

**The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek**  
**This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216**  
**Compton, LEEK, Staffordshire, ST13 5NH**  
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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 October**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
**TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
Habakkuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4; Ps94; 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14; Luke 17: 5-10  
6pm      Family Mass, Toby Higgins RIP

**Sunday 2 October**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am      Janusz Szura  
4pm      Rosary and Benediction

**Monday 3 October**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
Galatians 1: 6-12; Ps110; Luke 10: 25-37  
9.40am Rosary      10am Anna RIP

**Tuesday 4 October**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Memorial of St Francis of Assisi**  
Galatians 1: 13-24; Ps 138; Luke 10: 38-42  
9.40am Rosary      10am Sophia Marie Pandthal RIP

**Wednesday 5 October**  
*Public liturgy*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
Galatians 2: 1-2, 7-14; Ps116; Luke 11: 1-4  
9.40am Rosary      10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

**Thursday 6 October**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
Galatians 3: 1-5; Luke 1: 69-75; Luke 11: 5-13  
9.40am Rosary      10am For you, the People of the Parish

**Friday 7 October**

**Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary**  
Galatians 3: 7-14; Ps110; Luke 11: 15-26  
1.30pm Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy, parents and parishioners are welcome!

**Saturday 8 October**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
**TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
2 Kings 5: 14-17; Ps 97; 2 Timothy 2: 8-13; Luke 17: 11-19  
6pm      Family Mass, Martyn Wilkes RIP

**Sunday 9 October**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am      Mike Hennessey RIP  
4pm      Rosary and Benediction

**Parish Priest**  
**Parish Administrator**  
**St Mary’s Catholic Academy**  
**Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle**  
**Safeguarding Rep**

Fr Martin Pratt  
Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz  
Mrs G Turner  
Mrs R Waugh  
Appointment pending  
Archdiocese of Birmingham  
NSPCC  
Mrs M Lawton  
University Hospital North Midlands  
Macclesfield District Hospital

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**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for October: For a Church open to everyone:** We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

**Please pray for the sick:** Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura and those who are in self-isolation and have been diagnosed with Covid-19.  
*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.*

**Prayers for the Faithful Departed** We pray for the repose of the souls of Pam Webb and Johanna Renshaw. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Winifred Rushton; Leonard Martin; Robert Prendergast; Patrick William Higgins; Mary Martina McGowan; Zbigniew (Bish) Lazowski; Charles Stuart Talks; Ann Van de Graaf; Ivy Catherine Woodings; Gordon Broadhurst; Ann Walmsley; Jonas Pretonis; Alan Boardman; Sister M de Sales Kelly I.B.V.M.; Ellen Mary McDonough; Theresa Rushton; Roland Richardson; Patrick O’Donnell



Dear friends, Archbishop Bernard will be visiting St Mary's as part of the wider visitation of all the parishes in the North Staffordshire Deanery. The parishes in our Deanery cover a large area from Clayton and Trent Vale, all the parishes in the Potteries, and several parishes across the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The Archbishop will be visiting the parish to meet you. You are his parishioners and it is right that you have the chance to meet with him. The Visitation is not an inspection. I haven't received details when the Archbishop will be here. It would be good that as many people as possible meet him. The Visitation will be focused on the Diocesan Vision: "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."

Since the last Visitation in March 2018, there have been huge changes to our lives: the pandemic, the cost of living, the impact of the war in Ukraine, and how the media reports all of this to us. We are to provide the Archbishop with some key parish statistics and your responses to the Synodal Pathway. All of this will need to be in the context of a realistic look at future structures that are viable: there may not be a resident Parish Priest or two Sunday Masses. You will know that there are fewer people coming to church for Mass and in a short time there will be less than 100 priests for the parishes in our Archdiocese. We will not be able to sustain our current practice too far into the future.

With this in mind, I am reminded of the parable of the fig tree (Luke 9:6-9)

"Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' " "Sir," the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not then cut it down.'"

I need **your support**, friends! Let's be responsible for our part of the vineyard. Let's nurture it. Let's make it grow so that it will produce good fruit. I believe that we can reverse the trend. Let's be bold. Let's show that we want God in our lives. I want to encourage you to these actions:

- Let's return to Mass - I want to invite those who have not been to Mass since the beginning of the pandemic; those whose children will be receiving First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation next year: let's support the children in the best way by bringing them to Mass!
- Let's return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Let's set aside 5 minutes every day to pray.
- Let's share our time, talent and treasure.

**A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church: Why go to Confession?** In our Synodal responses, there was an overwhelming request for encouragement for the Sacrament of Confession. Here is the first part of an article, "Why go to Confession?" What is Confession? Why is sin so harmful? What's needed for a good Confession, and why do we ask for forgiveness from a man and not directly from God?

**Why go to Confession?** Confession is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ to forgive sins, when he said to his apostles: "Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you retain, they are retained" (Jn 20:23).

We go to confession because the new life given to us by God in baptism can be weakened and lost through sin. This is why Christ wanted the Church to continue his work of healing and salvation through this sacrament.

*Through the sacramental absolution of the priest, who acts in the name of Christ, God grants the penitent forgiveness and peace, restores the grace by which we live as a child of God and can reach heaven, eternal happiness. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1420-1421; 1426; 1446)*

**October, the month of the Rosary** Almost every weekday we pray the rosary before Mass: the group of parishioners in church are our parish prayer group with people joining online. We pray for a number of intentions: some for particular causes in our parish, others for events we see and hear about in the news. If you can support the daily prayer of the rosary especially during the month of October I am sure that it will strengthen your prayer and faith.

**A million rosaries Tuesday 18 October** Children are being encouraged to pray the rosary for peace and harmony in the world on 18 October: it would be great if we could join them! Let's take up this initiative and be part of something great!

**Rosary during October at St Mary's Catholic Academy** The school would like to welcome you to share in saying at least a decade of the Rosary with the children of the Little Way prayer group on a Tuesday and Wednesday lunch at 12:45-1pm during the month of October. If you would like to join with them in saying the Rosary, at any point, or know other parishioners, parents, grandparents or carers who would like to join, please let Mrs Mellor know by calling the school office.

**Deanery Station Mass Tuesday 18 October 7pm** Can help on this occasion, please? It is my hope that a good number of people will come from the parishes across the deanery. We need some help with stewards to welcome people to the church and guide people at Holy Communion, and with refreshments after Mass. If you can help, please sign the list at the back of the church.

**Calendar for 2023** Our St Mary's Church Calendar for 2023 is now on sale after Mass at £5. Could you buy two calendars? The SVP group could then pass on the second calendar to one of the people they visit at home.

**Painsley Catholic College Parish Links meeting** Painsley Catholic College is inviting two parishioners to be Parish Links: as numbers of priests and people attending Mass grow smaller, it is vital that we continue to build links with our Catholic Schools and with other local parishes. Could you help with this? The next meeting will take place at Painsley Catholic College on Thursday 6 October at 11am. Please be in contact with Fr Martin.

**Sunday 13 November: Remembrance Sunday Poppy display** Following the great success of last year's display of knitted poppies for Remembrance Sunday, we are going to repeat the project this year with the hope a bigger and better and brighter display in the Avenue. If you can knit some bright red poppies following the same pattern as last year, please let us know by sending a message to [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk). There are patterns available at the back of the church. We also need volunteers to help with the assembly of the knitted poppy display in the avenue on Saturday 12 November at 10.45. Please send a message via email if you can help with this.

**Sunday Social** We shall hold these on the following Sundays after 10am Mass. If you can help with setting up and clearing afterwards, please let us know at [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk) - Sunday 23 October, Sunday 27 November + 200 Club, Sunday 18 December + 200 Club

**Christmas Raffle** We already have 12 amazing prizes including a crystal vase, lunch for two at the Blue Muggle, a meat voucher and many more. Tickets will be available soon. Can you take some tickets and sell them to your neighbours please?

**Youth Day Weekend 19-20 November, 2022** The amazing students at Painsley Catholic College will join us for 6pm Mass on Saturday 19 November, leading music and singing and writing and reading the Bidding Prayers.

**Missio Red Box Collections** Please don't leave donations at the presbytery. Make cheques payable to 'Missio Red Box'. Mark the reverse side of the cheque with reference - BIR131 and send in the post to Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU.

**Being safe in church** While there are no legal restrictions in place, we want to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. So we ask that:

- Use the hand sanitizer as you arrive at and leave the church.
- Please consider wearing a face covering while in church, as an act of charity to those who remain vulnerable or return home to vulnerable relatives.
- A number of benches still have cordons for those who wish to keep a physical distance and the church will be ventilated.

**Dates for your diary**

Monday 26 September	Bible Book Club on Zoom 6.30pm
Friday 7 October	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Thursday 13 October	SVP meeting after 10am Mass
Tuesday 18 October	7pm Deanery Station Mass at St Mary's
Monday 21 November	Mass for deceased relatives, friends and benefactors and those who have died during the pandemic.

**Holy Days of Obligation**

Tuesday 1 November All Saints' Day

**Second Collections**

Next weekend, 8/9 October there will be a second collection for Cafod.

23/24 October Missio

5/6 November

Johnson Associates for sick and retired priests

19/20 November

Catholic Youth Services

3/4 December Poor Parishes