



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:

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 November is dedicated to: The Holy Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY 2 nd NOVEMBER	ALL SAINTS	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Maria Griffin Milly Smith People of the Parish
MONDAY 3 rd	ALL SOULS	11:00am	St Mary's	All the Faithful Departed
TUESDAY 4 th	Parish Retreat	9:00am	Ampleforth Abbey	Shirley Hilton
WEDNESDAY 5 th	Parish Retreat	9:00am	Ampleforth Abbey	Yorkshire Brethren
THURSDAY 6 th	NOVENA	9:30am	St Alban's	November Dead List
FRIDAY 7 th	NOVENA	9:30am	St Mary's	November Dead List
	Funeral Service	11:15am	St Mary's	Daniel Colleran
SATURDAY 8 th	NOVENA	12:15pm	St Mary's	November Dead List
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Parish Ladies' Guild
11:00am	Greg Finn
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, 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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Kevin Costello, Jim Hargreaves, Anne Elizabeth Sampson, Jan & Eleonora Zakrzewski, Ellen Lonergan, Cathrine Lopusniak, Andrew Brown, Micheal Danny, Susan Coates, Wilfred, Winifred & Francis Coates

NOVEMBER CEMETERY SERVICE & BLESSING OF GRAVES

This year the service will take place at Stoney Royd Cemetery, Halifax **today at 3:00pm**. Praying for our dead loved ones is such an important thing to do and helps them on their journey to Heaven. After the service has concluded, I will be available to bless individual graves on request.

AMPLEFORTH RETREAT - TRAVEL

We will be traveling to Ampleforth for our parish retreat tomorrow, Monday 3rd of November by coach. The bus will **leave St Mary's 12 Noon** and depart from the monastery on Wednesday 5th at 3:00pm. Hand luggage only please, no large suitcases.

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Friday 7th November – Acoustic Night with the Four Candles duo. All welcome.

NEXT GUEST SPEAKER – YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Our next guest speaker will be Mgr David Smith on the **11th of November at 6:00pm** in St Alban's room. Monsignor will be talking about "Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven"

PARISH LADIES' GUILD – AFTERNOON TEA

The PLG is hosting afternoon tea at the Catholic Club on Saturday the 15th of November from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Tickets available at £10 each.

NOVENA OF MASSES FOR THE DEAD

From the 6th November – 14th November I will offer nine consecutive days of Masses for the dead, culminating with the **Parish Requiem Mass on Friday 14th at 7:00pm**. If you wish your loved ones to be remembered in this special Novena, place their names and your offering in the envelopes provided at the back of church.

200 CLUB OCTOBER WINNERS

1st prize £75 no. 79 John Coates 2nd prize £50 no. 58 John Greenwood 3rd prize £25 no. 4 Ellen Smith

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This year's Christmas Carol Service will be held on Thursday **18th December at 7:00pm** in St Mary's. Christmas buffet will follow in the Catholic Club.

THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

will be taking place on Friday 5th December at 3:45pm after school till approx. 5.30pm. Donations of mainly chocolates and alcoholic bottles are needed for our 2 main tombolas, please be as generous as you can. A box will be made available at the back of church for donations asap. All welcome to come and attend and support the school, volunteers also welcome to help on any of our stalls too. 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.

S.V.P.

Next meeting Monday 20th October at 6:00pm in St Alban's parish room.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£672.47** Total Approx. **£2515.95** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Including one substantial contribution.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

A variety of religious Christmas cards are available to purchase at the back of St Mary's church.

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

We are holding a wine and cheese evening in St Albans church hall on

Friday 5th December from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

The event is to raise funds for St Mary's & St Alban parish and the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.

Tickets are £10 and are on sale from today.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

I don't know about you, but Monsignor Smith and I have been absolutely glued to Celebrity Traitors. I think it's the blend of secrecy, suspense and funny characters that make it so compelling. If you haven't seen it (what have you been doing?) the celebrity contestants must work together to achieve a shared goal of winning money for charity but among them are the few "traitors" who secretly work against the rest. Around the round table, accusations fly, theories are tested and the truth eventually comes to light, even if it has to be dragged out.

It makes for gripping viewing but perhaps it also says something about the human heart. In each of us there is a struggle between light and shade, faithfulness and betrayal. The story of our salvation is full of such moments, Adam and Eve's first act of distrust in the garden, Judas' betrayal of Our Lord, Peter's threefold denial. Yet even in our weakness, God's mercy never fails. Jesus looks upon the sinner not with condemnation but with compassion. He restores the fallen and invites us back into friendship with Him. Unlike The Traitors, where exposure leads to expulsion, in the Gospel exposure leads to healing. When the light of Christ shines upon us, our hidden faults and failures are revealed and laid bare, not to shame us, but to set us free. What we conceal in fear, God transforms in love.

This November, as we celebrate the Feast of All Saints and pray for the Holy Souls, we are reminded that the goal of every Christian life is faithfulness. To remain true to Christ through all the trials and temptations of this world. The Saints were not perfect but they were honest before God. They lived without masks, allowing grace to purify what was weak and selfish within them. When we pray for the dead, we entrust them to that same mercy. We ask that whatever "treacherous" parts of the heart remain may be burned away in the fire of divine love, so that every soul may one day stand among the faithful in Heaven.

Perhaps that is what draws so many to the programme in the first place, not simply the drama of deceit, but the yearning for truth, belonging and trust. Beneath all the scheming and suspicion lies a deep human desire to be known and still loved. The Saints and Holy Souls remind us that this longing finds its true fulfilment in God alone, who knows us completely and loves us without condition. In His presence there is no need for disguise, no fear of exposure. The Lord sees us as we are and in His mercy, makes us what we are called to be, faithful, free and fully alive in His love.

So as we watch the series finale next week, we might quietly ask ourselves, where do I need to be made more faithful? Where is Christ calling me to deeper truth and trust? Because in the end, the greatest victory is not to deceive or survive but to be transformed, to become, by God's grace, truly faithful.

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