

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
Tel 01538 382385 Email stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk Facebook @stmaryleek

**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

Saturday 14 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Peace Day; Exchange Sunday
Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; Ps 39; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3; John 1: 29- 34
6pm Dennis and Martyn Wilkes RIP

Sunday 15 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 16 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
Hebrews 5:1-10; Ps 109; Mark 2: 18-22
9.40am Rosary 10am Sheila Bird RIP (GC)

Tuesday 17 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot
Hebrews 6: 10-20; Ps 110; Mark 2: 23-28
9.40am Rosary 10am Joe Clarke RIP (CF&KJ)

Wednesday 18 January
Public liturgy

Feria in Ordinary Time
Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17; PS 109; Mark 3: 1-6
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Thursday 19 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feast of St Wulstan, Bishop
Romans 6: 17-19, 20-23; PS 106; John 10: 11-15
9.40am Rosary 10am For you, the People of the Parish

Friday 20 January

Feria in Ordinary Time
Hebrews 8: 6-13; PS 56; Mark 3: 13-19
1.30pm Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy, Parents and parishioners are welcome!

Saturday 21 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sunday in Octave of Christian Unity; Sunday of the Word of God
Isaiah 8: 23-9:3; PS 26; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17, Matthew 4: 12-23
6pm Patricia Simpson RIP

Sunday 22 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Martyn Paul Wilkes RIP (M&G K), Sunday Social after Mass
4pm Annual United Service for Christian Unity

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

Fr Martin Pratt tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Mrs G Turner tel 01538 493888
Mrs R Waugh tel 01538 493777

Appointment pending
Archdiocese of Birmingham tel 0121 230 6240
NSPCC tel 0808 800 500

Gift Aid Co-ordinator
Hospital Chaplaincy

Mrs M Lawton ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
University Hospital North Midlands tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
Macclesfield District Hospital tel 01625 663386

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for January: For educators - We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

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.

Please pray for the Faithful Departed We pray for the repose of the soul of Bruce Hargreaves. The arrangements for Bruce’s Funeral are: Monday 13 February 1130am Funeral Liturgy in church followed by committal at Carmountside at 1pm.

Anniversaries: Alfred Moss; Frances Bostock; Irene Sneyd; Jan Josef Bonczyk; Barbara Mary Wood; Margaret Pickford; Arthur Sheldon; Harriet Ann Cartlidge; Kay O’Connor; Paul Birch; Alice Watson; Daniel Joseph Horgan; Jadwiga (Jane) Drabott; Kathleen Greenwood; Edith Hambleton; Vincent William Beetham; Peter Noel Meharg; Mary Goodfellow; Alexandra Duffy; Teresa Gallagher; Rose Palin; Henry Swietek; Josef Jeremi; Zofia Dziurdzik; Lily Cope; Alice Winifred Duffy; Claire Skerritt Stevens; Lilian Clowes; Sister Magdalen Love I.B.V.M; Mary Patricia Hall



Dear Friends,

Holy Moments How many Holy Moments have you made during the week? It was very encouraging to see that a good. Keep making them! It has been good to hear people talking about the Holy Moments they have made and seeing people acknowledge Holy Moments on Facebook: it is great! Let's fill our lives, our homes, our school and every corner of our parish with these collaborations with God and we will change our lives and the world around us.

Invitation - try coming to a Weekday Mass in church It is very encouraging to see so many people at Mass each weekend. Every priest and every parishioner in every parish around the world is rebuilding after the lockdowns of the pandemic. If you haven't been to Mass in church for a while, would you consider being at a Weekday Mass when the congregation is smaller than at Sunday Mass? There is plenty of room so that you can have a physical distance, some of the benches still have cordons to maintain that distance, there is sanitizer gel, and you are welcome to wear a face covering while in church.

Each person and each parish is at their own stage in this rebuilding phase. Let's continue to be considerate of each other; not everyone is at ease with not wearing a face covering. I have asked that the Eucharistic Ministers continue to use sanitizer gel and wear a face covering for the administration of Holy Communion during Mass and at Eucharistic Services. Let's continue to look after each other by "Loving one another as Christ has loved us."

Praying for Christian Unity This weekend marks the beginning of the annual Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity which will run from Wednesday 18 January until Wednesday 25 January. As part of these important days of prayer, here in Leek we have a good tradition of marking this week with a number of events. Here are some:

Sunday 15 January "Exchange Sunday" – some members of each congregation go to church at one of the other Christian denominations. We will welcome some parishioners from St Paul's church and in exchange we shall send a parishioner to Gateway church.

Monday 16 January 12noon at Trinity church, Derby Street, we shall be leading the prayers for Christian Unity

Sunday 22 January 4pm here at St Mary's we will be hosting the annual United Service.

Farewell to Geraldine This week we said farewell to Geraldine who has been the Parish Administrator since November 2021. In that time, Geraldine has done a great job! She has arranged and organised things for me; sometimes at very short notice! I will miss her very much. Many parishioners have got to know Geraldine. We wish both Geraldine and, her husband, Brian every happiness.

Sacramental Preparation at St Mary's Academy:

- **Sacramental Application Forms** These were distributed at our meeting in church last September. Those parents who have not received an application form are asked to see me after Mass. Please ensure these application forms are completed and returned to School as a matter of urgency.
- **The Sacramental Preparation Classes** These classes have started and take place in School every Thursday. I will be attending these classes. Please make sure that the consent forms to attend these classes have been signed and returned to School.
- **Attending Sunday Mass** I do appeal to the parents and carers of the children preparing for these Sacraments to attend Sunday Mass with your child. The Church's obligation to be at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is not meant to be an additional burden, but to show how, we as Catholics, treasure what is truly important to us. I would like to acknowledge it is good to see that some families are attending Mass regularly. I know that a number of children are part of Associations and Sports' Clubs; regular attendance at meetings and practices for these groups is essential. It is the same for Sacramental Preparation. If you choose not to attend Mass the celebration of the Sacraments for your child will be a shallow occasion. Please do support your child in this important part of their Sacramental Preparation. Sunday Masses at St Mary's: Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am.

Ordinary Fridays Our Catholic life observes Friday with special respect because of the Lord's Passion and Death. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus asks us to observe the First Fridays by attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays; it was one of the 12 promises the Lord made to St Margaret Mary during the sixteenth century and has been part of Catholic life ever since. As Catholics we also observe Fridays as days of penance by offering a form of self-denial in thanksgiving for the Lord's gentle mercy and our personal desire for conversion of heart. The Church does not prescribe, however, that fish must be eaten on Fridays. It never did. Abstinence always meant the giving up of meat rather than the eating of fish as a substitute. What the Church does require is that its members abstain on Fridays from meat or some other food or that they perform some alternative work of penance. Here are some practical suggestions for an act of penance on Fridays

- by abstaining from meat or some other food
- by abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement
- by making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross
- by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad
- by making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely

Parish pilgrimage to Knock The proposed pilgrimage to Knock will take place from 22 – 26 May 2023. The fare is £659 per person, plus £150 for single supplement. The five-day trip will be based at the Knock House Hotel a short distance from the shrine, it includes return flights from Manchester to Knock, 10kg luggage allowance, priority boarding, and trips to Ballintuber Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Westport. There is a minimum number of 20 people to make the pilgrimage possible. ***I need to have confirmed numbers no later than Monday 30 January for the pilgrimage to go ahead.*** If you would like to go, please be in contact with Fr Martin as soon as possible, please.

200 Club It's time to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. Please fill out one of the envelopes at the back of the church and enclose cheques of £12 for your annual membership. Cheques should be made out to BRC DTR St Mary's, Leek.

Since the pandemic the numbers subscribing to the 200 Club have substantially reduced. Please consider joining the parish 200 Club this year as it raises valuable funds for the running of St Mary's church and the costs associated with our Masses. There are two monthly cash prizes to be won!

St Mary's Catholic Academy Congratulations to everyone at St Mary's Catholic Academy after being awarded the CAFOD Live simply Award this week. A huge amount of work has gone into the preparation of this from both the pupils and the staff!

Kenelm Youth Trust

Bethsaida Course is a free online course for those wanting to know more about youth ministry in a parish setting. It consists of six sessions and participants will receive a diocesan certificate, as well as covering a wealth of topics and information about the what's, where's, why's and how's of helping young people to meet and grow in the Catholic faith. To sign up or find out more please visit: kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/bcysbethsaida.html

The BCYS Parish Leader's Retreat Day is taking place on Saturday 21st January in Birmingham. It's a refreshing day full of inspiration, information and time to receive rather than give! The day costs £8, takes place at St Mary's Convent in Handsworth and includes talks by Father Michael Dolman (Rector of St Mary's College, Oscott), lunch and workshops. For more information please visit: kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/parish-youth-leaders-retreat.html

Dates for your diary

Monday 16 January	6.30pm Bible Book Club on Zoom
Sunday 15 January	Exchange Sunday
Monday 16 January	12 noon Trinity Church, we are leading prayers for Christian Unity
Thursday 19 January	5pm Parish Council

Sunday 22 January

Sunday of the Word of God – during both Sunday Masses, those who exercise the Ministry of Reader will be blessed
4pm United Service here at St Mary's

Collection

Non Gift Aid £117.77 Gift Aid £109.00 Total £226.77 Monthly Standing orders December £1,186.50

With best wishes to you and your family, Fr. Martin