



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton

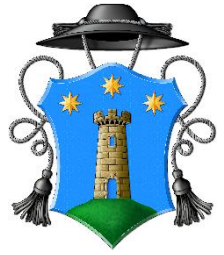
Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates

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St Mary's Primary Academy: 01422 362365



## 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:

Shirley Hilton



### 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

## HOLY WEEK 2025

SUNDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> APRIL	Palm Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	People of the Parish Margaret McCormack Birthday Peter George Granger
MONDAY 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week	11am-12pm 12 Noon	St Mary's St Mary's	<b>Confessions</b> Paul Griffin
TUESDAY 15 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week	11am-12pm 12 Noon	St Mary's St Alban's	<b>Confessions</b> Marie Finn
WEDNESDAY 16 <sup>th</sup>	Spy Wednesday	11:00am	Leeds Cathedral	Chrism Mass with the Bishop and Priests of the Diocese
THURSDAY 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm	St Mary's	<b>MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER</b> Victor Horsefall
FRIDAY 18 <sup>th</sup> FAST AND ABSITNENCE	Good Friday	10am-11am 3:00pm 7:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	<b>Confessions</b> <b>THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b> Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 19 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Saturday	9:00am 3pm-4pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Święconka Polish Food Blessing <b>Confessions</b> <b>SOLEMN VIGIL OF EASTER</b> James, Eileen Geraghty + Kenny Fam
SUNDAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Jan Moska Eleonora & Jan Zakrzewski Polish Mass
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Monday	9:30am 12:00 Noon	St Mary's St Mary's	Polish Mass Ivor Holdbrow

**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:**

Ken, Rose, Annie + Family, Agnes Bumstead, Evelyn Somerville, Frank & Mary Tate + Elizabeth Anne Sampson, Kevin Toolan, Denis Smyth, Bryan & Sheila Greenwood, Shirley Hilton x3

**HOLY WEEK**

Please make every effort to attend all of the Holy Week liturgies. This is the most important week of the year and a time for the parish to come together and celebrate the central mysteries of our faith.

Please take careful note of the times of extra confessions this week.

After the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, there will be watching at the Altar of Repose until 10:00pm.

On Good Friday evening Stations of the Cross will be followed by a blessing with, and an opportunity to venerate, the relic of the True Cross.

**POLISH BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD**

Święconka will take place in St Mary's on Holy Saturday at 9:00am

**ST MARY'S BIG PRE-EASTER CHURCH CLEAN**

Will take place this Wednesday starting 10am. Please come and help, especially if you can help clean the porch windows and are happy going up a ladder.

Many hands make light work. Please feel free to help out even if you're not a regular cleaner.

Your efforts help to keep our church clean and beautiful.

**ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK**

There will be TWO rehearsals for altar servers to go through the Holy Week ceremonies.

11am on Maundy Thursday at St Mary's AND 11am on Good Friday at St Mary's

Please attend both rehearsals.

**READERS ROTA**

**Palm Sunday:** Kieron Green, Lettie Damolo, Judith MacDonald

**Easter Sunday:** Lily Hymas, Ken Rothery, NO 6PM MASS

**Low Sunday/Divine Mercy Sunday:** John Greenwood, Helen Brown, Frances Millington

**LENTEN ALMS**

Please bring your Lenten Alms to Mass on Maundy Thursday for Aid to the Church in Need.

**MISSIO BOXES**

Karen Hallinan will collect the red Missio boxes over Easter and the following weekend.

**S.V.P.**

Next meeting Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm in St Alban's parish room. New members welcome.

**PARISH QUIZ**

To be held at the Catholic club on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 each, supper included.

Teams of up to 6 people. Tickets on sale at the back of church.

The Ladies' Guild would be very grateful for any raffle prize donations for the Parish Quiz..

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£1376.54** Total Approx. **£2117.04** (Inc. Standing orders & Card)

### **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 - Diocese of Leeds St Marys – 21023225 – 40-27-15

### **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

Holy Week is a sacred time, a journey through the core of our faith that invites us not only to reflect but to take part. It starts today with Palm Sunday, a day of celebration as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds cheer "Hosanna," welcoming Him with excitement, expecting a king to overthrow their oppressors. But His mission is deeper, He's not here to fight Rome, but to free us from sin. It's a hopeful moment, a glimpse of light before things take a heavier turn, setting the stage for what lies ahead. Between Palm Sunday and the days that follow, there's a shift that we cannot ignore—public praise gives way to private plots, as those who feel threatened by Him start to close in, their whispers shaping into plans.

Then comes Maundy Thursday, a quiet but powerful shift. Jesus kneels to wash His disciples' feet, a simple act that flips the idea of greatness upside down. It's not about being over others, but serving them. That same night, at the Last Supper, He takes bread and wine, ordinary things, and turns them into His Body and Blood—a gift so great that even the Angels fall silent - the very heart of all that we believe. Even in this moment of closeness, however, darkness looms. Judas leaves to betray Him, a reminder of how love can so easily be met with rejection. It's a scene that echoes something universal—our own choices laid bare before us. Earlier that week, the tension had already started building—Jesus teaching in the temple, flipping tables, calling out hypocrisy. By Thursday, the air is thick with it and His actions point to a love that does not back down, even when the cost is clear.

Good Friday is dark. Jesus is led to the cross, enduring unthinkable pain and humiliation—not complaining, but steady and silent. The whip, the thorns, the nails—they all do their gruesome work and yet when He is lifted up, it's not just suffering on display – it's glory. "Father, forgive them," He says, and somehow that cross becomes more than a symbol of death—it's a sign of mercy breaking through, it becomes His throne and His altar of sacrifice. His mother stands there, sharing His pain, while the world watches a king laid low. Holy Saturday follows as a strange, still day. It feels like defeat, like it's all over. But it's not—there is something brewing beneath the quiet, deep in the earth. That silence isn't empty; it's heavy with waiting, a pause that tests faith. The disciples hid, unsure, while the tomb held its secret, a king resting before the final move.

Easter Sunday changes everything. The tomb is empty, the stone rolled away and Jesus is alive, victorious. It's not just a neat ending; it's a beginning, a promise of something new. Holy Week isn't some old ritual that we dust off once a year—it's alive, asking us questions. Have we cheered for Him one day and ignored Him the next? Have we served others or ignored the opportunity? Have we carried our struggles or avoided them? And do we see hope in that empty tomb? This week holds up a mirror. It's not about playing a part in some grand show—it's about living as followers of the real, risen Jesus. And it doesn't stop there—because He is alive, Holy Week ripples out. It's in the way we that we forgive, the way we pick up our own crosses, the way we trust that death never gets the last word. It's a reality that we're still living, step by step, day by day, century by century, millennia after millennia.

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