoholic bottles, bric-a-brac and unwanted gifts welcome for our stalls and tombolas. Please be as generous as possible. 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 (07932 595955) with any queries or if you would like to help/donate. In the next few weeks, we will place a box at the back of church for donations.
New members welcome.

ST ALBAN'S HALL

Thank you to all who have contributed to the renovations at St Alban's Hall, especially to the Ladies' Guild for kindly paying for the new floor. Also to the members of the 200 Club, £1175 raised by the club has paid for the redecorating. We have also had sizable donations of £500, £300 and £250 from very generous parishioners. The hall should be back in use soon and wonderful space for use by the whole parish.

200 CLUB

The June draw for the 200 Club will take place next Sunday.
New members are always welcome. Forms at the back of church.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Fr Philip Thornley who was ordained a priest at the Cathedral in Leeds yesterday. Fr Thornley will serve at St Austin's parish in Wakefield. Please keep him in your prayers and continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood in our diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend there will be the retiring collection for Peter's Pence.
This is for the personal charitable activity of the Holy Father Pope Leo.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£754.48** Total Approx. **£1483.48** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Priest Training Fund: **£386.08**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This week, we not only keep the solemnity of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, we also celebrate the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle on the 3rd of July. We honour this man whose faith and courage carried the Gospel to distant lands, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to inspire. Known as "Doubting Thomas" (probably rather unfairly) for his initial hesitation to believe in Christ's resurrection, Thomas's journey from doubt to devotion led him to become one of Christianity's most intrepid missionaries. His mission to India in the 1st century AD not only established a vibrant Christian community but also reminds us that Christianity took root in India long before it reached many parts of the world. His life, culminating in martyrdom, and the flourishing of the Syro-Malabar Church stand as testaments to his unwavering commitment to Christ.

According to ancient tradition, St. Thomas arrived on the Malabar Coast of India around 52 AD, landing in Cranganore (modern-day Kodungallur, Kerala). Tasked with spreading the Gospel, he preached to local Jewish communities and native Indians, sharing the message of Christ's love and speaking of the Risen Christ whom he had met. His efforts bore fruit as he established Christian communities that became known as the "St. Thomas Christians." These early converts formed the foundation of a faith that has thrived for nearly two millennia. Remarkably, Christianity reached India well before it took hold in England, where it began to spread through Roman influence in the 2nd or 3rd century AD. This often-overlooked fact underscores the deep and ancient roots of Christianity in India, a legacy that challenges our Western-centric view of the faith's history.

St. Thomas's mission was not without challenges. He travelled extensively across southern India, facing cultural and religious differences as he shared the Gospel. Tradition credits him with founding seven churches, including those in Palayur, Cranganore, and Quilon, which became centres of Christian worship. His bold proclamation of Christ stirred opposition, however. Around 72 AD, Thomas met his martyrdom in Mylapore, near modern-day Chennai (Madras). According to tradition, he was speared to death while praying on a hill now known as St. Thomas Mount. Some accounts suggest he was killed for converting members of a local royal family, a testament to the transformative power of his witness. His tomb in Mylapore, enshrined at the Santhome Basilica, remains a sacred pilgrimage site, drawing countless faithful on pilgrimage today.

From St. Thomas's mission emerged the Syro-Malabar Church, one of the 23 Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with Rome. Cantered in Kerala, this Church preserves the Aramaic and Syriac traditions of the early Christians, reflecting its apostolic origins. The Syro-Malabar Church uses the East Syriac Rite, a liturgy that blends ancient Christian practices with Indian cultural elements, creating a unique expression of Catholicism. With millions of faithful worldwide, including a growing diaspora, the Syro-Malabar Church is a living testament to St. Thomas's legacy. Its vibrant traditions, such as the Qurbana (Eucharistic liturgy) and festivals like the Feast of St. Thomas, continue to nurture the faith of its members and inspire others.

As we commemorate St. Thomas this week, let us reflect on his courage and the remarkable fact that Christianity reached India nearly two centuries before it arrived in this land. His mission challenges us to overcome doubt, embrace our faith, and share the Gospel boldly, even in the face of adversity. The Syro-Malabar Church, born from his labours, reminds us of the universal nature of our faith, uniting diverse cultures under Christ's love. May St. Thomas, the Apostle of India, intercede for us, inspiring us to deepen our commitment to Christ and spread His message of hope in our own communities.

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