



# 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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## 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:

A private intention (AM)



### 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

SATURDAY 19 <sup>th</sup> APRIL	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	7:00pm	St Mary's	James, Eileen Geraghty + Kenny Family
SUNDAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Jan Moska Eleonora & Jan Zakrzewski Polish Mass <b>No Evening Mass</b>
MONDAY 21 <sup>st</sup>	EASTER	9:30am 12 Noon	St Mary's St Mary's	Polish Mass Ivor Holbrow
TUESDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	EASTER	12 Noon	St Mary's	Mgr Anthony Boylan
WEDNESDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	EASTER	12 Noon	St Mary's	Canon Francis Sammons
THURSDAY 24 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER	12 Noon	St Mary's	Paul Griffin
FRIDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER	12 Noon	St Mary's	David Costello
SATURDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER	12:15pm	St Mary's	Deceased Member of the Hintze Family
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Lily Hymas	9:30am	John Greenwood
11:00am	Ken Rothery	11:00am	Helen Brown
6:00pm	NO MASS	6:00pm	Frances Millington

**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:**

Paul Connolly, Grant Family living and dead, Derick Jadhav, Bridie Doherty

**THANK YOU**

As ever, I wish to say a huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who has made the celebration of the Holy Week and Easter liturgies so beautiful. Extra special thanks go to my deacons John and Paul, my brilliant team of altar servers, Tom and the whole choir who have worked so hard, Brenda and the flower arrangers, the readers, all those who clean the church. My thanks too, to all those who help and support me in the running of the parish throughout the year, especially Julie in the office, Tony with the accounts and Helen with catechesis. You have heard me many times say how proud I am of our parish and it wonderful to see it going from strength to strength. Thank you all.

**EASTER OCTAVE**

The Easter Octave is celebrated throughout this week and next weekend. These eight days form one, long Easter Sunday. Eastertide is a season of joy which overflows from today into the following fifty days, which lead us to the Ascension and ultimately to Pentecost Sunday. Let us celebrate Easter with joy and faith. This week there will be Mass every day at St Mary’s at 12 Noon.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To Adison who was Baptised and Confirmed at the Easter Vigil along with Tom who was received into full communion with the Catholic Church and Christina who received the sacrament of Confirmation. Congratulation in advance also to Barnaby who will be baptised at received next Sunday.

**EASTER OFFERINGS**

The Collection taken at the Easter Vigil and the Easter Masses is your personal gift to the parish priest. Along with the Christmas offering, it forms a very significant proportion of our annual taxable income. Donations can be made in the collection, on the card machine and directly through the bank account. Please mark bank offerings, “Easter”. All offerings can be gift aided, and the gift-aid is retained by the Parish. Bank Details - St Marys – 21023225 – 40-27-15

**DIVINE MERCY SERVICE**

The Divine Mercy Service will be held in St Alban’s next Sunday at 3:00pm. There will be an opportunity for confessions at this time.

**PARISH QUIZ**

To be held at the Catholic club on this coming Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 each, supper included. Teams of up to 6 people. Tickets still available and on sale at the back of church.

**DEANERY CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION**

As part of our celebrations for the Holy Year, the clergy of the deanery have agreed to have a *Corpus Christi* procession.

This will take place in the grounds of St Patrick’s Church, Sowerby Bridge from 2:00pm on the Sunday of the feast *Corpus Christi*, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. Children who have made First Holy Communion are welcome to wear their outfits. The procession will be followed by refreshment and social time. I would love as many of the parishioners of St Mary’s and St Alban’s as possible to come along.

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, the greatest day in the Church's calendar. The greatest for a very simple and yet profound reason: without it, there would be no Church. As St. Paul puts it so clearly, "If Christ is not risen, then our faith is in vain!" Imagine the weight of that truth. Without the Resurrection, our entire lives—our prayers, our sacrifices, our deepest hopes—would amount to nothing. We would remain trapped in our sin, with no promise of a life beyond this one, no New Heaven and Earth to look forward to as the Lord has promised. It's a depressing thought and in our quieter, darker moments, we might occasionally catch ourselves wondering: Is it all true? Or is it just a beautiful story we cling to, a grand illusion with no basis in reality?

This scepticism isn't new. Since the earliest days, people have sneered at and scoffed at the Resurrection. In recent decades, even some scripture scholars have attempted to tame its boldness, suggesting that it was merely a spiritual event—that the disciples, overwhelmed by grief after the horror of Good Friday, felt Jesus' presence so strongly that they convinced themselves He lived on in their memories. People often say something similar about our own loved ones: they endure in our hearts, in the memories they leave behind. But that is not at all the Resurrection that our faith proclaims. The Gospel accounts, each collected from a distinct perspective, reveal something far more concrete. The Apostles didn't stitch together a consoling fable; they bore witness to a real and tangible event that shattered their expectations and reshaped the course of human history.

Think of the accounts that they left us. Mary Magdalene, tears streaming down her face at the empty tomb, mistaking the Risen Lord for the gardener until He called her by name. The two disciples trudging along the road to Emmaus, their hearts stirring as a stranger unpacked the Scriptures, only to realise in the breaking of the bread that it was Jesus Himself. Peter and the others, casting their nets in despair, spotting a figure on the shore preparing breakfast and inviting them to join Him. These aren't vague dreams or wishful fantasies. They're detailed, tactile, alive—encounters with a flesh-and-blood Christ, risen and moving freely in the world. St. John's account of that lakeside meal stands out: Jesus isn't a phantom or a fleeting vision; He's physically there, cooking fish over a fire. This isn't survival or resuscitation—it's the outright conquest of death, a bold step into a new kind of existence.

The disciples' transformation seals the case. These were not fearless heroes by nature. After the crucifixion, they were a frightened bunch, living in hiding behind locked doors, their hopes dashed. Yet something—Someone—changed them utterly. They emerged from their fear, proclaiming the Gospel with a courage that defied threats and persecution. What they experienced was too vivid, too real to be a fabrication. Each one of them, bar St John, willingly being put to death in the most gruesome ways across the world for the Gospel they preached.

For many of us, though, faith doesn't come without a struggle. We live in an age that celebrates doubt, where our scientific worldview trains us to question everything. In that, Thomas—the so-called "doubting" Apostle—is a gift. He speaks our language. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and can put my finger into the holes the nails made... I will not believe". Like us, Thomas wanted proof, something he could touch and measure. But when Jesus stood before him, wounds exposed, and said, "Put your finger here and see my hands" Thomas didn't need to. The reality of the Risen Lord overwhelmed him, pulling from his lips the cry, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus' next words reach across time to us: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe". We may not see Him as Thomas did, but we can trust the testimony of those who did—those who met Him in the forty days after Easter Sunday. Their accounts, handed down in Scripture and Tradition, beckon us to take that same leap of faith and claim that blessing for ourselves. Easter shouts that hope is alive. It promises that our struggles, our losses, even our doubts, are not the end. God is at work, threading the resurrection through the tapestry of our lives.

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

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC  
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404