

**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’.**

<b>Saturday 12 March</b> <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <i>Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18; Ps 26; Philippians 3: 17-4:1; Luke 9: 28-36</i> 2.30pm Pam Finney RIP (J.F.M)
<b>Sunday 13 March</b> <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	10am (Spec Int) Janusz Szura 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction
<b>Monday 14 March</b> <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> <i>Daniel 9:4-10; Ps 78; Luke 6:36-38</i> 10am For You, the People of the Parish
<b>Tuesday 15 March</b> <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> <i>Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20; Ps 49; Matthew 23: 1-12</i> 10am Mary Jordan
<b>Wednesday 16 March</b> <i>No Mass</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> <i>Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Ps 30; Matthew 20: 17-28</i>
<b>Thursday 17 March</b> <i>No Mass</i>	<b>Feast of St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland</b> <i>Jeremiah 1: 4-9; Ps 116; Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20</i>
<b>Friday 18 March</b>	<b>Lent Feria, Commemoration of St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</b> <i>Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Ps 104; Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46</i> Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy in the morning 3pm Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday 19 March</b> <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. <b>SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH</b> <i>2 Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16; Ps 88; Romans 4: 13, 16-18,22; Luke 2: 41-51</i> 230pm Edward and Mary Szczotka RIP
<b>Sunday 20 March</b> <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <i>Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; Ps 102; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9</i> 10am For you, the People of the Parish 4pm Stations of the Cross 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  
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**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.*

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for March:** For a Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

**Anniversaries** Mary Lewis, George Albert Hill, Stefan Kowalczyk, Vera Mary Piggott, Sidney Francis Hurst, Sister Anne Antonia Mckee I.B.V.M., Elsie Nash, Alice Coyle Cooper, Jane Munday, Evelyn Carding, Joan Doreen Shufflebotham, John Goodfellow, Martin James Moran, Elsie Moran, Marie Theresa Balay, John Brindley, Audrey Oulsnam, Sister Scholastica Davies I.B.V.M., Margaret Ann Ryan I.B.V.M., Sister Veronica Bill, Frederick Vincent Wood, Halina Turek



Dear friends,

"Love one another as I have loved you." How has your Christian life been enriched this week? For me, last Monday's meeting with the parents of the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation was a highlight. I am very grateful to the parents who came along and are willing to support their children at this crucial moment of spiritual development. I want to encourage everyone in our parish that communion is essential. We have communion with both God and each other. Being in church for Mass is important because we see others living their faith; we are witnesses to each other and we need this contact

to build up and affirm our faith. We are doubly blessed in Leek because our church is decorated with stained glass windows of both characters from the Bible and saints of every time and place with whom we have communion. We are also in communion with believers all around the world: we are part of the Church!

**Holy Week 2022.** These are the times of the Liturgies and devotions which will take place in church during Holy Week:

Thursday 14 April	Friday 15 April	Saturday 16 April	Sunday 17 April
6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	10am Stations of the Cross for families 3pm Liturgy of the Passion	10am Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows 7pm Easter Vigil	10am Easter Sunday Mass

I have sent an email to Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, asking them to sign up to help on these occasions.

I want to invite 12 people to have their feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. There is a sign up sheet in the Sacristy.

**A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church and looking at a new way of doing things** I am incredibly grateful to you for completing and returning the Synod Questionnaires. We are now on the journey! The replies have been collated and will be both available for all and sent to the diocesan office in Birmingham very soon.

Looking ahead it is important that we begin to plan for the next 10 years. It is crucial that we remain united. There is the very likely possibility that in you will have to share your Parish Priest with another parish or parishes. This will mean significant changes due to the geographical location of St Mary's to our nearest neighbouring parish.

It is important that we establish our expectations and our boundaries so that we are ready for any significant changes which may be ahead. Have a look at the video which I posted on the Parish Facebook page. Initially, we shall have to establish clear boundaries on the use of the presbytery. Its primary use is a private residence: the word, "presbytery" means the house of the presbyter, the priest; traditionally there would have been two priests and a live-in housekeeper. That is not the case anymore. We have to weigh up if it can be modified in such a way that the function of a private residence and a parish meeting room can run side by side. In the meantime, face to face meetings can take place in the narthex of the church immediately after morning Mass.

Following the last two extraordinary years, I now need your help more than ever before. Both the Church and the parish need your loyalty. We are not able to go back to how things were two years ago or expect that someone else will be there. Can you help with the following:

- Cleaning the church after Mass on Sundays. There are currently two teams who have been doing this for us since July 2020. Can we make two more teams of 5 people, please?
- Being part of the welcome ministry (Stewards) on Saturday and Sunday
- Opening and closing the church before and after Mass on Saturday and Sunday
- Setting up for Mass and the smooth running of the sacristy
- Encouraging your family and friends to return to Mass in church
- Being part of a winter weather team to move snow and put down grit
- Are you interested in becoming an Altar Server?
- Are you interested in becoming a Reader and be part of a rota for the Saturday Mass?
- Could you join the St Vincent de Paul Society or the Knights of St Columba?
- Could you help to restart the brass cleaning group?
- Sweep and Clean on Friday 1 April immediately following Stations of the Cross – I want to put up the veils for Passiontide and Holy Week.

**Being safe in church while at Mass or other occasions** I am very grateful to you for your continuing co-operation with our desire to keep each other safe while in church especially the most vulnerable; there are people who come to church and return home to vulnerable relatives also. We all know that all the legal requirements have been lifted, we ask for your consideration of others even if this is different in other churches.

I am aware that some people are comfortable with not wearing a face covering, and there are others who are not ready for this. Personally, I am not ready to do without a face covering for my own personal, private reasons.

So, in church, we are asked to:

- Use the hand sanitizer when we arrive and when we leave
- Wear a face covering if you wish; face coverings must be worn when singing
- Singing is being introduced gradually; hymn books can be used.
- The church is to be ventilated: It is Leek and it is winter: wear a good coat, please!
- The cordons on the benches will remain except for one side aisle where the cordons have been removed.
- Be mindful of others: someone on your bench may be vulnerable or the person on your bench may be returning home to someone vulnerable.
- Baptisms can take place either during Mass or after Mass; Weddings and Funerals can take place with limited numbers and the other mitigations in place.
- Prearranged face to face meetings to be held in the narthex; groups to make arrangements for meetings either immediately following Mass or other times with a church key holder. All surfaces: chair backs, desk tops are to be cleaned after the meeting by those in attendance.

**Lent at St Mary's 2022** The season of Lent reminds us of the sacred dignity which we received at our Baptism. The 40 days of Lent prepare us to celebrate and to take part in the 4 most important days of the Christian calendar: Holy Thursday's evening Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday's Solemn Celebration of the Passion; Holy Saturday evening's Easter Vigil; and, Easter Sunday's celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Please do come to these four principal celebrations of our faith. During Lent this year, let's prepare for Easter and renew our Christian living by

- **Going to Mass** Let's encourage one another to be at Mass.
- **Going to Confession** The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession is celebrated in church on Saturdays 10am to 1030am.
- **Praying for 5 minutes every day** As a parish of prayer let's be united in these intentions: For peace in Ukraine; that we will be stewards of creation; for an end to the pandemic and for the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation
- **Can you help support these collections during Lent:**
  - Saturday 12 / Sunday 13 March CAFOD Lent Fast
  - Saturday 19/ Sunday 20 Collection for the Ukraine Saturday 26 / Sunday 27 March St Mary's Parish SVP
  - Saturday 2 / Sunday 3 April Easter Flowers Friday 15 April The Holy Places in the Holy Land

**The Edge@Alton Youth Group** has made rosary decade beads, bookmarks and Easter Candles to raise money for the Donna Louise children's hospice. There will be a basket of items on sale at the back of church in the coming weeks.

**Mass cards** I have had some bespoke Mass cards printed with images from two of the stained glass windows in church: one design is for Mass for the Deceased and the other for a Special Intention. The Mass cards are £1 each.

**Dates for your diary** Monday 14 March Bible Book Club at 630pm

Saturday 9 July Leek Club Day. Planning is underway. Soon we will be asking for volunteers to help ensure the Day is safe.

**North Staffordshire Catholic Deanery** Holy Trinity CAFOD/Live Simply group present Lenten Reflections with the Gospels, Pope Francis's Laudato Si', and stories from around the world. On the Tuesdays of Lent at Coolock, Stubbs Gate, ST5 1LH at 7pm.

**Kenelm Youth Trust and North Staffordshire Youth Ministry** Is pleased to announce that a new online youth leaders training programme has started on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. For more information, send an email to [victoriahamilton@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk](mailto:victoriahamilton@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk)

**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](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk).

**Collection** Gift Aid - £178.00 Non Gift Aid - £236.50 Total - £414.50 Standing orders £1251.50 Thank you for your generous support of our parish

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