



THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

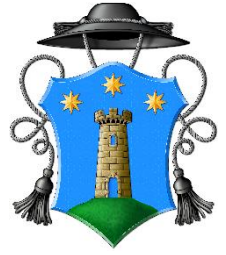
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

Presbytery: Clarence House, 2 Clarence Street, Halifax HX1 5DH
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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:

Private Intention (PC)



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 March is dedicated to: St Joseph

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| SUNDAY 9 th MARCH | 1 st Sunday in LENT | 9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm | St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's | Lilly Primanath Benjamin D'Souza (A) People of the Parish |
| MONDAY 10 th | Lent | No Mass | | |
| TUESDAY 11 th | Lent | 7:00pm | St Alban's | Private Intention (PC) |
| WEDNESDAY 12 th | REQUIEM | 12:00 Noon | St Alban's | Gladys Megson |
| THURSDAY 13 th | Lent | 10:00am (School) | St Mary's | Paul Griffin |
| FRIDAY 14 th Abstain from Meat | Lent | 7:00am | St Mary's | Tom Brennan R.I.P |
| SATURDAY 15 th | Lent | 12:15pm Vigil Mass 4:00pm | St Mary's St Mary's | Christopher Doyle Polish Mass |

READERS ROTA

| THIS SUNDAY | | NEXT SUNDAY | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 9:30am | Lily Hymas | 9:30am | John Greenwood |
| 11:00am | Malcolm Brown | 11:00am | Wendy Balahura |
| 6:00pm | Richard Siebierski | 6:00pm | Judith MacDonald |

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:

Sean Holloway, Thomas Ward, Fr Peter Ward, Brian Diggins, Fred Greenwood, Bryan & Sheila Greenwood, Denis Smyth, James & Eileen Geraghty and the Kenny Family, Paul Griffin x 3, Benjamin D'Souza, Mrs Chrisy Soares, Kathleen Boyle, Victor Horsfall, Fr Sean Elliott Ordination Anniversary, Michael Child.

Taking into account the wonderful number of Masses that we receive in this parish, I have given 50 Dead List Masses to Fr Royston who was with us last weekend. He will celebrate those Masses for our deceased family and friends back in the monastery. Just a reminder, unless you actually specify a date for a Mass, which I will do my best to accommodate unless someone else has already requested it, your Mass will be entered into the normal queue, at the moment this usually takes about four months.

FRIDAY ABSTINENCE

Remember, it is an obligation for all Catholics to abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent, without exception.

FRIDAY'S DURING LENT

This year, **Mass will be at 7:00am each Friday** during Lent. If you struggle to make a Lenten resolution, take this opportunity to commit to attending Mass before you go to work or school. It is a concrete step that will lead to a fruitful and blessed Lent.

Stations of the Cross and devotions to the Holy Wounds will be at 7:00pm in St Mary's

HOLY YEAR STUDY COURSES

The final session of the course on the Creed will be on Tuesday 11th March at 6:00pm at St Alban's
The theme will be: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church
As we enter into the season of Lent, a new 5 session course will begin on The Sacraments.
This begins on Tuesday 18th of March. Same time, same place.

HUDDERSFIELD AND BRADFORD BOYS' CHOIR

The choir have asked me to pass on their thanks to the parish for allowing them to sing last week and to raise money for their special trip to Lourdes. They collected: £331.88 and are very grateful.
I have passed on all of the lovely positive feedback and encouragement from parishioners.

200 CLUB WINNERS

January Draw

1st Prize - £75 | no. 89 | Kieron Green
2nd Prize -£50 | no. 120 | Dorothea Baldwin
3rd Prize - £25 | no. 69 | Raymond Fearnley

February Draw

1st Prize - £75 | no. 61 | John Reynolds
2nd Prize -£50 | no. 50 | Raymond Fearnley
3rd Prize - £25 | no. 84 | Michael Hayes

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The next SVP meeting will take place on Monday 24th February at 6pm in St Alban's parish room.
New members always welcome.

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£741.41** Total Approx. **£1548.41** (Inc. standing orders & card)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

Well, Lent is off to a great start, it was wonderful to see the huge number of people who attended on Ash Wednesday across all four Masses. (I don't know where they all came from!) And as I am writing this piece, we have just concluded the first of our Friday penitential Masses at 7:00am, which 40 hardy souls managed to attend. I really encourage you to join them next week as an act of penance and devotion. It's a great way to start the day and a concrete resolution that you can make to get the most out of Lent as you can.

As we journey through this holy season—a time of penance, prayer, and preparation for the Paschal Mystery—we are called to unite our sacrifices with the Cross of Our Lord. This year, our Lenten path takes on a sombre and profound weight as we hear tragic news from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On the 13th of February seventy of our Christian brothers and sisters were brutally beheaded in a Protestant church in Kasanga, a village in the North Kivu province. Reports indicate that militants from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a group tied to Islamic 'extremists', carried out this horrific act, screaming "*allahu akbar*" as they cut off their victims' heads. These believers—men, women, and children—were taken from their homes tied up, and slaughtered in a sacred space meant for worship and refuge. Not that you'll hear much about it from the BBC or the British press.

This news should pierce our hearts, yet it also echoes the very essence of Lent. The martyrdom of these Congolese Christians reminds us of the cost of discipleship, a cost that Our Lord Himself foretold: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). In their suffering, these modern martyrs bore witness to their faith, even unto death. Like the martyrs of old, they join the great cloud of witnesses who reflect the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the Cross—a sacrifice we contemplate deeply during these forty days and nights.

Lent invites us to repent, to strip away what distracts us from God, and to stand in solidarity with those who suffer. The Christians of the Congo, facing escalating violence, cry out in words that resonate with our own Lenten struggles. A church elder there said, "We don't know what to do or how to pray; we've had enough of massacres. May God's will alone be done." These words mirror the agony of Jesus in Gethsemane: "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will have it" (Matthew 26:39). In their surrender to God's will amid unimaginable pain, our Congolese brethren teach us the depth of trust and abandonment that Lent calls us to embrace.

As a parish, let us respond to this tragedy with the tools of our faith. During Lent, we fast not merely for ourselves but to unite with those who hunger—physically and spiritually—around the world. Let us offer our fasting for the people of the Congo, that they may find peace and protection. We pray, too, for the perpetrators of this violence, that their hearts may turn from satanic hatred to repentance, as Christ prayed for those who crucified Him: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). And let us give alms generously, as a tangible sign of our communion with those who suffer. This is why it is so important that we support our Lenten charity, Aid to the Church in Need.

The ashes we received on Ash Wednesday remind us of our own mortality, but they also point to the hope of resurrection. The martyrs of the Congo, though their lives were taken, now live in the eternal embrace of God. As we approach Holy Week, their witness urges us to carry our own crosses with courage, knowing that the Cross leads to Easter. May their sacrifice deepen our Lenten journey and renew our resolve to live as faithful disciples. Let us entrust their bereaved families and all who mourn them and are traumatised, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who stood at the foot of the Cross and ask her intercession for our troubled world.

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