

**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 15 April**  
*Public liturgy and live stream*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**  
*Acts 2:42-47; Ps 117; Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31*  
6pm      Martyn Paul Wilkes RIP

**Sunday 16 April**  
*Public liturgy and live stream*

10am      Janusz Szura (spec int)

**Monday 17 April**  
*Public liturgy*

**Easter Feria**  
*Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2; John 3:1-8*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am. Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Tuesday 18 April**  
*Public liturgy*

**Easter Feria**  
*Acts 4:32-37; Ps92; John 3:7-15*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Wednesday 19 April**  
*Public liturgy*

**Easter Feria**  
*Acts 5:17-26; Ps 33; John 3:16-21*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Thursday 20 April**  
*Public liturgy and live stream*

**Easter Feria**  
*Acts 5:27-33; Ps 33; John 3:31-36*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Mary McConnel RIP

**Friday 21 April**  
*Public liturgy and live stream*

**Easter Feria**  
*Acts 5:34-42; Ps 26; John 6:1-15*  
1.30 School Mass Donor’s Intention

**Saturday 22 April**  
*Public liturgy and live stream*

10 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
*Acts 2:14, 22-23; Ps 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35*  
6pm      Giovanni Baldin RIP

**Sunday 23 April**  
*Public liturgy and live stream*

10am      Mass and the Sacrament of Baptism      Piotr Zwierski RIP  
4pm      Rosary and Benediction

**Parish Priest**  
**Parish Administrator**  
**St Mary’s Catholic Academy**  
**Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle**  
**Safeguarding Rep**  
**Archdiocese of Birmingham**  
**NSPCC**  
**Gift Aid Co-ordinator**  
**Hospital Chaplaincy**  
**Macclesfield District Hospital**

Fr Martin Pratt  
Mrs Alice Murray  
Mrs G Turner  
Mrs R Waugh  
Mr Malcolm Sproat  
  
Mrs M Lawton  
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**Pope’s prayer intention for April** Let us pray for a Culture of peace and non violence. We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

**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:** Marie Thraves, Sister Mercedes Doyle I.B.V.M., Mary Veronica Browning, Charles Gell, William Walmsley, Euhenia Elkowicz (Gienia), Dorothy May Sheldon, Dorothy Rose Forrester, Hannah Pernice, Charles Thorley, Jack Morris Shufflebotham, Margaret Edith Hoylan, Lucy Moon.

Dear friends, I am incredibly grateful for your support during the Holy Week and Easter weekend. A number of Parishioners have expressed to me how uplifting our celebrations were this year. It was only possible by our working together and it shows that when we do great things can happen! Let's continue to work together as the People of God in our Parish.

Thank you for the very generous Easter Offering. Thank you for all the cards, messages and gifts. You are incredibly kind and generous!

**Mission Appeal** This weekend we have a Mission Appeal by the Spiritan Fathers. The Spiritan Fathers or as they are sometimes known, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, was founded in 1703. Today there are over 3000 professed members of the Congregation and a large number of lay associates. Their mission continues in a number of countries around the world. Here is a link to their website <http://spiritans.co.uk>

**Divine Mercy Sunday** This Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter, is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. There will be an afternoon programme of Devotions to the Divine Mercy at St Augustine's, Meir. Here's the programme:

2pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions

3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction

3.30pm Mass

**Bishop David McGough RIP** Bishop David was a regular visitor to St Mary's. He celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on a number of occasions since he was ordained bishop in 2005; a large number of our young people were Confirmed by him. He was also very supportive to me and other Parish Priests by kindly agreeing to supply Masses here. These are the arrangements for his Funeral which will take place this week:

Wednesday 19 April at Sacred Heart church, Tunstall, Stoke on Trent: 6pm Reception of body and Mass

Thursday 20 April at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham: 12noon Funeral Mass

**The Joy of the Gospel** As we continue to celebrate the Season of Easter, here is another extract from Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel.

5. The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites us to rejoice. A few examples will suffice. "Rejoice!" is the angel's greeting to Mary (*Lk* 1:28). Mary's visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother's womb (cf. *Lk* 1:41). In her song of praise, Mary proclaims: "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (*Lk* 1:47). When Jesus begins his ministry, John cries out: "For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled" (*Jn* 3:29). Jesus himself "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit" (*Lk* 10:21). His message brings us joy: "I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (*Jn* 15:11). Our Christian joy drinks of the wellspring of his brimming heart. He promises his disciples: "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy" (*Jn* 16:20). He then goes on to say: "But I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (*Jn* 16:22). The disciples "rejoiced" (*Jn* 20:20) at the sight of the risen Christ. In the Acts of the Apostles we read that the first Christians "ate their food with glad and generous hearts" (2:46). Wherever the disciples went, "there was great joy" (8:8); even amid persecution they continued to be "filled with joy" (13:52). The newly baptized eunuch "went on his way rejoicing" (8:39), while Paul's jailer "and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God" (16:34). Why should we not also enter into this great stream of joy?

6. There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress: "My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is... But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness... It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" (*Lam* 3:17, 21-23, 26).

7. Sometimes we are tempted to find excuses and complain, acting as if we could only be happy if a thousand conditions were met. To some extent this is because our "technological society has succeeded in multiplying occasions of pleasure, yet has found it very difficult to engender joy". [2] I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of joy which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to. I also think of the real joy shown by others who, even amid pressing professional obligations, were able to preserve, in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith. In their own way, all these instances of joy flow from the infinite love of God, who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction". [3]

8. Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?

#### Dates for the diary

- 20 April 7pm Journey in Faith
- 27 April During the afternoon, Confessions at St Mary's Academy for School Years 4, 5 and 6.
- 4pm in church Penance Liturgy for those children making their First Confession
- 5 May 7pm Mass for HM Charles III
- 6 May Coronation Day
- 7 May Sunday Social following Mass.
- 8 May Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles
- 13 May 6pm Family Mass on the anniversary of the opening of St Mary's church. We hope to begin Mass with children bringing posies of prayers and placing them in front of the statue of St Mary.

#### Second and other collections

- 15 -16 April Mission appeal by the Spiritan Fathers. Their Congregation was founded in 1703. Today there are over 3000 professed members of the Congregation with lay Associates. Their mission continues in more than 60 countries around the world. Here is a link to their website <https://spiritans.co.uk>
- 29 - 30 April Clergy Training Fund
- 20 – 21 May Catholic Communications 17 - 18 June Day for Life
- 1 – 2 July Peter's Pence
- 8 – 9 July Apostleship of the Sea

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