

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
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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 18 June <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST <i>Genesis 14: 18-20; Ps 109; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; Luke 9: 11-17</i> 2.30pm Mass and First Holy Communion For you, the People of the Parish
Sunday 19 June <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Sue Ellis RIP 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 20 June <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>2 Kings 17: 5-8, 13-15, 18; Ps 59; Matthew 7: 1-5</i> 9.40 Rosary 10am Eric Arthur Duffin RIP
Tuesday 21 June <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	Memorial of St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious <i>2 Kings 19: 9-11, 14-21, 31-36; Ps 47; Matthew 7: 6, 12-14</i> 9.40 Rosary 10am Mary Lowe RIP
Wednesday 22 June <i>Public liturgy</i>	Feast of St John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs <i>2 Maccabees 6:18, 21, 24-31; Ps 30; Matthew 24: 4-13</i> 9.40 Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)
Thursday 23 June <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST <i>Isaiah 49: 1-6; Ps 138; Acts 13: 22-26; Luke 1; 57-66, 80</i> 9.40 Rosary 10am Jim Greney RIP
Friday 24 June <i>live-stream</i>	SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS <i>Ezekiel 34: 11-16; Ps 22; Romans 5: 5-11; Luke 15: 3-7</i> Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy 3pm Sacred Heart Devotions and Benediction
Saturday 25 June <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21; Ps 15; Galatians 5:1, 13-18; Luke 9: 51-62</i> 2.30pm Winefrid Birch RIP (GC)
Sunday 26 June <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am For you, People of the Parish 4pm Rosary and Benediction

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Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
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The Pope’s Prayer Intention for June: For families; We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

Please pray for the sick: Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, 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.

Anniversaries Mary Beardmore, Mary Higgins, Kenneth Wilfred Mascurine, Jack Salt, Zygmunt Zaborowski, Ursula Thorley, George Edward Moran, Basil Dykes, Frederick Jackson, Patrick (Paddy) Joseph F Munday



Dear friends,

Thank you for the support and encouragement you have shown to the young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last weekend. It was an uplifting celebration of Mass! Let's continue to encourage the young people with our good example so that they can confidently take their valued place in the life and mission of our parish and have a meaningful relationship with Christ.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord – Corpus Christi. This weekend, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord. It does not celebrate an event in the life of the Lord, but rather one of the most central aspects of our faith: Christ's presence in the Blessed Sacrament. We need the Mass, Holy Communion,

the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist to feed and sustain our lives. During the lockdown, one of the great blessings of the live stream was Mass became a part of the prayer lives of a large number of people. If you are able to come to Mass during the week, it will be great to see you in church; it is also reassuring to have your support from home also! As we resume being at Mass every Sunday, let's make Mass a priority for our lives. Let's give respect to the Lord who is present in the Blessed Sacrament, in the tabernacle. Let our faith in the Mass and Eucharist grow!

I have inserted below an extract from a very informative article on the Eucharist. I will serialize extracts from this article in the newsletter over the coming weeks to help us to gain a deeper understanding of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist:

Faith in Christ's real presence in the Eucharist has led the Church to offer adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, both during and outside the liturgy of the Mass. During the celebration of the Eucharist, the Person of Christ becomes present—the Word made flesh, who was crucified, died and rose for the salvation of the whole world—in a mysterious, supernatural and unique form of presence. The source of this doctrine can be found in the very institution of the Eucharist, when Jesus identified the gifts He was offering with his Body and his Blood ("this is my Body ... this is my Blood"), that is, with his physical being inseparably united to the Word, and thus with his entire Person.

Christ Jesus is present in many ways in his Church: in his word, in the faithful when they pray (cf. Mt 18:20), in the poor, the sick, the imprisoned (cf. Mt 25: 31-46), in the sacraments and especially in the person of the ministerial priest. But above all He is present in the Eucharistic species (cf. CCC, 1373). What makes the Eucharistic presence of Christ unique is the fact that the Blessed Sacrament truly, really and substantially contains the Body and Blood together with the Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, true God and perfect Man, the same who was born of the Virgin Mary, died on the Cross and now is seated in Heaven at the right hand of the Father. "This presence is called 'real' – by which is not intended to exclude the other types of presence as if they could not be 'real' too, but because it is presence in the fullest sense; that is to say, it is a substantial presence by which Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present" (CCC, 1374).

Let's work towards a transformation which makes us bold Catholics. Being at Mass, going to Confession, daily prayer and sending our children to a Catholic School show that we want God to be part of our lives. This is great! So, let's...

- Return to Mass - Sunday Mass at St Mary's: Saturdays at 230pm and Sunday at 10am and go to Confession.
- Pray for 5 minutes every day.

I would also like to reassure those who for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

The Day for Life Today in England we observe the Day for Life which is an occasion to consider the Christian response to moral matters. The focus this year is the care of the elderly. This theme was chosen because of the present catechesis of Pope Francis on the topic, the tragic impact which COVID had on elderly people, the fact that elderly people are those who are most threatened by the possible legislation of Assisted Suicide and that they are most affected by the current health and social care crisis. This theme also builds on the bishops' plenary resolution of 2018 to focus on ageing and the work which CARITAS is doing on the care of the elderly. We invite people to think again about the value and worth of older persons in families, in parishes, in society, and to make practical choices to build bridges between the generations. In this way we will learn from the wisdom of the elderly and the different rhythm of their lives, "The arrogance of the time on the clock must be converted into the beauty of the rhythms of life." (Pope Francis)

There is a Second Collection today. This collection, which has been much depleted during the last two years, supports various organisation which work in the public square to promote the case for the protection of life from the beginning to its natural earthly end (Anscombe Centre, Right to Life, Living and Dying Well) as well as some practical projects such as Rachel's Vineyard, and homes run for pregnant mothers by Life. A percentage of monies will be directed to local projects.

Leek Club Day 2022 Saturday 9 July 2022 Advance warning – there will be no 230pm on Saturday 9 July. On Saturday 9 July 2022, we invite you to join the Annual Leek Club Day to unite in prayer, worship and celebration of our faith, enabling us to build relationships and grow in faith together with other churches across Leek. Parishioners are invited to join our procession at 13:45pm from St Mary's Academy. You can also join us in the Leek Market Place from 14:30pm. Following the open-air worship and procession, we will return to St Mary's Academy for a celebration of our involvement in this year's event. If you would like to join us, please let us know at the back of Church where we are also seeking volunteers to help us with this year's celebrations. Please speak to Joe Sullivan

Young people of our Parish Some of the children at St Mary's will receive their First Holy Communion this weekend. Please pray for the children who are receiving sacraments at this time.

Being safe in church While there are no legal restrictions in place, we want to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. So we ask that:

- Use the hand sanitizer as you arrive at and leave the church.
- Please consider wearing a face covering while in church, as an act of charity to those who remain vulnerable or return home to vulnerable relatives.
- A number of benches still have cordons for those who wish to keep a physical distance and the church will be ventilated.

A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church Almost all of the Parish Groups have had their first face to face meeting.

I met with some of the Eucharistic Ministers who will resume taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. These visits will resume once all the Eucharistic Ministers with this role have their DBS updated. The Eucharistic Ministers will also resume Eucharistic Services in church in the coming weeks.

Can you help?? **Cleaning the church on Sundays after Mass** – if you can help with cleaning the church after Mass on Sunday, I will be most grateful for your help. **Altar Serving** – the ministry of altar server is very important for young people and help the spiritual development of young people and their families. If you want to start altar serving, working as a member of team, having an important role in our parish, being a leader of the people, please see Fr Martin.

St Mary's Parish Piety Stall has reopened! There are new stocks of First Communion and Confirmation cards; rosaries, crucifixes and Mass Cards.

Parish Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Hednesford, Sunday 3 July The annual pilgrimage Mass to the shrine of Our Lady will take place this year. If you would like to go, the coach will leave St Mary's at 12noon on Sunday 3 July. Please take your own packed lunch. The price is £16 per person. To confirm your seat, please sign the list at the back of the church and pay a deposit of £7 per person. Please place all monies in an envelope marked Hednesford and hand it to Fr Martin. Please bring your own chair!

Dates for your diary

Monday 20 June	630pm Bible Book Club on Zoom
Thursday 23 June	5pm Parish Council in the Narthex
20 – 24 June	Vocations' Week at St Mary's Academy
Wednesday 29 June	Ss Peter and Paul, Holy Day of Obligation. Parish Mass at 6pm.
Saturday 2 July	230pm Family Mass
Saturday 9 July	Club Day: No 230pm Mass on this day.
Sunday 10 July	Social gathering after Mass
Second Collections	This week: Day for Life, 25-26 July; Peter's Pence, 9-10 July; Apostleship of the Sea

Collection Gift Aid £165.00 Non Gift Aid £75.11 Total £240.11 Thank you for your generous support.

With prayers and best wishes for you and your family. Fr Martin