



# 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:

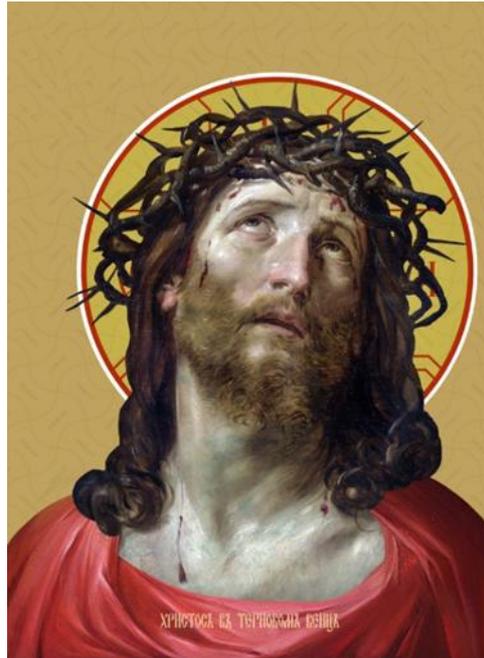
Saturday after 12:15pm  
 Mass

### Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month  
 after 9:30am Mass

### Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

Christians of the Holy Land



### 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

## HOLY WEEK 2026

SUNDAY 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Palm Sunday	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Tomasz & Irene Nalepa Lucy & Arthur Ellison People of the Parish
MONDAY 30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week	11am-12pm 12 Noon	St Mary's St Mary's	<b>Confessions</b> Maria Griffin
TUESDAY 31 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Week	11am-12pm 12 Noon	St Mary's St Mary's	<b>Confessions</b> People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> APRIL	Spy Wednesday	11:00am	Leeds Cathedral	Chrism Mass with the Bishop and Priests of the Diocese
THURSDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER</b> Marshal Louie Flores
FRIDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Good Friday</b>	10:00am <b>3:00pm</b> 7:00pm	St Alban's <b>St Mary's</b> St Mary's	Passion of the Christ Film <b>THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b> Stations / Veneration of True Cross
SATURDAY 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Saturday</b>	9:00am 3pm-4pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Święconka Polish Food Blessing <b>Confessions</b> <b>SOLEMN VIGIL OF EASTER</b>
SUNDAY 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>7:00pm</b> 9:30am 11:00am 2:00pm	<b>St Mary's</b> St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	Fred and Betty Budds Kevin 'Meggy' Megson Elaine Collins Polish Mass
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Monday	9:30am	St Mary's	Polish Mass

**PRAYER LIST:** 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**

Roger Taylor who has died recently. *Requiem aeternam.*

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Joe McCambvridge, Jan & Eleonora Zakrzewski, Frank & Mary Tate & Anne Sampson, Marie Finn x10

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

**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

**ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK**

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

**10:00am** on Maundy Thursday at St Mary's AND **11:00am** on Holy Saturday at St Mary's

Please attend both rehearsals.

**LENTEN ALMS**

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

**YEAR OF CATECHESIS**

The next in our series of talks will be on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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"

**THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST - FILM**

Will be shown in St Alban's Hall at 10:00am on Good Friday, if you haven't seen it, it is an excellent way to really immerse yourself in all that this sombre day holds. It is not suitable for children.

**A NIGHT OF MUSIC WITH NICOLA MILLS – LADIES' GUILD**

Come and enjoy her wonderful voice and hear her interesting life story. St Alban's church, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 7:00pm. Tickets £5 including refreshments.

**DIOCESES OF LEEDS, MIDDLESBROUGH AND HALLAM**

Following the resignation of the Right Reverend Ralph Heskett C.Ss.R. as Bishop of Hallam due to ill health, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed Bishop Stock as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Hallam. This appointment is in addition to his office as Bishop of Leeds and his responsibilities as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The Holy Father has requested that he begin a consultation with the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Hallam about a possible reunification with the Diocese of Leeds, from part of which Hallam was created in May 1980.

### RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS

Last week's loose collection was **£739.47** Total Approx: **£1461.45** (Inc. standing orders & card)  
This Sunday there will be a second collection for the Easter flowers and decorating the altar.  
On Good Friday there will be the traditional collection for the Holy Place.

### READERS ROTA

**Palm Sunday:** John Greenwood Shaun Sanju, Rachel Fitzpatrick

**Easter Sunday:** Isaac Mellor, Helen Brown, NO 6PM MASS

**Low Sunday/Divine Mercy Sunday:** Gabrielle Colleran, Joe Coneron, Judith MacDonald

### FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST

And suddenly, here we are again, it is Holy Week. For some, I suspect, that comes as a certain relief. The early enthusiasm of Lent can fade and the things we took up with good intention become harder to sustain. Long preparations have a way of doing that, don't they? We began with clarity and somewhere along the line we lost sight of why we started. Holy Week comes upon us at this very point. It gathers our attention again and directs it where it belongs. It reminds us that our life with God is not just one concern among many but the one thing that gives everything else its place and meaning.

But don't worry, there is still time to prepare well. That may mean something practical, like making space in your diary so that you can be present at all the liturgies of these days. It may also mean making a good confession if you have been putting off. This week isn't meant to be a burden, like a religious marathon, it's meant to be an opportunity to begin again, simply and honestly.

The Sacred Triduum draws us into the heart of the mystery of who Our Lord truly is. On Maundy Thursday we are present at the supper in which He gives Himself to his disciples. He entrusts to the Church the Eucharist and the Priesthood, signs of His enduring presence. What is given there is a gift that continues to this very day. The Mass we celebrate each day has its origin in that most sacred moment.

From there we go with Him to Gethsemane. The Church invites us to remain with Him in prayer, even if only for a short time. It is a quiet and searching hour. The Lord prepares to offer His life, and we keep watch with Him as best we can.

Good Friday has a different tone. The Church is stripped of its usual signs and we follow the Lord to Calvary. There is a simplicity to the liturgy of that day which speaks for itself. We listen to the Passion, we pray and we come forward to venerate the Cross. It is a direct and personal gesture. We acknowledge what has been done for us and if words fail, a simple act of reverence is enough.

Holy Saturday is marked by stillness. There is very little outward activity. The Church waits. It is a day that can feel unfamiliar and yet it has its own depth. We remain in that quiet expectation until night falls. Then the Vigil begins. Light returns, gradually at first, then fully. The Scriptures are proclaimed, tracing the work of God through history. New Christians are baptised and welcomed. The Church begins to rejoice again with full voice. Something monumental has changed and it is right that it should be seen and heard.

By the time we reach Easter morning, the meaning of these days comes into view. The Lord is risen. What we have followed step by step now stands before us as a single reality. Death has been overcome. The promise made has been fulfilled... Holy Week is given to us each year so that we do not forget where our hope is found. It draws us back and it invites us to remain close to the Lord in the moments of life that matter most. Take part as fully and as enthusiastically as you can.

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 Sharon Costello

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404