



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

Parochial Administrator:

St Bernard's Halifax and St Theresa's Queensbury

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](mailto:office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Website: [www.stmaryshalifax.com](http://www.stmaryshalifax.com)

St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



## MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS

### Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday  
11:00am



### Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the  
month after 9:30am  
Mass



### Holy Rosary:

Saturday after 12:15pm  
Mass



### Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after  
9:30am Mass



### 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

### Marriages and Baptisms

by appointment  
See the priest after Mass



The month of August is dedicated to: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

|                                        |                                             |                             |                                      |                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup></b><br>AUGUST | 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in<br>Ordinary Time | 9:30am<br>11:00am<br>6:00pm | St Mary's<br>St Mary's<br>St Alban's | Micheal & Leonilda Laputa<br>Gerard James<br>People of the Parishes |
| <b>MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup></b>          | St Lawrence                                 | No Mass                     |                                      |                                                                     |
| <b>TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup></b>         | Feria                                       | 7:00pm                      | St Alban's                           | Timothy Hayes                                                       |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup></b>       | Feria                                       | 9:30am                      | St Mary's                            | Elaine Denton                                                       |
| <b>THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup></b>        | Feria                                       | 9:30am                      | St Alban's                           | Thomas Ward                                                         |
| <b>FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup></b>          | St Maxamillian Kolbe                        | <b>9:00am</b>               | St Mary's                            | Sr Margaret Costello                                                |
|                                        | <b>Funeral Service</b>                      | <b>10:30am</b>              | <b>St Bernard's</b>                  | <b>Kathleen Walker</b>                                              |
| <b>SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup></b>        | St Dominic                                  | 12:15pm                     | St Mary's                            | Fr M. Murray (YB)                                                   |
| Assumption of<br>the B.V.M.            | Vigil Mass                                  | 4:00pm                      | St Mary's                            | Polish Mass                                                         |
|                                        | Vigil Mass                                  | 5:00pm                      | St Bernard's                         | Mary Anne Casson                                                    |

### READERS ROTA

| THIS SUNDAY |                    |  | NEXT SUNDAY |                  |
|-------------|--------------------|--|-------------|------------------|
| 9:30am      | Kieron Green       |  | 9:30am      | Lily Hymas       |
| 11:00am     | Wendy Balahura     |  | 11:00am     | Albina Karuna    |
| 6:00pm      | Frances Millington |  | 6:00pm      | Judith MacDonald |

**PRAYER LIST:** Maureen Brown, Brendan Fernandes, Sadie Mills, David Stanton, 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.

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Gladys Grogan, John Callaghan Sr., John Callaghan Jr., The Tilley Family's Intentions  
Tomasz & Irene Nalepa

**THIS WEEK OUR LADY'S LAMP BURNS FOR:** Maureen Brown

**NEW ARRANGEMENTS**

I have taken up my appointment as Parochial Administrator of St Bernard's and St Theresa's. The Saturday Vigil Mass at St Bernard's at 5.00pm has now begun. If this Mass time is more convenient for you, I would be delighted to welcome you there. As previously announced, from now on Mgr McQuinn, Parish Priest of St Columba's and St Malachy's, will alternate with me between celebrating the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Bernard's and the Sunday evening Mass at St Alban's.

**PARISH LADIES' GUILD**

The next meeting of the Parish Ladies Guild will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7:00pm in St Alban's parish room. 'Planning future events'

**THE ORATORY OF ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP**

The next meeting of the diocesan men's group (ages 21-35) will take place at Hinsley Hall in Leeds (LS6 2BX) on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of August beginning at 6:30pm. The evening will consist of prayers, Benediction and social time. Fr Stephen Brown is giving a talk on the importance of sacrifice.

**TUESDAY EVENING – LATIN MASS**

From the first week of September, the Tuesday evening Mass will be said in Latin each week. A number of parishioners have asked me for this over the past few months, and I hope it will help us to grow in our appreciation of the Church's rich liturgical tradition and her universality. Simple response cards will be available at the back of St Alban's to help everyone follow and participate in the Mass.

**NB:** I should have made clear that this will be the New Rite of Mass and not according to the 1962 Missal. I apologise for the disappointment that this has caused.

**Happy Days Breakfast Club**

Our friendly, local homelessness charity, Happy Days, is running a new Breakfast Club campaign. By signing up to donate £11.11 a month, you'll provide 12 hot breakfasts every month for people facing homelessness, hardship, and food poverty. As a thank you for joining, you'll receive an exclusive Breakfast Club coaster. And if you name Clare O'Neill as your Happy Days referrer, she will have the chance to win a day off work. See: <https://happydaysuk.org/how-to-help/the-breakfast-club/>

**BETHLEHEM CARE HOSPICE TRUST – FASHION SHOW**

We are holding a fashion show at St Mary's primary school on 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00pm. Tickets are £5 and monies will be shared between the BCHT and parish funds. They are on sale after Mass today.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The Liturgy of the Word for children is now on a break for the summer. We will resume in the new term from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Children welcome from Foundation Stage until First Holy Communion.

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£736.43** Weekly Total Approx. **£1515.18** (Inc. standing orders & card)  
The Verona Father's Mission appeal last Sunday raised: **£904.18**

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

I went to the cinema for the first time in ages the other week to go and see Christopher Nolan's new film, *The Odyssey*. And, I must say, I thought it was absolutely brilliant. At nearly three hours long, it requires a considerable investment of time, but one that I thought was more than worth it. I then read in the paper this morning that apparently, UK print sales of *The Odyssey* rose by around 1,400% in the weeks surrounding the film's release. A poem nearly 2,700 years old has suddenly become a bestseller again as people are going back to read the story for themselves.

There is something rather nice about that, I think. *The Odyssey* is close to three thousand years old. It comes from a world which seems very distant from ours, filled with kings, warriors, gods, monsters, perilous voyages and the rest. Yet the story is still able to capture people's attention. Beneath all the mythology, it deals with themes that are very familiar to all of us, the desire to return home, the pain of separation, the temptation to give up, the consequences of pride and the hope that love can survive a long absence.

So often today we speak as though anything old must have lost its relevance. Books, customs, traditions, institutions etc. are expected to justify themselves according to the needs and fashions of the present moment. An old story, however, can sometimes see more deeply into human life than something written just this year. It seems to me that Homer's *Odyssey* has been so enduring because generations of people have recognised something of themselves within it.

This should help us to understand why the Church continues to place ancient words before us. At every Mass we listen to writings which come from cultures far removed from modern Britain. We hear about shepherds, fishermen, kings, vineyards, deserts, giants, talking snakes... The world of the Bible can at times feel unfamiliar, but the people we meet there are recognisable. They worry about their families. They make promises and break them. They experience grief, jealousy, courage, betrayal, friendship, failure and forgiveness. They ask where God is when life becomes difficult, their questions are often our questions too. There are no emotions that we experience that are not already contained in the scriptures.

Of course, the Scriptures are far more than great literature. They are the word of God, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. But we must remember that God has chosen to speak through real human lives and histories. That is why their voices still feel so close to us. Just because the scriptures were written many centuries ago does not make them inaccessible. Every generation receives them afresh, and every generation notices something which it had not seen before.

The same is true, in a different way, of the Church's prayers and traditions. We do not hold onto them merely because they are old. We keep them because they carry the faith of those who came before us and still speak to us of what is good, true and beautiful. There is great comfort in knowing that the words we use in prayer have also been spoken by Christians in very different times and circumstances over two millennia.

Perhaps the success of *The Odyssey* reveals that people are not as uninterested in the past as we sometimes imagine. They are willing to enter an ancient world when they sense that it contains something real. Our job and the job of the Church is to help people discover that the Christian story is not a fantasy novel or an epic poem. It is the living story of God seeking His people, calling them home and remaining faithful through every trial and disaster. Films come and go and the headlines move on very quickly. The questions people carry with them are far less likely to change. That is why some old stories still have such power. The Scriptures continue to speak to us, because in them, God is alive and active.

God bless you all,  
*Fr Hilton*