



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:

Theresa Hill



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 April is dedicated to: The Blessed Sacrament

SUNDAY 30 th MARCH	4 th Sunday of LENT	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Tomasz & Irene Nalepa Cecilia Mendonca People of the Parish
MONDAY 31 st	Lent	No Mass		
TUESDAY 1 st APRIL	Lent	7:00pm	St Alban's	Brenda Wadsworth
WEDNESDAY 2 nd	Lent	9:30am 1:30pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Hugh & Rita Cully R.I.P. Stations of the Cross (Years 5/6)
THURSDAY 3 rd	Lent	9:30am	St Alban's	Jean Wilkinson's Int.
FRIDAY 4 th Abstain from Meat	Lent	7:00am 7:00pm	St Alban's St Alban's	Annie Plackal Stations of the Cross & Devotions
SATURDAY 5 th	Lent	12:15pm Vigil Mass 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Baby Eliza's B'day Int. Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Ken Rothery	11:00am	Tim Widdop
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Richard Sibierski

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:

S. Hilton, Hugh & Rita Cully, Filomena & Jan Moska, Christine Toolan, Eleonora & Jan Zakrzewski

HOLY WEEK

Please take away the Holy week sheets that are handed out this weekend. Put the dates and times of the Easter Triduum (Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday and Easter Vigil) in your diary. The Easter Vigil is the high point of the Church's year and the most important liturgy that we celebrate and yet, is famously, the least attended. Let's make a resolution to pack out the church this year and celebrate the Lord's resurrection on this most holy night.

FRIDAY MORNING MASS AND EVENING STATIONS

This week Mass and evening devotions will both take place at St Alban's. This is due to new flooring being laid in St Mary's narthex (porch).

PARISH QUIZ

To be held at the Catholic club on Saturday 26th April at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 each, supper included. Teams of up to 6 people. Tickets on sale at the back of church. The Ladies' Guild would be very grateful for any raffle prize donations for the Parish Quiz. Items can be left at the back of St Mary's church or given to a member of the Guild.

DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS

The clergy of the deanery will hear confession from 9:00am until 4:00pm on Saturday 12th April here in St Mary's. Make sure you go before Easter! Confessors are as follows:

09.00-10.00	Rev. Mgr. M. McQuinn
10.00-11.00	Rev. Fr J. Hilton
11.00-12.00	Rev. Fr M. Larkin
12.00-13.00	Rev. Fr M. Hall
13.00-14.00	Rev. Fr B. Owens
14.00-15.00	Rev. Mgr. P. Owens
15.00-16.00	Rev. Fr J. Hilton

STUDY COURSES ON THE SACRAMENTS

This continues this Tuesday 1st of April. 6:00pm in St Alban's parish room. The session, will be on the Sacraments of Penance & Anointing.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The remaining dates are as follows: 6th April & 13th April. The meetings will take place at 12:15pm here at St Mary's.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This week there will be the second collection for Catholic Care, the social care charity of the Diocese. Next week we will have a retiring collection to pay for the Easter flowers and decorations for the church.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes are now available at the back of St Mary's. There are some extra boxes available for those who are not already registered, please take box and write your name and address on both the box and the first three envelopes.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£695.51** Total Approx. **£1486.01** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

And suddenly, it's already the fourth Sunday of Lent. Also known as *Laetare* Sunday, today we have a small break from our Lenten penance as we can feel the joy of Easter almost in sight. We also celebrate on this day, Mothering Sunday, a tradition of faith and love—that calls us to honour not only the mothers who have shaped our lives but also the profound spiritual motherhood that sustains us as Catholics. The roots of Mothering Sunday reach deep into medieval Britain. On this day, people would return to their “mother church”—the cathedral or principal church of their region—for Mass. For many, especially young servants and labourers working far from home, this journey offered a rare chance to reunite with family. They brought tokens of affection, like the rich, fruit-laden simnel cake, to their mothers, blending spiritual devotion with earthly gratitude. Over time, this custom softened and shifted, evolving into the Mothering Sunday we know today, a day to celebrate the women who nurture, sacrifice, and love us into being.

Yet the heart of Mothering Sunday pulses with a broader invitation—to recognise the motherhood that transcends the human family and draws us into the divine. The Church herself, often called Holy Mother Church, stands as our eternal carer. She is the vessel of God's grace, the one who births us into faith through Baptism, feeds us with the Eucharist, and guides us with wisdom through her teaching. Like a mother rocking her child through restless nights, the Church holds us in times of doubt and sorrow, offering comfort and hope. She is both tender and strong, her arms wide enough to embrace the weary, her voice firm enough to call us back when we stray. In her liturgy and community, we find a reflection of God's own love—a love that does not merely provide but transforms, shaping us into the people we are meant to be. To call the Church our mother is to see her as more than an institution; she is a living presence, a nurturer who labours tirelessly for our salvation.

And then there is Mary, the Blessed Virgin, whose motherhood shines as a beacon across time and eternity. Chosen by God to bear His Son, Mary's *fiat*—“Let it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38)—was an act of breath-taking trust, a mother's surrender to a purpose far greater than herself. She carried Jesus in her womb, nursed Him at her breast, and followed Him to the Cross, her heart pierced by the sword of sorrow (Luke 2:35). Yet her motherhood did not end with her earthly life. At Golgotha, as Our Lord hung dying, He looked upon her and the beloved disciple, saying, “Woman, behold your son,” and to the disciple, “Behold your mother” (John 19:26-27). In that moment, Mary became ours—our advocate, our intercessor, our mother in faith. She who cradled the infant Christ now cradles us, gently guiding us to her Son with a love that is both fierce and tender. In her, we see the perfect harmony of human and divine motherhood, a woman who said yes to God and, in doing so, became a mother to all who seek Him.

This Mothering Sunday, then, is a tapestry of gratitude and of grace. We give thanks for our earthly mothers—those who gave birth to us, raised us, or stepped into that role through for us, through countless acts of care. We honour Holy Mother Church, whose steadfast love anchors us in a world of change. And we turn to Mary, our Blessed Mother, whose quiet strength and boundless compassion remind us that we are never alone. Together, these threads of motherhood—human, ecclesial, and divine—reveal the heart of God, who loves us with a mother's fierceness, a mother's patience, and a mother's unending hope. As we celebrate this day, may we rest in that love, and may we carry it forth, nurturing one another as we journey toward Easter's promise.

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