



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 (AME)



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 September is dedicated to: The Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Lady

SUNDAY 31 st AUGUST	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Ken Akroyd Tom, Mary & Leo Dolly People of the Parish
MONDAY 1 st SEPTEMBER	Feria	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 2 nd	Feria	6:30pm 7:00pm	St Alban's St Alban's	1 st Session on the Mass (Talk) Peter Geroe Grainger (YB)
WEDNESDAY 3 rd	St Gregory the Great	9:30am	St Mary's	Shelia Greenwood (A)
THURSDAY 4 th	REQUIEM	11:00am	St Mary's	Catherine Murphy
FRIDAY 5 th	St Mother Teresa of Calcutta	9:30am	St Mary's	Clare Sowden
SATURDAY 6 th	Feria	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Seamus Costello (A) Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Wendy Balahura
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Isaac Mellor
11:00am	Albina Karuna
6:00pm	Frances Millington

PRAYER LIST: Sadie Mills, 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

Pauline Sutcliffe (Sick), Clare Sowden, George McCormack 80th Birthday

PARISH CEILIDH FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025

(STARTS 7:30PM) PELLON SOCIAL CLUB

Tickets are now on sale for what will be a night of lively music, dancing and entertainment, whilst raising funds for the Parish. No dance experience? No problem. You'll be guided through the easy-to-follow dances. Two left feet? No problem. It adds to the fun factor. Low on energy? No problem. Half-time supper will be provided to recharge your batteries plus Bar available to keep you refreshed throughout the evening. Ticket price: £20 (inc. supper). Cash only please.

RETREAT AT AMPLEFORTH ABBEY 3rd-5th NOVEMBER

Monday to Wednesday retreat at Ampleforth Abbey. We will arrive in time for tea and cake on Monday afternoon and leave after lunch on Wednesday. Full board in ensuite rooms.

We will join the monks for their Sung Offices (prayers) and for Mass.

One of the monks will also give us some spiritual input as a group.

There will be time for silence, private prayer, and socialising in the evenings.

The price will be £190 per person with a £25 deposit.

Sign up at the back of church.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

His Lordship the Bishop will Confirm the young people of the deanery this year on Tuesday 18th of November here in St Mary's at 7:00pm. If your child in year 6 or above and in a non-Catholic school and you wish to enrol them in the course, see me after Mass. (1st session Tuesday 16th September at 5:00pm)

BATLEY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

Fr Eamonn Hegarty and the Parish of St Mary's, Batley will once again be hosting the annual Torchlight Procession on Monday 6th October, commencing at 7:30pm. The candle lit procession will start at St Mary's Catholic Primary School and end with Benediction at the nearby St Mary of the Angels' Church.

The Torchlight Procession is a fine expression of our Catholic faith and gives honour to Mary, the Mother of God. Refreshments afterwards. This year the guest preacher is yours truly.

We will have a bus going from our own St Mary's, leaving at 6:00pm and departing Batley at 9:30pm.

Bus places £15 per person. Sign up at the back of church.

PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FASHION SHOW – Thursday 18th September (St Mary's School)

PARISH CEILIDH – Friday 3rd of October (Pellon Social Club)

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION – Monday 6th October (Batley)

60's NIGHT – Friday 17th October (Catholic Club)

PARISH RETREAT – Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th November (Ampleforth Abbey)

AFTERNOON TEA – Saturday 15th November (Catholic Club)

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING – Friday 5th December (St Alban's Hall)

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£726.73** Total Approx. **£1547.23** (Inc. standing orders & card)

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Today everyone will receive a programme card with the dates for the next years' worth of talks and sessions. Please take this away with you and put it somewhere at home that you will notice.

Our first session on the Holy Mass is this Tuesday at 6:30pm in St Alban's Hall.

Come along and learn more about your faith.

PARISH HOUSE TO RENT

One of the houses that the parish owns (81 Gibbet Street – The house closest the church) has recently been vacated and refreshed and is now available to rent for £600pcm. It has two bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and two large reception rooms along with a large cellar. If you or someone you know might be interested in renting, please let me know.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Any parents who are interested in coming to visit us should get in touch with school on 01422 362365. **Tuesday 16th September, Wednesday 8th October, Tuesday 14th October.** If any parents would like to look around, but cannot attend these dates, they can contact us to arrange an alternative date and time.

NEWS FROM THE S.V.P

The next meeting of the parish S.V.P. will take place on the 3rd of September in St Alban's Hall. New members are always welcome.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

There's been a lot of talk lately about artificial intelligence and a future where machines do all the work for us. Some people see this as a dream come true, a world where we no longer have to strive for anything, where we can rest and enjoy life without the burdens of employment. But is that really as appealing as it sounds?

It's true that many jobs can be tiring, repetitive, and not always fulfilling. But as Catholics, we're called to see work differently. In Genesis, God gave man the task of cultivating the earth and caring for creation. Work wasn't a punishment but a gift, something that allows us to participate in God's plan and ongoing care for the world. Pope St John Paul II once wrote that the value of work doesn't come from what is being done, but rather, from the fact that it is a human being doing it. Even the most ordinary tasks can be filled with meaning when done with love, care and a spirit of service. Whether it's a farmer in the field, a parent raising children, or a cashier at the checkout, all work has dignity when it reflects our shared call to serve one another.

It's also worth remembering that rest is holy too. God rested on the seventh day, not out of tiredness but to enjoy what had been made. Rest isn't just free time, it's time set aside to appreciate, to give thanks and to rejoice in the goodness of life. Sunday, as our day of rest, reminds us of this sacred rhythm of work and worship. Even in retirement, many people find themselves drawn back to work of some kind, volunteering, caring for grandchildren, or even returning to a previous role. This isn't always about money, it's about purpose, connection, and the desire to contribute. Our need to work runs deeper than just economics.

As we navigate a changing world, let us not be too quick to dismiss the value of work. Technology may make life easier, but it should never rob us of the deep satisfaction that comes from a job well done. Let us pray that in every task, big or small, we may find purpose, dignity and a chance to grow in love.

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