



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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 St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



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:

Pauline Luniw's Intentions



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

SATURDAY 4 th APRIL 2026	HOLY SATURDAY	7:00pm	St Mary's	Fred and Betty Budds
SUNDAY 5 th	EASTER SUNDAY	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Kevin 'Meggy' Megson Elaine Collins Polish Mass No Evening Mass
MONDAY 6 th	EASTER	9:30am	St Mary's	Polish Mass
TUESDAY 7 th	EASTER	No Public Mass		
WEDNESDAY 8 th	EASTER	No Public Mass		
THURSDAY 9 th	EASTER	No Public Mass		
FRIDAY 10 th	EASTER	12 Noon	St Mary's	Brenda Wadsworth
SATURDAY 11 th	EASTER	12:15pm Vigil Mass 4:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Mariana Varga Polish Mass

READERS ROTA

	THIS SUNDAY		NEXT SUNDAY
9:30am	Isaac Mellor	9:30am	Gabrielle Colleran
11:00am	Helen Brown	11:00am	Joseph Coneron
6:00pm	Frances Millington	6:00pm	Judith MacDonald

PRAYER LIST: David Stanton, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Rita Byrnes who has died recently. *Requiescat in pace.*

MASSES RECEIVED

Maureen Riddeal, Joe Riddeal, Gabrielle Child, Timothy Hayes

THANK YOU

As ever, I wish to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has made the celebration of the Holy Week and the 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 Judy 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, Helen B in the sacristy, Bernard with the accounts and Helen M with catechesis. There is no way that I would be able to do all that I do without you. I am very grateful indeed. Finally, and most importantly of all, thank you, the people of this parish. Thank you for all of your kind messages, cards, gifts, your love and support. I'm a very lucky priest to here in St Mary's and St Alban's.

EASTER OFFERINGS

The Collection taken at the Easter Vigil and the Easter Sunday 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 - Diocese of Leeds St Marys – 21023225 – 40-27-15

EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

As usual I will be offering traditional Easter House Blessings with the new Easter water.

This can take place any time between Easter Sunday and Ascension Thursday.

Please send your details to office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or call the presbytery on 01422 352141 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Rhys who was received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

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.

YEAR OF CATECHESIS

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 28th April at 6:00pm** in St Alban's Hall and will be given by Fr Andrew Bowden. He will be speaking about "The good life and how to live it"

S.V.P.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 13th April at 7:00 pm in St Alban's Parish Room

RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£797.07** Total Approx: **£1513.05** (Inc. standing orders & card)
Easter Flower Collection: **£376.20** (You can see how it was spent!)

FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

A very happy Easter to you all. Christ is risen. The tomb is empty and death has lost its sting. Alleluia.

This is the heart of everything that we believe. God has entered our world, taken on our humanity, endured suffering and death and risen again. This is the centre of our Catholic faith. It is the reason why we gather week after week, Sunday after Sunday. We should not be here out of mere habit or duty alone but because something has happened that has changed everything. This isn't just good news, it is the best news we could ever hear.

Over the past few days, we have walked closely with the Lord. We have sat with Him in the Upper Room, watched with Him in the garden, and followed Him to the Cross. We have listened again to the accounts of His suffering and death. None of that is set aside today but it is brought to its completion. It finds its meaning. What once seemed like defeat is now seen in its true light. The Cross has not been destroyed but has been fulfilled. Through it, God has done something far greater than anyone could ever have expected.

The wonderful truth is, that Our Lord's resurrection speaks directly into our own lives today. We all know what it is to carry burdens, to face difficulty, to deal with things that we would rather avoid. You know by now that the Christian life does not remove those realities. The Lord himself tells us to take up our cross and to follow Him. That is not always easy and it is never going to be. And yet Easter tells us that the Cross is not the whole story. Those who remain close to Christ do not stop at Calvary. The path continues and leads on, quietly and steadily toward Life. That is the pattern we are asked to trust. Not always to understand it fully but to remain faithful within it.

This message is especially important in the world we find ourselves in. There is no shortage of anxiety, confusion and noise. We hear constant talk of war, crisis, uncertainty, of things falling apart. Many people feel unsettled, unsure of where to look for stability. And sadly, we tend to look in all the wrong places. Elected officials, celebrities, money, power, health etc. All of which fail and let us down in the end. Easter speaks into this situation with great power. Christ is risen. That means that His presence is real, active and reliable. He is not a figure from the dim and distant past but stands before us now, offering a way of living that is grounded and secure. In Him, we find something that does not shift with the mood of the moment.

There may be some reading this who do not come to Mass regularly, who have come today perhaps out of tradition, or at the invitation of family, or simply because it felt like the right thing to do. If that is you, then this feast is meant for you in a particular way. Easter is about new life. It is about beginning again. You do not need to have everything in place. You do not need to have all your questions answered. What matters is taking a step. Come again next Sunday. Begin to build a habit. Return to the sacraments. Allow the life of the Church to become part of your life again. There is nothing to lose in doing so and much to gain.

Faith should not be an extra layer added onto our lives. It should be what gives them their shape and direction. When we practise it, when we return to it with sincerity, it begins to change the way we see things. It gives us a sense of purpose and it reminds us that we are not alone. As Catholics, we are also called to be people who carry this message into the world. Not in a loud or forceful way but in a steady and confident manner. We know what we are celebrating and we know why it matters. That should be visible in the way we live, in the way we treat others and in the way we speak about our faith.

Easter is not confined to just a single day. The Church gives us fifty days to celebrate it, to let its meaning sink in, to allow its joy to take hold. It is right that we mark it well. Spend time with family and friends. Enjoy the day. Be generous in your celebrations. And when the opportunity arises, do not be shy about saying why.

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 Sharon Costello

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404