



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:

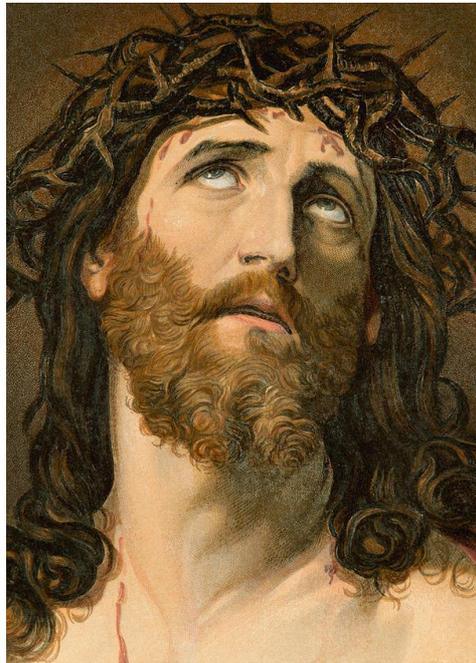
Saturday after 12:15pm
Mass

Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month
after 9:30am Mass

Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

Andrea Woodward's Int.



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 6 th APRIL	5 th Sunday of LENT	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Roy Biggins (Intentions) Jimmy Bell (Sick) People of the Parish
MONDAY 7 th	Lent	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 8 th	Lent	7:00pm	St Alban's	Anthony Gallagher R.I.P.
WEDNESDAY 9 th	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Paul Griffin R.I.P.
THURSDAY 10 th	Lent	9:30am	St Alban's	Graham Ogilvie (A)
FRIDAY 11 th Abstain from Meat	Lent	7:00am 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	M&A Griffin Int. (with thanks) Stations of the Cross & Devotions
SATURDAY 12 th	Lent Vigil Mass	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Marie Finn Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY	
9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun	9:30am	Kieron Green
11:00am	Tim Widdop	11:00am	Lettie Damolo
6:00pm	Richard Sibierski	6:00pm	Judith McDonald

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

If you have not already, please take away the Holy week sheet. Put the dates and times of the Easter Triduum (Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday and Easter Vigil) in your diary.
Please make every effort to attend all of the Holy Week liturgies.

DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS

This Saturday 12th April here in St Mary's. 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

S.V.P.

Next meeting Monday 14th April at 6pm in St Alban's parish room. New members welcome.

MISSIO BOXES

Karen Hallinan will collect the red Missio boxes over Easter and the following weekend.

ST MARY'S BIG PRE-EASTER CHURCH CLEAN

Wed 16th April starting 10am. Please come and help, especially if you can help clean the porch windows.

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..

STUDY COURSES ON THE SACRAMENTS

This continues this Tuesday 8th of April. 6:00pm in St Alban's parish room.
The session, will be on the Sacraments of Marriage & Holy Orders.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE AT ST MARY'S

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

SECOND COLLECTION

This week there will be a second collection for the Easter flowers and decorations.

200 CLUB MARCH DRAW

1st £75 - No. 37 Bernard Corcoran 2nd £50 - No. 57 John Greenwood 3rd £25 - No. 145 Barbara Lecznar

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY, HALIFAX

is looking to recruit a Forest School Lead – Level 3 Forest School qualification ESSENTIAL
Forest school currently runs 3 days a week – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – 8.00am-3.40pm.
Closing Date for applications is 25th April 2025 (Mid-day) For further information and details of how to apply please contact Mrs Maseela on 01422 362365 or admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£649.24** Total Approx. **£1419.24** Catholic Care collected: **£631.00**

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

As we reach this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we stand on the threshold of Passiontide, a sacred stretch of days that ushers us into the heart of the Church's liturgical year: Holy Week. The shift is palpable. The statues and crosses are now draped in purple veils, their familiar forms obscured from view. This ancient tradition, steeped in meaning, invites us to pause and ponder as we prepare to walk with Jesus through His Passion, Death, and triumphant Resurrection. But why do we veil these sacred images, and what does this practice reveal about our journey toward Easter?

Historically, it draws inspiration from the Gospel of John, where Jesus, sensing the shadow of the Cross drawing near, declares, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come" (John 8:21). These words hint at a separation, a moment when the full revelation of Christ's glory would be hidden from human eyes. The veils reflect this reality: just as the world failed to recognise the Son of God in His suffering, so too are the statues and crosses—symbols of divine presence—cloaked, urging us to look deeper. They remind us that the path to glory winds through the desolation of Calvary, where love is proven not in triumph but in sacrifice.

This practice has roots that stretch back centuries, emerging in the early Church as a way to heighten the solemnity of the season. In medieval times, the veiling was even more dramatic, with large cloths—sometimes called "hunger cloths"—covering entire altars or separating the sanctuary from the congregation. Today, the simpler veiling of statues and crosses carries forward that same spirit. The purple hue of the fabric, a colour long associated with penance and royalty, speaks to both the sorrow of Christ's Passion and the dignity of His kingship, a kingship revealed not on a throne but on the Cross.

But the veils do more than recall history—they speak to our hearts today. They create a stark, almost unsettling shift in our churches. The saints who inspire us, the Crucified Lord who comforts us—these images we've come to rely on are suddenly out of sight. This absence stirs a sense of longing, a spiritual hunger that mirrors the fasting and penance of Lent. It's as if the Church is inviting us to let go of the familiar, to strip away the distractions that so often clutter our lives, and to focus solely on the One who is at the centre of it all. In a world that bombards us with noise and images, the veils offer a rare gift: silence, simplicity, and space to reflect.

This act of veiling also prepares us for the drama of Holy Week. They remind us that the account we're entering is not one of immediate triumph but of patient endurance. When the veils are finally removed at the Easter Vigil, and the church erupts in light and song, the unveiling becomes a powerful symbol of Christ's victory over death. The contrast between the hiddenness of Passiontide and the radiance of Easter morning deepens our joy, making the Resurrection feel not just like an event, but a revelation.

The veiled statues are not just decorations—they're teachers, guiding us toward a more intentional Lent. They ask us to consider: What do I need to "veil" in my own life to see Christ more clearly? What comforts or habits might I set aside to make room for prayer, repentance, and love? As we approach Holy Week, the veils challenge us to walk with Jesus not as distant observers, but as disciples willing to share in His suffering so we can also share in His glory.

So, as you notice the purple cloths in church this Passiontide, let them draw you into the mystery of Christ's love. Let them remind you that the Cross, though heavy, is not the end of the story. And let them prepare your heart for the holiest days of the year, when we'll stand together at the empty tomb, marvelling at the power of a God who turns sacrifice into salvation. May this season of veiling and unveiling bring us closer to Him who gave everything for us, leading us through the Cross to the light of Easter.

God Bless you all, *Fr Hilton*