



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



MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday 11:00am

Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after 9:30am
 Mass

Holy Rosary:

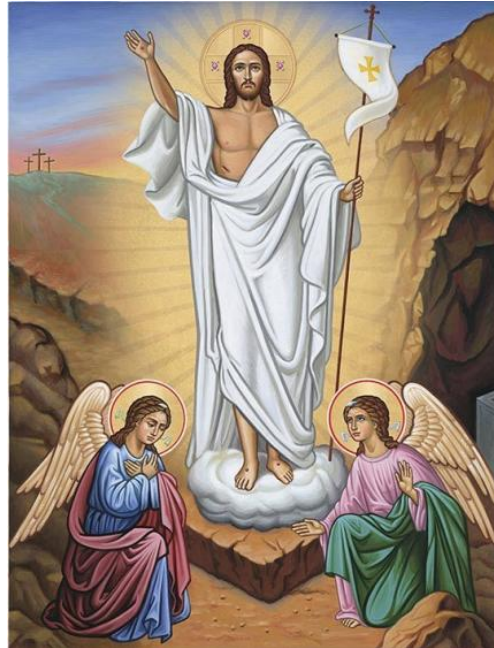
Saturday after 12:15pm
 Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month
 after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

Maureen Brown's Int.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday 11:00am –
 12:00pm

at St Mary's

Confessions:

Saturday

11:00am-12:00pm

at St Mary's

Sunday

5:30pm-6:00pm

at St Alban's

or on Request

Marriages and Baptisms

by appointment

See the priest after Mass

SUNDAY 3 rd MAY	5 th Sunday of Easter	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Margaret & Frank Tinker Peter Carolan People of the Parish
MONDAY 4 th	English Martyrs (Bank Holiday)	12:00 Noon	St Mary's	Shirley & John Hilton
TUESDAY 5 th	Easter	No Public Mass		Diocesan Clergy Conference Leeds
WEDNESDAY 6 th	Easter	No Public Mass		Diocesan Clergy Conference Leeds
THURSDAY 7 th	St John of Beverly	9:30am	St Alban's	Rose Marie, Annie and Ken Rothery Birthdays
FRIDAY 8 th	Easter	9:30am	St Mary's	Tony Moylett
	Reception of Body	5:00pm	St Mary's	John Wallis
SATURDAY 9 th	REQUIEM	10:30am	St Mary's	John Wallis
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Wendy Balahura	11:00am	Albina Karuna
6:00pm	Judith MacDonald	6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

PRAYER LIST: Sadie Mills, David Stanton, John Durkin, Kathleen Durkin, Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, David Sutcliffe, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Sonya Box, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, 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/Paul know so that a visit can be arranged.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Brian Massie and Michael Kean who have died recently. *Requiescat in pace.*

MASSES RECEIVED

Peter Carolan x 2, Mary & Tom Dolly, Leo Dolly, Private Intention x 2, Timothy Hayes (A), John Wallis R.I.P., Tomasz & Irene Nalepa

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 2nd June at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by Fr Sean Elliott. He will be speaking about "The Sacred Liturgy" – The Church's worship and ritual.

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

We are hosting another Cheese and Wine Evening in aid of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. The event will be held at St Alban's church hall on Friday 29th May from 6:30pm till 9:30pm. Tickets cost £10 per person and include cheese, biscuits, olives and two glasses of wine. Additional wine will be available at £3 per glass. Tickets on sale at the back of church.

PARISH LADIES' GUILD

The next meeting of the PLG will be at 7:00pm on Thursday 14th May in St Alban's church hall. Membership is now due.

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC CLUB

Saturday 9th May - 60s and 70s night with DJ Pete Forsyth
Tues 12th May - Following the success of our popular breakfasts, dinner is served! (5:30pm to 8:00pm). £7 for one course, £8.50 incl dessert. Contact Maggie Heath or see the Club Facebook page for bookings and menu choices.

PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA

Due to changes in the available flights, the pilgrimage to Malta will now run from the 21st to the 24th of September, returning on the Thursday evening rather than early on Friday morning. Because of this change the new package price is: £990pp for a double room

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

The PTFA of St. Mary's School would like to say a massive thank you to all parishioners who donated an Easter egg recently, your generosity is always greatly appreciated. Your help went towards raising £500 for the school, which is fantastic! Thank you again for your continued support.

March Draw

1st prize £75 - no. 84 Michael Hayes
2nd prize £50 - no. 147 Laurina Curry
3rd prize £25 - no. 21 Kenneth Rothery

200 CLUB NEWS

April Draw

1st prize £75 - no. 3 Ellen Smith
2nd prize £50 - no. 77 Stephen Murphy
3rd prize £25 - no. 120 Dorothea Baldwin

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£738.74** Total Approx. **£1483.72** (Inc. standing orders & card)

Next Sunday there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

For those of you who did not hear last week's news, the Bishop has announced that upon the retirement of Fr Bob Owens, the parish priest of St Bernard's, Halifax and of St Theresa's, Queensbury, that I will be appointed as the Parochial Administrator of those parishes, in addition to my responsibilities here at St Mary's and St Alban's. This is because, at present, the Bishop does not have a priest available to send to fill these vacancies.

This, however, will only be part of a temporary and interim arrangement. From August, it will no longer be possible for a priest to say Mass at the church in Queensbury and in the fullness of time, the future of the buildings there will have to be considered. For the time being, there will have to a slight adjustment in the Sunday Mass schedule to allow for the provision of a Sunday Mass at St Bernard's. This will be facilitated as follows: There will no longer be a Sunday morning Mass at St Bernard's. The morning provision will consist of the two morning Masses at St Mary's, 9:30am and 11:00am. Instead, a vigil Mass will be celebrated at St Bernard's at 5:00pm on a Saturday evening. To assist me in the provision of this Mass, Mgr Micheal McQuinn, the Parish Priest of St Columba's and St Malachy's will be discontinuing his vigil Mass at St Malachy's. He and I will then take turns in offering the vigil Mass at St Bernard's and the 6:00pm Sunday evening Mass at St Alban's, on a week on week off basis. I am very grateful to him for his generosity and support in this matter.

As I said above, this will only be a temporary arrangement. The Bishop has asked that in the coming months, that we, as a whole Deanery, enter into a prayerful period of dialogue and consultation to discern together how we might best provide for the needs of the Catholic community here in Halifax and across Calderdale. This will mean looking carefully at **all of the parishes** in the town and assessing which Masses, buildings and structures are best placed to serve our needs going forward.

Decisions of this nature are never easy. We all know that change can be difficult and unsettling but as St John Henry Newman once famously wrote "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often". – I was looking through the safe here in the presbytery the other day for a baptismal record and I came across a draw full of cuttings and papers of parish history. (It's very interesting and I'm thinking of ways to preserve and exhibit them) but what struck me was just how much the Catholic life of this town has changed over the last 200 years or so. In the 1820's, there were very few Catholics in Halifax indeed. A priest would ride in on horseback from Leeds and offer Mass in small room above a hotel that stood at 62 Woolshops. Over time, the Catholic community of this town grew and flourished and so St Mary's was built and subsequently the other churches in the area. The priests and people of those days wrote that story and it is now our job to take up the next chapter. Mercifully we are not reduced to riding a horse from Leeds and renting small rooms above hotels, but things will inevitably have to change. And that is no bad thing.

As I said from the pulpit last week, to quote the late Fr Bernard Funnell, "Bishops do not close churches. Lapsed Catholics close churches." – I don't want to hear anyone complaining about the Bishop or the Diocese. This is our issue and it is our responsibility to find a resolution. All of us know Catholics in our own lives who sit at home on a Sunday, or do anything rather than go to Mass. We have to reach out to them. We have to understand that churches, like so many aspects of life work on a 'use it or lose it' basis. It is no good having a child baptised and not returning again until it is time for First Communion or even attending Mass once or twice a month or simply when we feel like it. When churches are full, they stay open. That is to say nothing of our spiritual need of the Eucharistic assembly.

It's my opinion that this process will end in a very positive result for the Deanery. With the reshaping of structures I believe we have a rare opportunity for the reinvigoration and renewal of our Catholic life as a town. The future, to me, looks very bright indeed. But it's going to have to be a team effort.

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 Sharon Costello
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404