



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:

Gladys Megson R.I.P



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 March is dedicated to: St Joseph

SUNDAY 2 nd MARCH	8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Peter Johnson Fr Gerry Creasey People of the Parish
MONDAY 3 rd	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 4 th	Feria Funeral Service	9:30am 11:00am 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Malachy's	Eddie & Mary Coates John (Sean) Holloway Confirmations with the Bishop
WEDNESDAY 5 th	ASH WEDNESDAY Fast and Abstinence	7:00am 10:00am 12:15pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Danny Michael Paul Griffin Victor Toolan Josie Brennan
THURSDAY 6 th	Lent	9:30am	St Alban's	Special Intention
FRIDAY 7 th	Lent	7:00am 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Antonia Palka R.I.P Stations of the Cross & Devotions
SATURDAY 8 th	Lent Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Denise Whitworth (A) Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Greg Finn	11:00am	Wendy Balahura
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

HOLY YEAR INDULGENCE

St Mary's is a Jubilee Pilgrimage Church for the Holy Year 2025.

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable to you or the faithful departed, may be gained each day by a devout visit to the church, together with prayers for the Holy Father's intentions, Holy Communion and sacramental Confession within a few days, and detachment from sin.

PRAYER LIST: 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, Larry Byrne, 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.

MASSES RECEIVED:

Gladys Megson, Kathleen Wadsworth, Brenda Wadsworth, Eileen Winn

ASH WEDNESDAY

Please take careful note of the times of Mass on Ash Wednesday, the 10am Mass at St Mary's will be attended by the whole school.

Remember, Wednesday is a day of **Fast and Abstinence**. That means that we abstain from eating meat and only take one main meal during the day.

EARLY MORNING MASS DURING LENT

As Catholics we always keep Friday as a particularly holy day as it is the day of Our Lord's Passion, but especially so in this season. This year, Mass will be at 7:00am each Friday during Lent. If you struggle to make a Lenten resolution, take this opportunity to commit to attending Mass before you go to work or school. It is a concrete step that will lead to a fruitful and blessed Lent.

HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES

It's been wonderful to have people attending the sessions in such big numbers. We need a bigger room!

The final session of the course on the Creed will be on Tuesday 11th March at 6:00pm at St Alban's

The theme will be: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church

As we enter into the season of Lent, a new 5 session course will begin on The Sacraments.

This begins on Tuesday 18th of March. Same time, same place.

THE HUDDERSFIELD AND BRADFORD BOYS' CHOIR

Are visiting us today to sing the 11 O'clock Mass.

There will be a second collection to support their work.

CONFIRMATION

His Lordship the Bishop will be confirming our young people from the deanery at St Malachy's church on Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. Please keep them and their families in your prayers

THE SCHOOL EASTER FAYRE

will be taking place on Friday 28th March at 3.30pm after school till approx. 5.00pm. We would very much appreciate it if parishioners would be kind enough to donate Easter eggs for our Easter egg tombola and any cakes or buns would also be very welcome, nearer to the date, for our cake stall. Please be as generous as you can. Please contact the PTFA via email: ptfa@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk or contact Joanna Binns (07932 595955) Thank you once again for your continued support.

CONGRATULATIONS

To parishioners Joe and Meg Coneron, who were married yesterday at the Cathedral in Leeds.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£751.21** Total Approx. **£1541.71** (Inc. standing orders & card)

THE 200 CLUB

The postponed January and February 2025 draws will take place after the 11am Mass today. Prize money £75 (1st prize), £50 (2nd prize) and £25 (3rd prize). If you are not already a member and wish to join, application packs are available at the back of the church. Completed application forms should be returned to one of the 200 Club Organisers (John Coates and Kevin Budds). By joining the 200 Club, not only do you have the chance of winning a prize each month, but you will also be supporting the parish.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As the chill of February lingers on into March, we step into the sacred season of Lent, a time marked by quiet resolve and tender hope. It begins this week with Ash Wednesday, a day when we stand before God and one another, marked with the stark sign of our mortality: "Remember thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return." These words, spoken as ashes are traced upon our foreheads, are not meant to crush us or frighten us, but to awaken us. They remind us of our frailty, yes, but also of our dependence on the One who breathed life into dust and calls us still to rise again with Him.

Ash Wednesday sets the tone for the forty days ahead, a season of intentional turning—turning away from what binds us and turning toward what frees us. At the heart of this turning is the practice of fasting, a discipline as old as the faith itself. But what is the purpose of this self-denial, this wilful letting go of food or comfort or habit? It is not mere punishment, nor an empty ritual to prove how holy we are. Fasting is a training of the will, a way to remind ourselves that we are more than our appetites, more than our fleeting desires. When we say "no" to something small—a meal, a luxury, a distraction—we strengthen our capacity to say "yes" to something greater: the love of God and the love of neighbour.

The forty days of Lent mirror the forty days our Lord spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying, facing temptation not for His own sake but to prepare for the mission of mercy that lay ahead. Like Him, we are called to discipline our wills not as an end in itself, but as a means to an end—to become more loving, more attuned to the heart of God and the needs of those around us. When we fast, we create space: space to feel the hunger of the poor, space to hear the cry of the lonely, space to recognise where we have fallen short in generosity or patience or forgiveness. In that space, God works, softening our edges, deepening our compassion.

The penances of Lent—whether fasting, prayer, or acts of charity—are not about earning God's favour; they are about preparing our hearts to receive it more fully. Imagine, then, where we might be in forty days' time. If we enter this season with resolve, letting the ashes of Wednesday mark not just our foreheads but our souls, we can emerge at Easter as people more loving than we are today. The irritability we seek to tame through fasting can become kindness. The time we reclaim from distractions can become time for others. The excess that we surrender can become generosity shared.

This is the quiet miracle of Lent: it takes what is dusty and fragile within us and, through discipline and grace, shapes it into something radiant. As we walk these forty days, let us hold this purpose close: not to punish ourselves, but to free ourselves—to love more deeply, more truly, as Christ loves us. By Easter, may we rise not only with Him but like Him, our wills disciplined, our hearts enlarged, ready to pour out love in a world so desperately in need of it.

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