



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:

Thanksgiving (BB)



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 7 th SEPTEMBER	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Kevin 'Meggy' Megson Lucy & Arthur Ellison People of the Parish
MONDAY 8 th	Birthday of the B.V.M.	No Public Mass		
TUESDAY 9 th	Feria	6:30pm 7:00pm	St Alban's St Alban's	2 nd Session on the Mass (Talk) Marie Finn
WEDNESDAY 10 th	Feria	9:30am	St Mary's	Joseph Reid R.I.P
THURSDAY 11 th	Feria	9:30am	St Alban's	Kevin Toolan
FRIDAY 12 th	Holy Name of Mary	9:30am	St Mary's	Christine Toolan
SATURDAY 13 th	St John Chrysostom	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Timothy Hayes Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY

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

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Andrea Woodward
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick

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

Milly Smith, Margaret Toolan, Bryan & Shelia Greenwood, Denis Smyth, Anne Smyth

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.

PARISH LADIES' GUILD

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th September at 7:00pm in St Alban's parish room. Our guest speaker will be Sue Hanson who will be giving a talk on Halifax Heritage. You are invited to bring a guest, male or female. New members always welcome.

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)

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR AUGUST

1st £75 - no.150 Helen Mellor | 2nd £50 - no. 50 Ann Griffin | 3rd - no. 78 Stephen Murphy

BATLEY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

The annual Torchlight Procession will take place on Monday 6th October and 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 **£660.31** Total Approx. **£1510.81** (Inc. standing orders & card)

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

Everyone should have received 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 second session on the Holy Mass is this Tuesday at 6:30pm in St Alban's Hall.

Come along and learn more about your faith, you can join any time.

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.

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

The start of the new school term is well and truly upon us and as a priest, I'm often invited to speak to teachers. It's always a joy to spend time with those who have given their lives to educating and forming our young people. I often begin these talks with the same question: "Can anyone tell me what the purpose of Catholic education is?" Hands go up... after a while... and the teachers offer thoughtful answers. "To give children a good education." "To help them grow in love and kindness." "To teach Gospel values." All of these are good answers. They're not wrong. But they're not quite what I'm looking for.

So I give them the answer. "The purpose of Catholic education," I say, "is to prepare children for death." There's always a pause. A bit of uncomfortable silence. Maybe even a nervous laugh or two. But I don't say it to shock, I say it because it's true. The goal of every Catholic school, at its deepest level, is to help our children get to heaven. That's it. That's the mission.

The Catholic school exists not just to inform minds but to form souls. It's not just about preparing children for high school, university, the workforce, or a successful life, important as those things are. Ultimately, it's about preparing them for eternal life. This might sound a little stark, especially in a world that avoids talking about death but Catholic education is rooted in the belief that life has a purpose beyond the here and now. That every person is made in the image of God and that we are loved into being by a God who desires us to live with Him forever. That's what sets us apart from the school down the road. That is what makes Catholic education different.

So when a Catholic teacher walks into the classroom, they are not just an educator, they are a missionary. Every lesson, every word of encouragement, every act of patience and kindness is part of something much bigger than a curriculum or a job description. It's part of the mission of the Church and this is why the Church takes education so seriously. A Catholic school should be an extension of the Church's life and mission. It is a place where faith and reason meet, where truth is not just taught but lived. Where students learn not just how to make a living but how to live.

As a new school year begins, it's good for all of us, parents, teachers, parishioners, to remember this mission. Catholic education is a partnership between families, schools and the wider community. Each has a role to play in helping our young people grow not just in knowledge but in holiness.

So let's pray for our schools. Let's support our teachers. Let's encourage our children to be curious, courageous and faithful. And above all, let's never lose sight of the true goal of Catholic education, to form saints for the Kingdom of God. May this new academic year be one of grace, growth and deepened faith for our children, our staff and our whole parish family.

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