

The Catholic church of St Mary Leek  
Compton  
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This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham  
Registered Charity no. 234 216



Parish Priest Fr Martin Pratt

St Mary's Catholic Academy, Cruso Street, Leek  
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Parish Newsletter for Sunday 13 December 2020

YEAR OF THE WORD: THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

All the listings below are live-streamed on the parish Facebook page

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Sunday 13 December

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11; Lk 1: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

935am Church open

Public Mass and live-stream

10am For you, the People of the Parish

4pm **Live-stream** - Rosary and Benediction

Monday 14 December

Memorial of St John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church and renowned mystic

Live - stream Mass

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17; Ps 24; Matthew 21: 23-27

910am Rosary 930am Margaret Fowler RIP (JK)

Tuesday 15 December

Advent feria

Live - stream Mass

Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13; Ps 33; Matthew 21: 28-32

910am Rosary 930am Dennis Wilkes RIP

Wednesday 16 December

Advent feria

No live - stream today

Isaiah 45: 6-8, 18, 21-26; Ps 84; Luke 7: 19-23

Thursday 17 December

Advent feria: O Sapientia

Live - stream Mass

Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Ps 71; Matthew 1: 1-17

Please note change of time

940am Rosary 10am Mary Szczotka RIP

Friday 18 December

Advent feria: O Adonai

Live - stream Mass

Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Ps 71; Matthew 1: 18-24

Please note change of time

940am Rosary 10am Ray Cossburn RIP

Saturday 19 December

Advent feria: O Radix Jesse

Live-stream Mass

Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25; Ps 70; Luke 1: 5-25

940am Rosary 10am Joseph Delicata RIP

Sunday 20 December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: O Clavis David

Day of Prayer for

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 88; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

Expectant Mothers

935am Church open

Public Mass and live-stream

10am Ken and Ada Worthington RIP

4pm **Live-stream** - Rosary and Benediction

**Weddings and Baptisms** – If you are looking to arrange either a Wedding or a Baptism, please be in contact with Fr Martin.

**Funerals at St Mary's** – unfortunately, at present, it is not possible to hold Funerals in church.

**Going into hospital** For a Chaplain at the University Hospital North Midlands, please ask a member of the ward staff or call 01782 676400 Ext 76400. For a Chaplain at the Macclesfield District General Hospital, please call 01625 663386

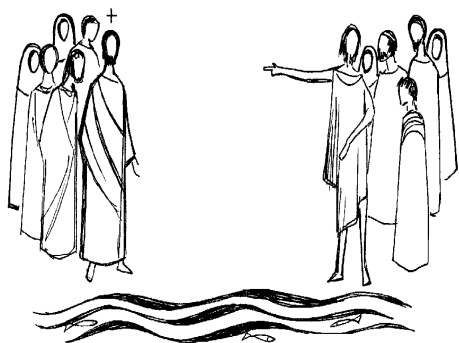
**Please pray for the sick** Joan Floyd, Edward Walmsley, Chris Rea, Audrey Pointon, Rosemary Emery, Kathryn Higginbotham, Brian Dale, Norman Syddall, Sheila Syddall, Andrew Clifford, David Wright and those who are in self-isolation and have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Due to data protection legislation, 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 December** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer

**Please pray for Faithful Departed** We pray for those who have died recently and due to Covid-19.

#### Anniversaries

Kathleen Moss 13/12/1991	Jack Jackson 13/12/1993	Albert (Bob) Prince 13/12/2007	John Harold Crimes 15/12/1985
Mary Millicent Hudson 15/12/2004	Dennis Wilkes 15/12/2017	Winifred Joyce Mellor 16/12/1990	Mary Szczotka 16/12/2019
Frances Roberta Turner 17/12/1985	Freda Priestman 17/12/1999	Julia Hermit 17/12/2006	
Mgr Alfred Sperling (PP 1884-1923) 19/12/1923	Alfred Whitworth 19/12/1983	Richard James Halpin 19/12/1998	
John Bosco McCarron 19/12/1999	Eileen Mary McNulty 19/12/2004		



Dear friends, you are doing great! I am incredibly grateful to each parishioner for your daily support of weekday Mass; it is very reassuring when the small eye icon appears on the live-stream feed! During the 1960s at the Second Vatican Council, the Church defined its vision of participation at Mass as, “full, active and conscious”. This is what you are doing by tuning in each day. By participating in daily Mass you are becoming familiar with the Church’s routine of seasons and the Bible readings used at Mass; you are making daily Mass a major part of your prayer life; you are doing what the Church had in mind all those years ago.

I am very grateful for all the support with maintenance and admin; your generous financial support; and, all the other ways you contribute to our parish. I want to thank those who donated the Christmas tree in the church and those who decorated it and set up the Christmas Nativity scene.

From Thursday of this week, the focus of Advent will be the Gospel readings taken from the beginning of Matthew’s and Luke’s Gospels. They are sometimes called the Infancy Narratives by

the scholars. These Gospel readings form a waiting area before the rest of the Gospels unfold with the mission of Jesus. You will also notice that I have indicated the traditional title for each of these days from the ancient hymn, O come, O come, Emmanuel with the title of each of verses of the hymn which are known as the “O” Antiphons. From Thursday and for the next few weeks, daily Mass will be at the slightly later time of 10am.

As we look ahead to Christmas, let’s keep Christ as our focus. Christmas will be different for everyone this year. We can all experience the spiritual riches of Christmas in many ways: please continue to join and support the online Masses; families and individuals can make their daily 5 minutes of prayer at their own Christmas Nativity scenes at home; during your prayer time remember those who have been particularly impacted by the pandemic; and, due to the restrictions, Confession will only be on request and at a social distance; make use of the Act of Perfect Contrition which helps us of us to trust in God’s mercy.

During the last week, Pope Francis gave the Church a great gift: a Year of St Joseph, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the title we have given to St Joseph: Patron of the Universal Church. This will be a great year-long celebration! I will give more details in the coming days.



### These are the details of our Christmas celebrations at St Mary’s:

#### Thursday 24 December, 2020

1205pm Church open

#### Christmas Eve

1230pm Early Vigil Mass

#### Friday 25 December, 2020

835am Church open

#### Christmas Day

9am Christmas Day Mass

**Online booking** If you wish to be present in church for Mass, it will be essential to book your place at one of these Christmas Masses. There is no need for volunteers to book: your place is waiting for you! Both Christmas Masses will be live-streamed. This is the link:

[eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-to-celebrate-the-fourth-sunday-of-advent-tickets-131934151599](https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-to-celebrate-the-fourth-sunday-of-advent-tickets-131934151599)

The link is available on the Parish Facebook page also.

**Look after yourself and each other!** When we are part of a team each person is valued and everyone values each other. Let’s keep that good example and act of witness.

- Keep in contact with your relatives and friends: call someone every day.
- Keep in contact with those who live alone, and not just the elderly: priests are encouraged to call another priest every day.
- Keep in touch through the Parish Facebook page
- Keep up with your daily prayers and routine
- Keep up with hobbies and pastimes
- Keep joining online Mass
- **STAY POSITIVE:**

The smallest gestures are most often the most appreciated and can make a world of difference. Let’s remain united and resolute. You are doing great!

### St Mary’s: a parish Praying and Working together

**Our Parish Working Together: Can you help with the reopening of the church?** This will only be possible with **your** help! If you can help as a steward or cleaner, please let me know! Send an email to me at [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)

**Our Parish Praying Together: a Parish Prayer** Please pray for our parish that we will continue to be a place where we meet Christ in the Sacraments and each other. I ask you to use this prayer:

**God our Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the people of this parish, and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service so that your love may grow among us, and your Kingdom come. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Online events this week**

<b>Monday 14 December</b>	<b>7pm</b>	Faith for Families
<b>Thursday 17 December</b>	<b>230pm</b>	Bible Book Club

**Raffle and Cards** I am very grateful to the Parish Finance Committee for their support with a Christmas raffle: prizes include gin, whiskey, chocolate, biscuits, a Pamper Hamper, a Christmas cake and a florist’s voucher. Tickets will only be available when church is open on Sunday.

**200 Club** – New members are **ALWAYS** welcome: the more members, the bigger the prizes! Subscriptions run from January – December. Membership is £1 per month. Please send subscriptions, by cheque only, – existing and new members – to Fr Martin at the presbytery. Thank you to the new members!

**At Facebook Mass we can’t have a collection** Many thanks to all those who have started to donate by or increase their standing orders. 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).

If you shop online, it is possible to donate to the parish through the Easy Fundraising initiative. A number of online stores including Amazon contribute to a named charity for each online purchase. Thank you to those who have started to do this.

Last week’s collection: Gift Aid £519.00 Loose cash £89.00 Donations £150.00 **Total £758.00** Thank you for your kind generosity.

### From today’s Second Reading:

**“Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God.” (1 Thess 5:16)**

**Let’s remain united and resolute. With prayers and best wishes, Fr Martin**