

## 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 13 May

*Public liturgy and live stream*

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confession

*Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 65; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21*

12 noon Nuptial Mass

6pm Family Mass Maureen Evans RIP

### Sunday 14 May

*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am Dominic RIP

4pm Rosary and Benediction

### Monday 15 May

*Public liturgy and live-stream*

### Easter Feria

*Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149; John 15:26-16:4*

9.40am Rosary 10am. Elda Mathewson.

### Tuesday 16 May

*Public liturgy*

### Easter Feria

*Acts 16:22-34; Ps 137; John 16:5-11*

9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

### Wednesday 17 May

*Public liturgy*

### Easter Feria

*Acts 17:15,22-18:1 Ps 148; John 16:12-15*

2pm Early Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord For you, the People of the Parish

### Thursday 18 May

*Public liturgy and live stream*

### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: Holy day of Obligation.

*Acts 1:1-11; Ps 46; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20*

7pm Donor's Intention

### Friday 19 May

*Public liturgy*

### Easter Feria

*Acts 18:9-18; Ps 46; John 16:20-23*

1.30pm School Mass Walsh Family INTS

### Saturday 20 May

*Public liturgy and live stream*

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER World Communications Day

10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confession

*Acts 1:12-14; Ps 26; 1 Peter 4:13-15; John 17:1-11*

6pm Walsh Family INTS

### Sunday 21 May

*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am Piotr Zwierski RIP

4pm Rosary and Benediction

### Parish Priest

Fr Martin Pratt

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### Parish Administrator

Mrs Alice Murray

### St Mary's Catholic Academy

Mrs G Turner

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### Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle

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### Safeguarding Rep

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### Archdiocese of Birmingham

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### Gift Aid Co-ordinator

Mrs M Lawton

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### Hospital Chaplaincy

University Hospital North Midlands

tel 01782 676400 ext 76400

### Macclesfield District Hospital

tel 01625 663386

**Pope's prayer intention for May For church movements and groups** We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

**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.*

**Anniversaries:** William (Bill) Henry, Elda Mathewson, Thomas Bostock, Dorothy Eileen Ash, Aleksander Jablonski, Edna Bernadette (Bunny) Rider, Marian Joy Witton, Father Joseph Anderson, Peter Roberts, Kenneth Oliver, Iwan Johny Terluk, Agnes Smith, George O'Brien, Agnes Sullivan, Hilda Whitehouse, George Roby, Gilbert Hambleton, Leonard Michael Barker, Steven Thomas Allen, Elizabeth Smith, William Robert Whitton, William John Stevenson (Bill), John Moss, Angela Bird

Dear friends, **Anniversary of the opening of our church** Today (Saturday 13 May) is the anniversary of the opening of our church in 1887. Our beautiful church is our place of worship, our place of prayer, it where we receive and meet Christ in the Sacraments and it is the place from which our mission begins. Following the lockdowns and the uncertainty of the last few years, let's confidently "Love one another as Christ has loved us" by being at Mass every Sunday, going to Confession once a month, praying for 5 minutes every day and sharing our time, talent and treasure.

**Holy Moments.** Are you making Holy moments? Have you heard about a Holy Moment? Let's continue to collaborate with God by making Holy moments. The more Holy Moments we make, we shall transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

**Archbishop Bernard needs your help with the Diocesan Vision** Archbishop Bernard's vision for our diocese is, "Our Vision is to be a Catholic Diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service to God and neighbour." The Archbishop wants to invite you to be part of the unfolding of his vision in three local meetings which will take place with parishioners from the parishes across our North Staffordshire Deanery at St Teresa's, Trent Vale. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 31 May again at St Teresa's. This meeting will focus on the four areas of the diocesan vision: evangelisation; formation; liturgy & worship and social outreach. Two people have already offered to represent us. It doesn't mean that no one else can; it is a case of the more people from our parish at the meeting, the better!

#### **Wednesday 17 May / Thursday 18 May Ascension of the Lord. Holy Day of Obligation**

This week, the Church will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. That means we are obliged to be at Mass because of the importance the Church places on this celebration. I do want to encourage you to be generous in being at one of the two Masses. They are:

Wednesday 17 May at 2pm in church an Early Vigil Mass with the children from St Mary's Academy

Thursday 18 May at 7pm in church

**Preparing for Pentecost** This year Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday 28 May. It is the third most important celebration in the Church's calendar and the event recalled in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is depicted in one of the stone carvings in the reredos. One of the oldest prayer customs in the Church, a Novena, or nine days of prayer has its origins in the nine days Our Lady and the Apostles prayed together between the Ascension and Pentecost. Let's take up this tradition this year and pray for our parish that the Holy Spirit will be the instigator and protagonist of our life and mission. Here is a prayer which was prayed everyday by Saint John Paul II.

*Holy Spirit, I ask you for the gift of Wisdom to better know You and Your divine perfections, for the gift of Understanding to clearly discern the spirit of the mysteries of the holy faith, for the gift of Counsel that I may live according to the principles of this faith, for the gift of Knowledge that I may look for counsel in You and that I may always find it in You, for the gift of Fortitude that no fear or earthly preoccupations would ever separate me from You, for the gift of Piety that I may always serve Your Majesty with a filial love, for the gift of the Fear of the Lord that I may dread sin, which offends You, O my God.*

#### **Let's be a parish which treasures Mass, the Blessed Sacrament and receiving Holy Communion**

It has been noticeable since the beginning of the pandemic that more people were joining Weekday Mass and it was a significant part of their lives, I do encourage you to be at Weekday Mass in church. This year, since the beginning of Lent, we have been able to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament almost every day. And as we continue to celebrate the Easter Season, this is a great moment for us to build up both our practice at being at Mass and to build up our knowledge. It would be a great if we all knew the parts of Mass in the same way a musician knows and understands a piece of music or an engineer understands the mechanics of car. Over the next few weeks, I shall reproduce here extracts from a helpful article about the Mass.

**Prayer over the Offerings** "Then, the offering: the bread and wine of men. It is very little, but it is accompanied by prayer: 'Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts: and that the sacrifice which today we offer you, O God, our Lord, may be brought to your presence and be made acceptable.' Again, a reminder of our smallness and of the desire to cleanse and purify all that is offered to God: 'I will wash my hands... I have loved the beauty of your house...'

As a parish which treasures the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament and receiving Holy Communion, here some important dates:

Saturday 10 June 11am First Holy Communion

Saturday 10 June and Sunday 11 June Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) during the Masses at this weekend, there will be a blessing and commissioning for the Eucharistic Ministers in our parish.

Thursday 22 June 7pm Meeting with Eucharistic Ministers in church

**The Confessional and the Sacrament of Reconciliation** Since the reopening of the church following the lockdown, the Confessional has been an additional store room for furniture. It now seems a good time to use the Confessional for its intended purpose: the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There are some small items maintenance which are required before it can be used.

**Piety Stall** This weekend only! 50% Sale on all items. Remember it is good to have your crucifixes, rosaries and statues blessed.

**Sacramental Preparation** Sacramental Preparation has restarted in school on Thursdays. It is essential that children attend these; if not, they cannot be admitted to the Sacraments.

#### **Holy Days of Obligation**

- Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles, Martyrs
- Wednesday 28 June 2pm Early Vigil Mass in church with the pupils and staff of St Mary's Academy
- Thursday 29 June 7pm Mass in church

**Date for you Diary** Thursday 18 May 10.30am SVP meeting in the Narthex

**Requests for help** I am incredibly grateful for the huge response to the request for help with the Maintenance teams.

**Christian Aid Week** Next week is Christian Aid Week 14-20 May. You can donate online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Sunday 14 May 2023 Christian Aid United Service at St. Luke's Church at 4.00 pm.

Saturday 20 May 2023 Christian Aid 'Big Brekki' event at St. Edward's Church from 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

Everyone will be most welcome at both these events.

**Collections** Next weekend, there will be a Second Collection for Catholic Communications Sunday. The proceeds of this collection assist the Communications Team at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Please visit the Bishops' Conference website: [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk). Here you will find the latest news, features, events, podcasts and more. You can also sign-up for the communications team's weekly newsletter.

**Collection** Last week's collection Gift Aid £186.00 Non- Gift Aid £174.41 Total £360.41p

The April 2023 standing order donations were £1,141.50p

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