

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
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**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’”**

Saturday 1 April
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Matthew 21: 1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14- 27: 66
6pm Family Mass Judith and John Broun RIP

Sunday 2 April
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Donor’s Intention
4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Monday 3 April
Public liturgy and live-stream

Monday of Holy Week
Isaiah 42:1-7; Ps 26; John 12:1-11
9.40am Rosary 10am Joan Greenwood RIP.

Tuesday 4 April
Public liturgy and live stream

Tuesday of Holy Week
Isaiah 49:1-6; Ps 70; John 13:21-33, 36-38
9.40am Rosary 10am David Wright RIP

Wednesday 5 April
Public liturgy

Wednesday of Holy Week
Isaiah 50:4-9; Ps 68; Matthew 26:14-25
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 6 April
Public liturgy and live stream

Thursday of Holy Week
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 115; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15
6pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Victoria RIP

Friday 7 April
Public liturgy and live stream

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:12-53:12 Ps 30; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
10 am to 11 am Church open for private prayer: Confessions
Midday Walk of Witness from the Nicholson Memorial
3pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion.
6pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 8 April
Public liturgy and live-stream

Holy Saturday
10am to 11am Church open for private pray: Confessions
Exodus 14:15-15:1; Ex 15; Ps 29; Isaiah 55:1-11; Is 12; Romans 6:3-11; Ps 117; Matthew 28: 1-10
7pm Easter Vigil For you, the people of the Parish

Sunday 9 April
Public liturgy and live-stream

SOLMUNITY OF THE RESSURRECTION OF THE LORD
Acts 10:34, 37-43; Ps 117; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9
10am Theresa Ahearn
4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Parish Priest
Parish Administrator
St Mary’s Catholic Academy
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle
Safeguarding Rep
Archdiocese of Birmingham
NSPCC
Gift Aid Co-ordinator
Hospital Chaplaincy
Macclesfield District Hospital

Fr Martin Pratt
Mrs Alice Murray
Mrs G Turner
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Pope’s prayer intention for April Let us pray for a Culture of peace and non violence. We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life Can you set aside one day each month to pray for Vocations? If so, could you, sign the list at the back of church, please.

Please pray for the sick: Jenny Kirkham, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura.
Due to data protection legislation, in order for a name to be printed in this newsletter, the consent of the person who is unwell needs to be given.

Praying for the Faithful Departed Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary “Marish” Kania. Her Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Easter Tuesday, 11 April, at 11.15am here at St Mary’s followed by committal at Carmountside at 1230pm.

Anniversaries: Winifred Ena Birks, Mary Booth, Margaret Mary Foster, Joseh Kosak, Frank Nash, Constance Raybone, Thomas Spencer, Ellen Warbrick, Harold Hambleton, Edith Hudson, Mrs Keates, Dorothy Knight, Gertrude M Chell, William Stanley Pugh, Jack Trafford, Mrs Dymn, Annie Ingham, Francis Prendergast, Sister Teresa Davies I.B.V.M., Josephine Poultney, Charles Henry Malkin, Roddy, Edward Mottershaw, Angela Mosley, Eileen Mooney, Patrick Lawlor, Phyllis Birchenough, Josephine Taylor, Doreen Mary Szydelko, Elsie Murphy, Annie Spencer, Gladys Wood, Adam Nech, William Spencer, Irene Kuszniarska, Raymond John Plant, Terry Elizabeth Bradley, Gertrude Furby, Anthony Laurence Davies, Sister Martha Cliff I.B.V.M, Mary Spencer, Joseph Anthony Rushton, Michael Horgan, Tadeusz Bielecki, Vincent Kwiatkowski.

Dear friends, It is Holy Week! From Thursday's evening Mass of the Lord's Supper until Easter Sunday we shall observe the Easter Triduum which is the most important liturgical season in the Church's calendar because we celebrate the saving action of Christ. For me, it is my prayer that we all know the figure and message of Jesus Christ. It would be a great act of witness if everyone in our parish – young and old – is present to participate in the liturgical celebrations in church. Please don't miss a Holy week ceremony because it is too long. You may wish to invite a neighbour to one of this week's celebrations. Give courage to a parishioner that you know who has not been to church for a long while; it might be the invitation and incentive that they are waiting for. Let's celebrate these days together! Let's make the effort to be in church for this Holy Week. Let's make a Holy Moment, let's make a sacrifice to enter fully into this week and let's make it holy.

Holy Moments Are you making Holy Moments. I want to share with you some recent Holy Moments: Two of the children in our school have sacrificed attending dance classes so that they can be at Sacramental Preparation in order to be able to receive their First Holy Communion – isn't that an amazing act of witness! All of the children in our school walked 14 km for the CAFOD Big Lent Walk on Wednesday – that is 14,000 Holy Moments. We need to catch up! Since the beginning of Lent there has been Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our church every day. This has been achieved by co-responsibility and sacrifice. I want everyone in our parish to have a strong devotion to being at Mass every Sunday, genuflecting with care (I know some are unable due to health), and receiving Holy Communion with respect and reverence.

Holy Week in church Can you help on these days, please? Palm Sunday – this weekend we shall continue with a Family Mass even with the School holidays. Holy Thursday 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper – the customary Washing of Feet is an essential part of Holy Thursday Mass. If you can volunteer for this, please add your name to the list. To all who have volunteered, please bring your own towel. Good Friday 12noon Walk of Witness – It is our turn to lead this annual event. It starts at the Nicholson Memorial at 12noon and there is a silent walk of witness to the Butter Cross in the Market Square. Your support at this would be greatly appreciated, please. Holy Saturday – 11am Sweep and Clean in and around the church; flowers for Easter; changing the altar cloths; removing the Passiontide veils followed by Hot Cross Buns, tea and toast. If you can help, please let me know. The members of the St Mary's Scout Group have agreed to light the New Fire for the first part of the Easter Vigil.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession These are the time for Confession this week

- Monday 3 April at 7pm at St Augustine's, Meir, Penance Liturgy with individual confession
- Friday 7 April between 10am and 11am
- Saturday 8 April between 10am and 11am
- Or, please call to make an appointment.

Archbishop Bernard's Pastoral Letter I recently read the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter in which he reminded us of his vision for our Archdiocese, "We are called to be a Catholic diocese which is: faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour." He also asked us to, "try to see co-responsibly what needs to change for the good of the Church's mission within your parish or across the wider deanery." I am incredibly grateful to you for everything that you do that shows we are co-responsible for the life and mission of our parish. There are three roles where I am looking for help at the moment:

- I am looking for two or three maintenance teams of at least two people to conduct monthly visual maintenance checks. This includes one grotty job of cleaning grids. If you can help, I will be very grateful to you.
- I am looking for a team of two or three to assist with opening and locking the church on Saturday evenings for Mass.
- I am looking for new members to join one of the cleaning teams after Mass on Sunday mornings. If you help by giving 20 – 30 minutes once a fortnight to clean the church and keep it in top condition, please see me or one of the members of the cleaning team.
- If you can help with these, please let me know.

St Mary's SVP The dedicated SVP Group is continuing to support elderly, isolated and lonely parishioners with meals on wheels. Last weekend we had a special second collection so that they could continue their mission. The members of the SVP have asked me to convey their gratitude for the generous collection which is a great encouragement to them and it will help them to help 5 families and many parishioners who are alone or unwell at the present time.

Dates for the diary

- 15 – 16 April Missionary appeal for the Spiritan Fathers.
- 20 April 7pm Journey in Faith
- 27 April During the afternoon, Confessions at St Mary's Academy for School Years 4, 5 and 6, 4pm in church Penance Liturgy for those children making their First Confession
- 5 May 7pm Mass for HM Charles III
- 6 May Coronation Day
- 7 May Sunday Social following Mass.
- 8 May Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III
- 13 May 6pm Family Mass on the anniversary of the opening of St Mary's church. We hope to begin Mass with children bringing posies of prayers and placing them in front of the statue of St Mary at the beginning of Mass.

Easter Monday Traditional Mens Mass There will be the Traditional Easter Monday Mens Mass at Sacred Heart Church Tunstall in thanksgiving for the Blessed Sacrament at 10 am.

Second and other collections

- Good Friday, 7 April Annual collection for the Holy Places and Shrines of the Holy Land
- Easter Weekend Is one of the collections for Parish Priest and forms a major part of his income.
- 15 -16 April Mission appeal by the Spiritan Fathers. Their Congregation was founded in 1703. Today there are over 3000 professed members of the Congregation with lay Associates. Their mission continues in more than 60 countries around the world. Here is a link to their website <https://spiritans.co.uk>
- **Collection** Last week's collection Gift Aid £113 Non- Gift Aid £93.55 Total £206.55

• *Have a great week! With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Martin*