

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 18 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: <i>O Radix Jesse</i> <i>Micah 5: 1-4; Ps 79; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45</i> 2pm Church open 230pm Pamela Finney (KT)
Sunday 19 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	9.30am Church open 10am For you, the People of the Parish 4pm Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction
Monday 20 December <i>Live - stream Mass</i>	Advent Feria: <i>O Clavis David</i> <i>Isaiah 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Luke 1: 26-38</i> 10am Helen O’Brien
Tuesday 21 December <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	Advent Feria: <i>O Oriens</i> <i>Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Ps 32; Luke 1: 39-45</i> 930am Church open 10am Joseph Delicata
Wednesday 22 December <i>No Mass today</i>	Advent Feria: <i>O Rex Gentium</i> <i>1 Samuel 1: 24-28; 1 Sam 2; Luke 1; 46-56</i>
Thursday 23 December <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	Advent Feria: <i>O Emmanuel</i> <i>Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24; Ps 24; Luke 1: 57-66</i> 930am Church open 10am Joan Greenwood RIP
Friday 24 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Isaiah 62: 11-12; Ps 96; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-20</i> 2pm Church open 2.30pm Angela Mosely 5.30pm Church open 6pm Eric Arthur Duffin RIP
Saturday 25 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Isaiah 62: 11-12; Ps 96; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-20</i> 9.30am Church open 10am Michael Taaffe RIP
Sunday 26 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph <i>1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28; Ps 83; John 3: 1-2, 21-24; Luke 2: 41-52</i> 930am Church open 10am Patricia Simpson

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 714944
Safeguarding Rep	Appointment pending	
	Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0808 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

Please pray for the sick Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Brian Dale, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, David Wright, Janusz Szura 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 – Catechists Let us pray for catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Anniversaries 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, Sister Genevieve Bermingham I.B.V.M., Jessie Higgins, John William Watson, Irene Stephanie Dale, Eric Arthur Duffin, Hugo Victor Wood, Laraine Moran, Mary Yates, Winifred Lorna Heath, Michael Gerard (Mick) Taaffe, Margaret Gertrude Lymer (Peggy), Clara Folga



Dear friends,
"Love one another as I have loved you" Let's continue to be guided by our Parish Mission Statement as we begin the lead up to Christmas. Let's keep focused on our Christ centred preparations: please join Mass either in person in church or, if you wish, by the live-stream; please continue to set aside 5 minutes of prayer every day to be in contact with Christ and grounded in him; if you are able to go to Confession, please do; and, if you can help with the church cleaning on Thursday afternoon at 2pm, please let me know. Let's make a small sacrifice to put Christ at the centre of our lives and at the centre of our Christmas celebration.
Let's continue to do all we can to keep one another and ourselves safe from the virus. The uncertainty and the messages we hear in the press may make us anxious, but let's show Christian care to each other: could you call a friend or a relative to check that they are okay? Have you had your booster jab? I received mine during the week at a walk-in centre: if you are unsure, your GP will be glad to help you. Do you conduct regular lateral flow tests? These are free from pharmacies, they are intrusive, but the discomfort is a small sacrifice to know that you and your loved ones are safe.

Christmas at St Mary's This year, Christmas will be a little different. I am very grateful to those who have volunteered to help with the Christmas Masses; it is your help which is enabling us to have public Masses this Christmas. If you can help in any way, it will be greatly appreciated.

This year, there will be an online booking system for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The details are on the St Mary, Leek Eventbrite booking page – stmaryleek.eventbrite.co.uk
I want to encourage as many people as possible to join us for Mass this Christmas. For the children there will be some Christmas Prayer Books which include Bible Readings, Prayers and activities for families on some of the major celebrations of the Season of Christmas. Here are the times of Masses over the Christmas period:

Friday 24 December, 2021 Christmas Eve 230pm Mass 6pm Mass	Saturday 25 December, 2021 Christmas Day 10am Mass	Sunday 26 December, 2021 Feast of the Holy Family 10am Mass	Friday 31st December 2021 10am Mass	Saturday 1 January 10am no 2.30pm Mass.
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Let's continue with the celebration of Advent Let's mark Advent with an enthusiastic opening of our hearts to the Lord. Let's refocus on Christ so that we can celebrate Christmas with devotion. **Here is our plan for Advent:**

Let's join the celebration of Mass Sunday Mass is celebrated in church on Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm and Sunday morning at 10am. If you are unable to join us in person, please join the live-stream on the Parish Facebook page; if you can't join Mass live, please watch the recording later in the day. If you are hesitant about being in church, why not come to Mass on Tuesday or a Thursday at 10am when the congregation is smaller.

Let's pray Please keep 5 minutes of prayer every day during this holy season. During Advent, let's pray the Angelus. This ancient prayer honours Christ's incarnation and is a great accompaniment to this season.

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail, Mary ...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail, Mary ...

The Word was made flesh, And dwelt among us. Hail, Mary ...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pope Francis wants us to be a Synodal Parish The Pope wants us to walk together, focused on Christ and knowing that we are valued members of the Church each capable of making a contribution to its life and mission. Every parish in the Church is being asked to take part in this two-year process. Very soon I will give you a questionnaire to discuss and complete. There are no right or wrong answers. You can complete it individually or with family and friends. The purpose is that everyone knows you are a valued member of the Church and our parish.

Staying safe in church Both the number of vulnerable people attending Mass and the number of people who attend Mass and return home to vulnerable relatives, have deemed it necessary to continue with the cautious approach which is already in place.

Here is a summary of the Covid safety rules.

- The Government's revised Covid guidelines mean that in churches we must carry on as we have been, sticking carefully to the precautions and remembering that no-one should be doing anything in church or for church that they consider too risky for them. The news is not encouraging but things can change very quickly.
- Face coverings are now mandatory
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit
- Keep a 1m distance if you can
- Ventilation is important. Please bring a coat!
- Lateral flow testing: please test yourself each week so that if you know you have the virus you stay at home
- Feeling ill: if you feel unwell, please stay at home and do not risk passing on the virus to others
- Vaccination: HAVE YOUR JABS! This keeps others safe too and is not just about the individual who is vaccinated. We Christians have a duty to take care of others and to neglect any of these ways of reducing infections is to neglect our neighbour. We are all in this together.

The Celebration of the Sacraments and staying safe

Baptisms and weddings may be celebrated (with precautions above). Please see Fr Martin after a weekend Mass.

Confession is available on Saturdays from 10am – 1030am. Confession will be celebrated face to face in the narthex also by appointment. Please bring a face covering.

Funerals - We shall have a gradual and phased reintroduction with the following routines:

NHS Track and Trace	Use of hand sanitizer	Social distancing	Use of face coverings
Limit of 50 people	A team of volunteer cleaners and stewards		The organ cannot be used and no singing

Unfortunately, the Polish Mass and face to face parish meetings remain suspended

Thank you The parish SVP Conference has asked me to convey grateful thanks for the amazing Second Collection which was taken a few weeks ago. Your generosity will enable the SVP to send extra meals to two families and twenty parishioners who all appreciate the support at this difficult time. The Parish SVP Conference also acknowledges thanks for the donation made in memory of John Broun.

Thank you Andy Quinn, the CEO of Fr Hudson's Care, the diocesan social care agency has written to thank you for your generous collection.

Christmas Raffle Raffle tickets will be on sale at the end of Mass £1 for 5 tickets. The prizes include a bottle of scotch, a bottle of wine and a box of Roses, toiletries and a home made Christmas cake. The draw is on Sunday 19 December.

Children's Handmade Christmas cards The amazing pupils at St Mary's Academy have made Christmas cards which will be on sale from next weekend. The cards are of two designs. A pack of 4 cards is £2.

Dates for your diary **Sunday 19 December 4pm**, Nine Lessons and Carols - All Saints' church

At Facebook Mass we can't have a collection 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.

Collection Gift Aid £123.23 Non Gift Aid £131.03 Total £254.26

Christmas Offerings The collection at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is the customary collection for the priest and together with the Easter collection form the main source of income for your priest.

Have a great week! With prayers and best wishes for Christmas, Fr Martin