

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 12 February	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Jeremiah 17:5-8; Ps1; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26 2.30pm You, the People of the Parish
<i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	
Sunday 13 February	10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int) 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 14 February	Feast of St Cyril, Monk and St Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe Acts 13: 46-49; Ps 116; Luke 10: 1-9 10am John Kelsall
<i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	
Tuesday 15 February	Feria in Ordinary Time James 1: 12-18; Ps 93; Mark 8: 14-21 10am Holy Souls (HB)
<i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	
Wednesday 16 February	Feria in Ordinary Time James 1: 19-27; Ps 14; Mark 8: 22-26
<i>No Mass today</i>	
Thursday 17 February	Feria in Ordinary Time James 2: 1-9; Ps 33; Mark 8: 27-33 10am Spec. Int. (MF) 4pm In Church: Meeting with parents
<i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	
Friday 18 February	Feria in Ordinary Time James 2: 14-24, 26; Ps 111; Mark 8: 34-9:1 10am Rosemary Kirkham (RIP)
<i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	
Saturday 19 February	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-23, 22-23; Ps 102; 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49; Luke 6: 27-38 2.30pm Ray Cossburn (RIP)
<i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	
Sunday 20 February	10am For you, the People of the Parish 4pm Rosary and Benediction
<i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz	administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
St Mary’s Catholic Academy	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 714944
Safeguarding Rep	Appointment pending Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0800 800 500
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

Please pray for the sick Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Brian Dale, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, David Wright, 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.

Let’s pray for the Faithful Departed We remember in our prayers Fr Gabriel Maguire CSSP and Mgr John Heslin.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for February: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Anniversaries Basil Stafford, Ena Maria Bowcock, Elizabeth Hampson, Jane Sheldon, Donal McKay, Samuel Steele, Elizabeth Godwin (Dolly), Anne Goddard, Bernard Duffy, Nellie Brassington, Michael James Woodcock, Leonard Jonathan Hoyland, Stefan Yaraslow Harasimow, Margaret Whittaker, Stephen John Milward, Malcolm Jones, Mary Harris, John Ball, John Healey, Malcolm William Jones, Janina Nech, Kazia Albert



Dear Friends

I want to thank the members of our Parish Finance Committee for their support and encouragement over recent months during the repairs to our church. It hasn't been an easy project, but it is almost over and I'm very pleased with the work which has been completed.

A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church! We're on the way of walking, talking and listening to each other as we focus on Christ who calls us to "Love one another as he has loved us." Thank you for your response to the questionnaire. I have received replies during the week. Please do complete the questionnaire and return it to me by 20 February. Please don't be anxious: this is not a test nor an exam; there are no right or wrong answers. Pope Francis and every Parish Priest want you to know that you are valued members of the worldwide Church and we want you to be proud of it!

First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation for Children in School Year 3 and Year 6 at St Mary's Academy On Thursday, 17 February at 4pm, there will be a meeting in church for the parents and carers of the children in Year 3, Year 6 and those who chose to wait until this year for their children to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Attendance at this meeting is an essential. There is an expectation that all children preparing for First Holy

Communion and Confirmation be at Mass with their family every Sunday.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Children in School Years 7 and 8 at Painsley Catholic College A preparation programme for children in School Year 7 and Year 8 who weren't able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation due to the restrictions of the pandemic has been arranged at Painsley Catholic College. Parents will have received an application form which requires my endorsement. There is an expectation that the children involved in this process be at Sunday Mass with their family every Sunday.

Being Safe in Church A full Covid Risk Assessment will be conducted later this week. I have been keeping up with parishes in our diocese and they too are taking a cautious approach as the restrictions are being relaxed. So, let's take care of each other, let's show Christ-like love by continuing to use the hand sanitizer, wear face coverings, maintain a social distance, there is scientific evidence to prove that ventilation disperses covid particles and droplets, make sure that you conduct regular lateral flow tests at home and have your Covid vaccines. Baptisms, weddings and funerals can continue with all these precautions in place.

Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation – will be celebrated in the narthex, face to face, we have a screen to keep both the priest and the penitent safe.

Septuagesima Sunday In the traditional calendar of the Church, this Sunday is known as Septuagesima Sunday, the third Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the ninth Sunday before Easter. The three Sundays before Lent are a mini season encouraging us to be ready for the Season of Lent. To accompany your newsletter this week, there is a very helpful guide to the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession. The guide for Confession is for adults and I have available similar guides for teenagers and children. Pope Francis reminds us that God never tires of forgiving us in the Sacrament of Confession.

Lent at St Mary's The Season of Lent will begin on Wednesday 2 March, Ash Wednesday. There will be a Liturgy of the Word with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at School during the day and a Parish Mass at 6pm.

During Lent, let's treat ourselves to a spiritual uplift, let's ...

- Go to Mass. Saturday at 230pm and Sunday at 10am. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday in church at 10am. If you are feeling uncertain and anxious about being in the church with a large group of people, try coming to Mass during the week when the congregation is smaller.
- Go to Confession. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in church on Saturday between 10am and 1030am and by appointment.
- Pray for 5 minutes each day. During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross on Fridays and Sundays at 4pm. Please take a Walk with Me booklet home with you, available at the back of church.
- Sharing time, talent and treasure. There are a number of ways to help around the parish. We are looking for volunteers to help with church cleaning; the Ministry of Welcome; Sweep and Clean; Ministry of Reader; and SVP.

Easter Duties The Church wants every member to receive Spiritual Benefits from Mass and Confession and asks us to make the Easter Duties; going to Confession, going to Mass, and receiving Holy Communion. In our diocese, the time for making the Easter Duties is between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Volunteering at St Mary's In 2021 we calculated over 2100 hours of volunteering in our parish. This covers the gamut of jobs in the parish from Reader and Eucharistic Ministers at Mass, to cleaning in the church and grounds, to administration, to arranging flowers, to cleaning altar linen. Your help is needed more than ever. If you can help, even if it is for an hour each week, what a difference it would make. Here are some of the key roles where we need help:

- **Church cleaning** on Sunday after Mass and Baptisms, when they occur. Since the phased reopening of the church in July 2020, we have had two teams of cleaners making sure that our church is a safe place. As we move forward, we can't pick up from two years ago. Could you help as part of a team of cleaners on Sunday after Mass, please?
- **Ministry of Welcome** to greet parishioners and visitors at the door of the church, to make people welcome, hand out newsletters, Mass sheets, be a point of contact for people looking for the priest!
- **Sweep and Clean**, Friday 25 February from 2pm, to do a big clean in the church and to tidy the car park, avenue and other outside areas.
- **Ministry of Reader**, Saturday Mass especially; children from School will continue to read at the monthly Family Mass.
- **SVP**, can you help our enthusiastic SVP Conference?
- **Brass cleaning** - before the pandemic, there was a great routine in place. Can you recommit to this? Can you help to make sure that the brass candlesticks are clean and shiny?

If you can help, even for an hour a week, please let me know. I can put you in contact with the right person. It is best to send an email to me at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Friday 17 February	Meeting in church for parents at 4pm
Friday 25 February	Sweep and Clean
Wednesday 2 March	Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent
Friday 4 March	Women's World Day of Prayer at the Leek Salvation Army Citadel, 730pm
Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June	Extended Bank Holiday to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

At Facebook Mass we can't have a collection Thank you to those who have used the "Donate" button on the Parish Website. If you would like to donate by standing order, please send an email to me at the Parish Office at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk.

Collection Gift Aid - £93.43 Non Gift Aid - £109.17 Total - £202.60 **Standing orders** January 2022 - £1,289.50

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

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