

**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’”**

<b>Saturday 18 March</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Laetare Sunday: Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</b> 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ps 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-14 6pm PJ Lennon RIP	
<b>Sunday 19 March</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Mary Houston RIP 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction	
<b>Monday 20 March</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Ps 88; Romans 4:13, 16-18,22; Matthew 1:12,6, 18-21, 24. 9.40am Rosary 10am Deceased Members of the Cockburn Family.	
<b>Tuesday 21 March</b> <i>Public liturgy and live stream</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Ps 45; Jphn 5:1-3, 5-16 9.40am Rosary 10am For You, the people of the Parish	
<b>Wednesday 22 March</b> <i>Public liturgy</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> Isaiah 49:8-15; Ps 144; John 5:17-30 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion	
<b>Thursday 23 March</b> <i>Public liturgy</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> Exodus 32:7-14; Ps 105; John 5:31-47 1030am Funeral Mass for Judith Broun	
<b>Friday 24 March</b> <i>Public liturgy</i>	<b>Lent Feria</b> Wisdom 2:1, 12-22; Ps 33; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 9.40am Rosary 10am Mary Houston RIP . 3pm Stations of the Cross	
<b>Saturday 25 March</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 6pm Josie Rattigan INTS	
<b>Sunday 26 March</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Piotr Zwierski RIP 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction	
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 <a href="mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Mrs Alice Murray	
<b>St Mary’s Catholic Academy</b>	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
<b>Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle</b>	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
<b>Safeguarding Rep</b>	Mr Malcolm Sproat	<a href="mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Archdiocese of Birmingham</b>		tel 0121 230 6240
<b>NSPCC</b>		tel 0800 800 500
<b>Gift Aid Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs M Lawton	<a href="mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Hospital Chaplaincy</b>	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
<b>Macclesfield District Hospital</b>		tel 01625 663386

**Pope’s prayer intention for March** Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**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.*

**Praying for the Faithful Departed** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Judith Broun. Judith’s Funeral Mass will take place on Thursday 23 March at 10.30am.

**Anniversaries:** Sister Scholastica Davies I.B.V.M., Margaret Ann Ryan I.B.V.M, Sister Veronica Bill, Frederick Vincent Wood, Halina Turek, Jane Manuel, George Cockburn, Margaret Berrisford, Antonia Davies, Kathleen Proctor, Thomas Joyce, Rose Elizabeth Cockburn, Lilian Mellor, Joe Cox, Mother Paul Finn I.B.V.M., Herbert Hambleton, Patricia Anne Kent, Harold Francis Kelsall, Olive Hogan, Joseph Spencer, Margaret (Peggy) Noel, Edward Carding, Patrick Joseph Wallace, Sarah Mary Fitchett, Jack Casey, Doris Julia Kidd, Sister M Paul, Audrey Sheila Paulukiewicz, Joan Barlow, Audrey Margaret Oulsnam, Piotr Zwiercki, Nancy Flanagan, Amelia Cox, Katherine Pointon.

Dear friends, This weekend the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Lent. In the traditional calendar of the Church it is known as Laetare Sunday meaning, "Rejoice!"

**Mothering Sunday** This weekend we observe Mothering Sunday. At the conclusion of a Baptism there is a blessing for the mother. It is a good prayer for today: God the Father through his son, the Virgin Mary's child has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May he bless the mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with her child in thanking God for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard** In his Pastoral Letter, the Archbishop draws our attention for the need to be co-responsible for the life and mission of our parish. The Archbishop has asked all the priests to reflect together and with parishioners on the present pattern of parish life and the resources which are needed to sustain it. He is asking everyone to see how parishes can work together to strengthen the Church's mission. For us, our neighbouring parishes are at least 10 miles away. We should not let this prevent us from reaching out to these neighbouring parishes. For example, a significant issue is the provision of Sunday Masses. We may have to consider changing the time and the number of Sunday Masses. Having said this, I don't want to dissuade anyone from being at Mass. The Church and your parish needs your loyalty more than ever! Let's engage with the process. We need to ask ourselves: how do I see my faith growing in the next 5-10 years? What do I need to help my faith grow in the next 5-10 years? What skills do you have and would be willing to offer and use to help our parish in its mission? How is your belief in God nourished and sustained? Why do I need a parish priest? How do I see myself working in a neighbouring parish? Am I ready to travel to Mass at a neighbouring Catholic parish?

**Can you Help?:** We need maintenance teams of 2 people to make monthly visual checks of both the church and the presbytery. If you can help, please see Fr Martin.

**St Mary's SVP** The dedicated SVP Group is continuing to support elderly, isolated and lonely parishioners with meals on wheels. This outreach work is greatly appreciated by those who benefit from receiving the meals and the assurance of contact. Next weekend, 25-26 March, we shall have a second collection for the SVP so that the group can continue this outstanding mission.

**Parish Safeguarding** I am pleased to let you know that I have appointed Malcolm Sproat as Parish Safeguarding Representative. I am keen that safeguarding in our parish is a positive and affirming part of our life of faith and mission. Everyone in our parish is safeguarded and safeguards; no one is excluded from being cared for and caring for others. We care for each other because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We safeguard each other's physical, emotional and spiritual lives. If you wish to contact Malcolm there is a dedicated email address which only he has access to [sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk) Let's continue to make Holy Moments and the Holy Moment of putting each other's interests first. Over the next few weeks, I shall be undertaking Safeguarding training which is compulsory for all members of the clergy in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The courses which will be conducted online are: Safeguarding Adults; Child Protection; Child Exploitation; Mental Capacity.

**Getting ready for Holy Week** The Season of Lent is geared to renewing the God given dignity which we received from Him at our Baptism and helping us to prepare to celebrate Holy Week and Christ's actions which gave us salvation including our Baptismal dignity. This year will be first year since 2019 when we can celebrate Holy Week as fully as we can. I would like to invite as many as possible to be involved in the celebrations in church. I want this Holy Week to be a community celebration with as many people as possible being involved. Here's how:

**Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 April** Palm Sunday at the beginning of Holy Week celebrates Christ's entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem. Weather permitting, before both Masses we shall gather in the Avenue to recall Christ's arrival at Jerusalem. Mass on this Sunday is also marked by the proclamation of the Passion from Matthew's Gospel. At both Masses, I would like to invite ...

- 2 additional readers to proclaim the Passion.

**Thursday 6 April** Holy Thursday 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper re-remembers the Last Supper, the Washing of the Feet, the establishment of the Eucharist (Mass and the Blessed Sacrament) and the Priesthood. At the end of Mass, there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of repose with watching into the night, recalling Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane I would like to invite

- A reader for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading
- 12 people to have feet washed during Mass
- A Eucharistic Minister
- Can you pray in church after Mass?

**Friday 7 April** Good Friday 3pm Celebration of the Passion. This solemn liturgy is characterised by three actions: the proclamation of the Passion from John's Gospel; the Veneration of the Cross; and, Holy Communion. I would like to invite:

- A reader for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading
- 2 additional readers to proclaim the Passion
- 4 people to assist with the Veneration of the Cross
- 2 candle bearers
- 2 people to prepare the altar cloths
- A Eucharistic Minister

**Saturday 8 April** Holy Saturday 7pm Easter Vigil This is known as the "Mother of all Vigils" because of its importance as the most important act of worship in the Church's liturgical books. There are four parts: the Service of Light, we gather outside the church at the New Fire to bless and light the Paschal Candle and process into the church with lighted candles; the Liturgy of the Word which includes three Old Testament readings, an Epistle and a Gospel reading; next, the Renewal of Baptismal Promises – this is the moment our Lenten programme is aiming at – and the blessing of Holy Water; finally, the liturgy of the Eucharist. I would like help with:

- Preparing, lighting and extinguishing the New Fire
- 2 people to assist with lighting candles at the New Fire and for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- 4 readers to proclaim the Bible Readings
- 2 people to unveil the statues during the singing of the Gloria
- A Eucharistic Minister

If you can help with any of these, please do sign the list in the sacristy.

**Ecumenical events during Lent** At St Wulstan's Wolstanton on Sunday 26 March at 4pm, an Ecumenical Service for Lent, with a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion. The service will be followed by light refreshments. All welcome.

**Good Friday, Friday 7 April, Annual Walk of Witness.** This year, it is our turn to lead the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness in the centre of Leek. I am grateful to the group of people who will be helping with this on Good Friday.

There is a need for marshals to ensure the procession is safe. If you can help with this please let me know.

**Parish Priest references for Foundation Governors and Senior Leaders at Catholic Schools** From time to time, every Parish Priest is asked to provide a reference for a parishioner who is applying to join a Local Governing Board, a Board of Directors or to take on a role as either a Principal or Vice Principal at a Catholic School. This reference is an integral part of the application as these roles are acts of witness in a local parish community, they are formally appointed -like priests - by the Diocesan Bishop, and represent the official teaching office of the Church in a particular school. To be a practising Catholic is more than attending Mass. Here are some clear points to help define a practising Catholic: is a fully initiated member of the community ie Baptised Catholic or Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church; who participates regularly within the Sunday Mass and participates in the prayer life (both public and private); who participates in the social action, the ministry and leadership, and the missionary concerns of the parish; and, he or she should not be at variance in the public forum vis-à-vis major doctrinal or moral teachings; of the church ie live a public life which does not contradict the Church's teachings on relationships and marriage by being a cause of scandal.

#### **Second and other collections**

Next weekend 25 – 26 March A collection for our Parish SVP Group.

Good Friday, 7 April Annual collection for the Holy Places and Shrines of the Holy Land

Easter Weekend Is one of the collections for the Parish Priest and forms a major part of his income.

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>

**Collection for CAFOD** £199.53 thank you for your kind generosity.

**Collection** Last week's collection Gift Aid £181.00 Non- Gift Aid £72.82 Total £253.82

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