



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

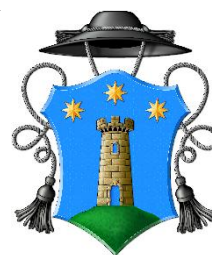
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HOLY YEAR MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS JUBILEE 2025

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:

The repose of the soul of
Catherine Murphy



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 August is dedicated to: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

SUNDAY 3 rd AUGUST	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Divine Mercy Prayer Group Marie Finn People of the Parish
MONDAY 4 th	St John Vianney	No Mass		
TUESDAY 5 th	Feria	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 6 th	The Transfiguration of the Lord	9:30am	St Mary's	Paul Griffin
THURSDAY 7 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Denis Smyth
FRIDAY 8 th	St Dominic	12:00 Noon	St Mary's	Bryan & Sheila Greenwood
SATURDAY 9 th	Feria	12:15pm	St Mary's	Rosy & Devasykutty Chathely
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Joe Coneran	11:00am	Barbara Gregson
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

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, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Tom Lennon and Catherine Murphy who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially Michael Bezushko who's 100th Birthday would have been on the 25th of July.

MASSES RECEIVED

Tom Lennon, Rosy & Devasykutty Chathely, Sijimon & M. L. Chacko.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

For the next few weeks until the 31st of August, there will be no Tuesday evening Mass and Friday Mass will be celebrated at 12 Noon. Normal times to resume in September. (Funerals may alter this)

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church and we will pass them on. There is a box back of church.

200 CLUB WINNERS

1st prize £75 no. 149 Elizabeth Foster | 2nd prize £50 no. 115 Teresa Costello
3rd prize £25 no. 39 Jeanette Roberts

S.V.P.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 5th August 6 pm in St Alban's Parish Hall. Small Electric Appliances Appeal For the next 2 Sundays - 10th and 17th August - there will be a box at the back of church for any small unwanted kitchen appliances, hairdryers, straighteners, TVs etc. We'd be grateful for anything you can donate. Thank you.

A YEAR OF CATECHESIS

For most of us, our Catholic education ends on the day that we leave school. The only real input from then on is the sermon on Sunday and I understand, all too well, that these can vary in usefulness! Following on from the success of our talks earlier this year on the *Creed* and on the *Sacraments*. I would like to make the new academic year, a 'Year of Catechesis' in the parish. This means a year of events to help you learn more about your faith and deepen your understanding of our religion. This will include a series of talks from visiting priests, video presentations and question and answer sessions where you will be able to ask the questions that you have always wondered about but never had a chance to ask. I will publish a timetable for the year with all the relevant dates in September, concluding with a closing Mass on the feast of the Sacred Heart, which His Lordship the Bishop has very kindly agreed to celebrate for us. For now, the dates of the first presentations are as follows:

BISHOP ROBERT BARON ON THE MASS

2nd September 6:30pm – A Privileged encounter | 9th September 6:30pm – Called out of the World
16th September 6:30pm – God Speaks our Story | 23rd September 6:30pm – Responding to God
30th September 6:00pm – Preparing for Sacrifice & The Real Presence

All these sessions will be in St Alban's Hall followed by Mass.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

After several weeks, we now have a new *DONA* card machine. Please use it as before.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Master Chef is one of my favourite programmes on TV (especially the celebrity version) and I'm not particularly bothered about who presents it, but I am sick to the back teeth of hearing about Greg Wallace who, yet again, featured on the news last night.

So called 'cancel culture' has become a hallmark of our very strange times, a phenomenon where the court of public opinion swiftly pronounces judgment, often with devastating consequences. A single misstep, a careless comment, a past indiscretion, or an unpopular opinion can unleash a wave of outrage, reducing a person's life to a moment of failure. As Catholics, we are called to confront this reality not with fear or compliance, but with the transformative vision of the Gospel, which offers a path of justice, mercy, and authentic human dignity.

From a Catholic perspective, cancel culture's approach to justice is deeply flawed. It seeks accountability through public shaming or ostracism, often bypassing due process or proportionality. While the desire to correct wrongs is not inherently bad, this method frequently spirals into vengeance, leaving no room for redemption. Our faith, however, insists that true justice is inseparable from mercy. St Thomas Aquinas teaches that justice without mercy becomes cruelty, just as mercy without justice risks sentimentality. The parable of the Prodigal Son embodies this truth. The father does not "cancel" his errant son but runs to embrace him, restoring his dignity while still acknowledging his failings.

In a world that is seemingly ashamed of nothing and yet offended by everything, this Gospel vision stands in stark contrast. Cancel culture thrives on a paradox, a society that shrugs at moral relativism yet erupts in indignation at the slightest perceived offense. This hypersensitivity reveals a deeper spiritual hunger, a longing for truth and accountability, but one distorted by self-righteousness. The mob assumes the role of judge, casting stones as if free from sin. Yet Jesus' words to the accusers of the adulterous woman remain an important reminder, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone". We are all in need of grace, and to deny others the possibility of repentance is to reject the mercy we ourselves rely upon.

Moreover, cancel culture commits a grave anthropological error by reducing individuals to their worst moments. A single tweet or long-forgotten action becomes the sum of one's identity, ignoring the complexity and capacity for growth inherent in every person. Catholicism, by contrast, affirms the inalienable dignity of each human being, created in the image and likeness of God. This dignity endures despite sin, calling us to see others not as problems to be eradicated but as brothers and sisters to be loved.

How, then, should we as Catholics respond? First, we must model forgiveness, not by excusing harm but refusing to define others by their failures. In our parish, families, and workplaces we can foster environments where mistakes are met with understanding and opportunities for growth. Second, we must speak truth with charity. This demands courage to uphold what is right, tempered by humility and compassion. Finally, we must ground ourselves in prayer and the sacraments. The Eucharist reveals Christ's self-emptying love, which overcomes sin not through condemnation but through sacrifice. On the Cross, Jesus was unjustly 'cancelled', yet responded with mercy, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do".

Let us, as Catholics, proclaim a Gospel that meets the world's outrage with hope, offering a vision where justice and mercy converge. By building a culture of encounter, we can affirm the dignity of every person as a child of God, capable of redemption. This is the Catholic way and it is a light desperately needed in our peculiarly dark times.

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