



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

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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:

'The clergy of the deanery'



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 August is dedicated to: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

SUNDAY 2 nd AUGUST	18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Jan & Eleonora Zakrzewski Lawrence Maragh Priest's Intention
MONDAY 3 rd	St Oswald	No Mass		
TUESDAY 4 th	St John Vianney	7:00pm	St Alban's	Thanksgiving (PC)
WEDNESDAY 5 th	OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS	9:30am	St Mary's	People of the Parishes
THURSDAY 6 th	The Transfiguration	9:30am	St Alban's	Margaret Read
FRIDAY 7 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Kate McGlynn
SATURDAY 8 th	St Dominic	12:15pm	St Mary's	Marie Finn
19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass
	Vigil Mass	5:00pm	St Bernard's	Priest's Intention

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Arul Raj	11:00am	Wendy Balahura
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Frances Millington

PRAYER LIST: 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

The intentions of the Pincus Family, The intentions of Mgr Paul Owens, Seamus Costello (A), John Davis (A), Micheal & Leonilda Laptua, Jan & Eleonora Zakrzewski

VERONA FATHERS MISSIONARY APPEAL

Today we will be joined with by one of the Verona Fathers who will be with us to preach the annual mission appeal. Father will be speaking at all three Masses. There is a special Mission Appeal button on the Dona card machine at the back of St Mary's.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS

From this weekend, I have taken up my appointment as Parochial Administrator of St Bernard's and St Theresa's. As a result, last night saw the first Saturday Vigil Mass at St Bernard's at 5.00pm. If this Mass time is more convenient for you, I would be delighted to welcome you there. As previously announced, from now on Mgr McQuinn, Parish Priest of St Columba's and St Malachy's, will alternate with me between celebrating the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Bernard's and the Sunday evening Mass at St Alban's.

THANKS FROM MGR OWENS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Hilton and the Parishioners of St Mary's for the magnificent celebration of my Ruby Jubilee which took place on 24 July. St Mary's is a Church where I have always felt at home, having attended Mass there from the time I was a seminarian. I was very touched by the numbers who attended; by the cards and kind gifts which I received. I will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for your intentions in thanksgiving for a wonderful celebration. Mgr Paul Owens.

Happy Days Breakfast Club

Our friendly, local homelessness charity, Happy Days, is running a new Breakfast Club campaign. By signing up to donate £11.11 a month, you'll provide 12 hot breakfasts every month for people facing homelessness, hardship, and food poverty. As a thank you for joining, you'll receive an exclusive Breakfast Club coaster. And if you name Clare O'Neill as your Happy Days referrer, she will have the chance to win a day off work. See: <https://happydaysuk.org/how-to-help/the-breakfast-club/>

TUESDAY EVENING – LATIN MASS

From the first week of September, the Tuesday evening Mass will be said in Latin each week. A number of parishioners have asked me for this over the past few months, and I hope it will help us to grow in our appreciation of the Church's rich liturgical tradition and her universality. Simple response cards will be available at the back of St Alban's to help everyone follow and participate in the Mass.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Liturgy of the Word for children is now on a break for the summer. We will resume in the new term from Sunday 6th of September. Children welcome from Foundation Stage until First Holy Communion.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£623.27** Weekly Total Approx. **£1387.02** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

This Wednesday we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Snows, the patronal feast of our parish. It is an important day for us because our parish is placed under the care of Our Lady under this particular title. The feast is connected with the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome, one of the oldest and most important churches dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. According to an ancient tradition, snow fell on the Esquiline Hill during the heat of the Roman summer on the 5th August 352. The snowfall marked the place where a church in honour of Our Lady was to be built.

It is a lovely story and the image has remained in the Church's memory for centuries. Snow falling in Rome in August would have been astonishing. It would have made people stop and wonder what was happening. There is something fitting about Our Lady being associated with an event like that. So often, her presence in the life of the Church is quiet and gentle, just like a blanket of snowfall.

The title also gives us a beautiful image of purity and peace. Snow changes the appearance of everything. Roads, buildings and fields that we see every day suddenly look different in the snow. Familiar places become still and beautiful. There is something of that in the way grace works in our lives. God can bring peace where there has been worry and give us fresh hope when we feel worn down. Our Lady always helps us to see her Son more clearly. Every devotion to her should lead us towards Jesus. When we ask for her prayers, we are asking the Mother of God to pray with us and for us. She knows the joys and difficulties of ordinary human life. She knew what it was to worry, to wait and to trust God when the future was uncertain. The Basilica of St Mary Major has welcomed pilgrims for many centuries. People have gone there during times of joy and during times of great anxiety. They have prayed for their families, their cities and the needs of the Church. That same confidence in the prayers of Our Lady is part of the life of our own parish too.

A parish dedication is about more than the name of the church. It tells us something about who we are and places the life of the parish under the prayers of a particular saint or title of Our Lady. Our Lady of the Snows belongs to the history of this place. Generations of parishioners have worshipped here under her patronage. Many people have been baptised here. Couples have exchanged their marriage vows here. Families have gathered here for funerals and brought their grief before God. Children have made their First Holy Communion and young people have been confirmed. Week after week, people have come through the doors to pray, sometimes full of faith and sometimes carrying worries that no one else knows about.

Our parish feast gives us a chance to remember all of this. We give thanks for those who built up the parish and kept the faith alive here. We remember former parishioners who have died. We also pray for the parish as it is today, with all its hopes and difficulties. It can be hard to celebrate a parish feast properly in August. Many people are away on holiday, schools are closed and families are often busy. The church can feel quieter than usual. Even so, it would be good to see as many people as possible at Mass on Wednesday. A patronal feast should be kept by the parish family. Coming to Mass is a simple way of giving thanks for the life of the parish and asking Our Lady to continue watching over us. There is always plenty to pray for. We can pray for those who are ill, for people who feel lonely and for families going through difficult times. We can also pray for those who have drifted away from the Church and for the children and young people of the parish.

So, if you are at home and able to come, please do make the effort to join us on Wednesday. It would be good to celebrate our parish feast together and to place the coming year under the protection of Our Lady. May Our Lady of the Snows pray for us, watch over our homes and lead us ever closer to her Son.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton