



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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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:

Peace in the Middle East



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

The month of March is dedicated to: St Joseph

SUNDAY 8 th MARCH 2026	3 rd Sunday of Lent	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Lionilda & Michael Laputa People of the Parish Filomena Kerins
MONDAY 9 th	Lent	No Mass		
TUESDAY 10 th	Lent	6:00pm 7:00pm	St Alban's St Alban's	Talk: Fr David Reilly Mary Harding (YB)
WEDNESDAY 11 th	Lent	9:30am	St Mary's	Michael Child (A)
THURSDAY 12 th	Lent	8:15am	St Mary's	Kevin Brook
FRIDAY 13 th ABSTAIN FROM MEAT	Lent Funeral Service	7:00am 10:30am 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Maira Griffin Noelle McGinnis Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 14 th	Lent	12:15pm 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Kathleen Smith Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Kieron Green	9:30am	Nicholas Aigbogun
11:00am	Ken Rothery	11:00am	Tim Widdop
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick	6:00pm	Frances Millington.

PRAYER LIST: John Durkin, Kathleen Durkin, Tony Hintze, Mary Staden, Peter Staden, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, 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.

MASSES RECEIVED

Michael Child, Lucy & Arthur Ellison, Brenda Wadsworth, Matthew & Elizabeth, Kathleen Smith

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

The next in our series of talks will be **this Tuesday 10th March at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by Fr David Reilly. He will be speaking about

“The Church's Faith” – What we believe and most importantly, why we believe it.

*** The next Q&A will take place on the **Tuesday 24th March at 6:00pm.** ***

Please take note of this revised date.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The Deanery Marriage course consists of three distinct sessions. These will take place at St Mary's after the 11:00am Sunday Mass (for 1 hour) after Easter over three weekends on 26th April, 3rd May and 10th May 2026. All engaged couples intending to marry this year to contact Deacon John Walsh if they wish to attend. Attending a Marriage Course is a mandatory requirement for those intending to Marry in the Catholic Church.

DEANERY DAY OF CONFESSIONS

The priests of the deanery will once again be hearing confessions all day in St Mary's on **Saturday 21st of March.**

9:00–10:00 — Fr Hilton 10:00–11:00 — Mgr Owens 11:00–12:00 — Canon Larkin 12:00–13:00 — Fr Hall 13:00–14:00 — Fr B Owen 14:00–15:00 — Mgr McQuinn 15:00–16:00 — Fr Hilton

ST MARY'S PTFA

The PTFA of St. Mary's Catholic Primary Academy are currently asking if all parishioners would kindly donate an Easter egg (big or small) for activities and competitions taking place in the school leading up to the Easter holidays. Please be as generous as you can. Any kind of Easter chocolate will be gladly welcomed. Donations can be placed in a box at the back of church or dropped off at the school reception.

Thank you for your continued support.

CHURCHES TOGETHER - LENTEN REFLECTIONS

On Monday 9th and Monday 23rd March St Albans are hosting Churches Together for Lenten reflections. These sessions will take place between 14.00 and 15.30 on each of the Mondays. The theme for the reflection is "Jesus' Last Week" and will be accompanied by tea and biscuits.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA

Monday 21st - Friday 25th September. Starting for £1070pp

Flying from Manchester | Stay in the Hotel Argento - St Julian's Bay | Bed & Breakfast - make your own choices for lunch and supper | Daily Mass and Devotions | Light and relaxed programme to allow plenty of free time | Visit to the church of St Paul's Shipwreck | Visit to St John's Co-Cathedral | Visit to St Paul's Grotto | Visit the Mellieha Cave | Beautiful coastal towns and historic streets | Transfers and Tour Guide included | Comprehensive Travel Insurance Included | NB: COST OF FLIGHTS IS ADDITIONAL APROX. £240-260pp | Single room supplement: £200 | **BOOK EARLY TO SECURE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE**

BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£625.98** Total Approx: **£1437.73** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

In recent days, military action against Iran and the Iranian response, have dominated the headlines, drawing in multiple nations and touching lives far beyond the immediate battlefield. For many of us, I suppose, the geography feels pretty remote. Yet these events carry a human weight we cannot just shrug off lightly. When cities are bombed, when schools are hit, when families grieve in Tehran, Tel Aviv, or in neighbouring states, the reality becomes more than a distant crisis. Images of loss remind us that what is at stake are human lives. Lives that are woven into the same human family that Christ came to redeem.

The Catholic Church does not approach such situations with allegiance to political factions or nations but with an attention to moral truths rooted in Scripture and Tradition. We begin from the conviction that every single person is loved and made in the image and likeness of God and has an inherent dignity that nothing can erase (that includes Donald Trump and the Ayatollah). That conviction shapes how we think and pray about war, about those in authority and about those caught in conflict. The deliberate taking of innocent life grieves the heart of the Gospel. We cannot treat civilian suffering as collateral damage or as something to be lightly glossed over.

At the same time, it is important to recognise that this conflict does not come out of nowhere and is shaped by decades of tensions, repressive state actions and political rivalries. The Islamic Republic of Iran, run by lunatic mullahs, has been responsible for the most serious and disgraceful human rights abuses within its own borders. That history cannot be overlooked. It is part of the backdrop against which current events unfold. That recognition, however, is not an endorsement of military action. It is an honest acknowledgment that injustice, in any form, causes real suffering and must be held before the Lord. Such injustices cause wounds in the lives of ordinary people long before any bombs are dropped.

In the midst of violence and fear our instinct is often to choose sides or to frame the world in terms of “us” and “them.” The Gospel, though, calls us to something very different. It invites us to look at the human person behind every headline. A mother grieving a child lost in a drone strike. A father struggling to provide water and shelter. A woman hanging from a crane in Tehran. Families uprooted by violence. In every such person we see Christ. That does not simplify the politics. It does not give us easy answers. But it makes sure we do not overlook the dignity that belongs to every human life.

The Church’s teaching on war emphasises that armed force can only be contemplated when all peaceful avenues have been genuinely exhausted and when there is reasonable hope that greater harm will be prevented. Even in such rare situations, the protection of non-combatants must remain a moral priority. These principles are demanding because they reflect the value of every individual life.

For us in the parish, the first response to conflict abroad has to be prayer. I have said to you so many times before, that prayer is not an escape from reality. It places before God the suffering that words alone cannot capture. We pray for those who live in fear. We pray for the bereaved. We pray for leaders that they may act with prudence and humanity. Prayer unites us with all who suffer and reminds us that we are instruments of peace in whatever sphere we happen to inhabit. We also have to reflect on our own hearts too. Conflict in distant lands reveals something about how easily resentment and hostility can shape human relationships at every level. The work of peace begins in ordinary life. It starts with how we speak to one another, how we listen and how we care for those around us. If you practise compassion and patience, it is a small sign of the kingdom that Our Lord came to establish.

As the conflict involving Iran continues to unfold we must hold fast to the conviction that peace grounded in justice and respect for human dignity is the only true foundation for lasting stability. Our prayer, our concern, our reflection flows from a faith that sees every human life as beloved by God. In that light we continue to pray for peace, for protection of the innocent and for the courage to be instruments of reconciliation wherever we are placed.

God bless you all,
Fr Hilton