

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 17 December 10am and 5.30pm Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Public liturgy and live-stream **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, O Sapientia**
Day of prayer for expectant mothers *Isaiah 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-24*

530pm – 550pm Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Piotr Zwierski RIP

Sunday 18 December **O Adonai**
Public liturgy and live-stream 9.30am – 950am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
10am Joseph Delicata RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 19 December **O Radix Jesse**
Public liturgy and live-stream *Judges 13; 2-7, 24-25; Ps 70; Luke 1: 5-25*
9.40am Rosary 10am Sheila Bird RIP (VA)

Tuesday 20 December **O Clavis David**
Public liturgy and live-stream *Isaiah 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Luke 1: 26-38*
9.40am Rosary 10am Holy Souls (HB)

Wednesday 21 December **O Oriens**
Public liturgy *Song of Songs 2: 8-14 Ps 32; Luke 1: 39-45*
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Thursday 22 December **O Rex Gentium**
Public liturgy and live-stream *1 Samuel 1: 24-28; 1 Sam 2; Luke 1: 46-56*
9.40am Rosary 10am For you, the People of the Parish

Friday 23 December **O Emmanuel**
Public liturgy and live-stream *Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24; Ps 24; Luke 1: 57-66*
9.40am Rosary 10am Barbara Duffin RIP (CC)

Saturday 24 December	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
<i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	<i>Isaiah 62: 1-5; Ps 88; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1: 18-25</i>
	6pm Vigil Mass – Ada and Ken Worthington
	12 Midnight Mass – For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 25 December	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
<i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Mass During the Day – Michael G Taaffe RIP (MT)

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz	administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
St Mary’s Catholic Academy	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
Safeguarding Rep	Appointment pending	
	Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0800 800 500
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

Can you spare a day this month to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life? If so, could you sign your name on the monthly prayer calendar at the back of the church. Let’s ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for December: For volunteer not for profit organisations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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 Sheila Bird.

Anniversaries: Monsignor Alfred Sperling (PP 1884-1923); Alfred Whitworth; Richard James Halpin; John Bosco McCarron; Eileen Mary McNulty; Sheila Syddall; Freda Cecilia Halpin; Kenneth Worthington; Wictoria Wersockas; Margaret Chant; Margaret Schonau; Joseph Delicata; Peter Nowell; Michael Noel Kelly; Joan Greenwood; Alice Mary Astles; Lucy Foster; Edward Szczotka; Beryl Edna Wheatley; Gladys May Wood; Barbara Duffin; Sister Genevieve Bermingham I.B.V.M.; Jessie Higgins; John William Watson; Irene Stephanie Dale; Eric Arthur Duffin

Dear friends, this is the Fourth Week of Advent and we have a full week to make good spiritual preparations for Christmas. I encourage you to make the most of this final week of Advent. I would like to suggest making a small act of self-denial during this week with the intention for God's blessing on our parish, for the sick, for those in need and for peace in the world.

Let's encourage each other to...

... **be at daily Mass** – the Mass readings this week are all geared to Christmas. The Gospel readings are taken from either the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel or the first chapter of Luke's Gospel and help us to be ready for the Good News of Christmas.

... **go to Confession** – please see times for Confession or call to make an appointment.

... **pray for 5 minutes everyday** There are no rules about prayer. Set aside 5 minutes every day to be in God's presence.



- **The "Walk with Me" prayer books** are available in church – there is brief reflection for each day of Advent and Christmas. This year, the daily meditations are based on the Psalm at Mass.
- **Dynamic Catholic** has two Advent experiences this year to help you prepare for the Best Christmas Ever. Sign up and receive short, inspiring videos in your email inbox every day for free to help you focus on what makes Christmas important. www.dynamiccatholic.com
- **Bishop Robert Barron**, the Bishop of Winona-Rochester, USA, has a daily Bible Reflection based on the Mass readings. Sign up for free daily emails at www.wordonfire.org

... **share your time, talent and treasure**

this week I do need your help so that we can have a great Christmas in church;

- **Thursday 22 December after Mass, can you help with Sweep and Clean?**
- **At the Christmas Masses I need volunteer stewards to ensure that everyone is welcome and the procession at Holy Communion is made with reverence.**
- Could you make a donation to help the parish SVP group reach out to lonely and isolated parishioners?
- Could you help the Leek Food Bank? There is a need for the following items: hair shampoo and conditioner; shower gel; anti-perspirant; toothbrushes. Tinned soup, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit; rice pudding, custard; UHT milk; tinned potatoes; jam; instant noodles.
- Could you support CAFOD's World Gifts project? There are leaflets in church.

Christmas Masses	These are the times of the Christmas Masses, here at St Mary's
Saturday 24 December	6pm Vigil Mass A children's choir has been rehearsing for this big occasion – let's give them support and encouragement!
Sunday 25 December	12 Midnight Mass 10am Mass During the Day

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, in 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. If you would like to go, please be in contact with Fr Martin as soon as possible, please.

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession There will be a Penance Services for Advent on Tuesday 20 December, 7pm, at St Giles, Cheadle

Altar Serving at St Mary's - Altar Servers' Mass Monday 26 December is the Feast Day of the great St Stephen and he's the patron saint of Altar Servers. Mass for the Altar Servers will be at 10am on Boxing Day.

Traditionally, the ministry of Altar Server has been taken up by children who have received their First Holy Communion. If you would like to be part of a team that helps both me and the people of the parish take part in Mass, please let me know.

Christmas Raffle The draw will take place on Sunday 18 December after Mass.

Christmas cards These latest editions have the scene depicted in the stained-glass window. My thanks to Andrew for the photographs. The cards are on sale for £4 for a pack of 10 cards.

St Mary's Parish Administrator The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek, seeks to appoint a part-time Parish Administrator located at the Parish Office, Compton, Leek. 10 hours per week, Monday and Friday, paid at £10.90 per hour. For full details, please contact Fr Martin. Closing date for letters of application and current CV is Friday 13 January, 2023. Applications to be sent to Fr Martin Pratt, St Mary's Presbytery, Compton, LEEK, ST13 5NH

St Mary's Catholic Academy – CAFOD Live Simply Award The amazing pupils of our Catholic School have worked incredibly hard, and they have been awarded the CAFOD Live Simply Award! As part of this award they have campaigned to Parliament, written to Prime Ministers and Heads of Government in different countries, shared assemblies at school, created posters, cooked, shopped sustainably, reviewed and made changes to school procedures. The CAFOD Assessor stated that the children were faith-filled and were living out their mission. The assessor highlighted how the children have far exceeded the Live Simply expectations. Well done!

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 22 December** Sweep and Clean after Mass
- Monday 26 December** Altar Servers' Mass
- Thurs 5 / Fri 6 January**, Epiphany of the Lord, Holy Day of Obligation.
There will be two Masses: Thursday 5 January at 2pm Early Vigil Mass at St Mary's Academy
Friday 6 January at 7pm Parish Mass in church
- Saturday 7 January** 6pm Family Mass
- Sunday 15 January** Exchange Sunday
- Monday 16 January** 12 noon at Trinity Church, we are leading prayers for Christian Unity
- Sunday 22 January** 4pm United Service here at St Mary's

Christmas collection The collection at the three Christmas Day Masses is for the Parish Priest and forms a major part of his income. There are Christmas Offering envelopes available for this collection at the back of the church.

Collection 10 / 11 Dec Gift Aid £169.00 Non-Gift Aid £82.30 Total £251.30

With prayers and best wishes for you and your family this Christmas, Fr Martin