

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 19 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-23, 22-23; Ps 102; 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49; Luke 6: 27-38 2.30pm Ray Cossburn (RIP)
Sunday 20 February <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	10am For you, the People of the Parish 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 21 February <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	Memorial of St Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor of the Church James 3: 13-18; Ps 18; Mark 9: 14-29 10am In thanksgiving (S&PB)
Tuesday 22 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Feast of the Chair of St Peter the Apostle 1 Peter 5: 1-4; Ps 22; Matthew 16: 13-19 10am Holy Souls (HB)
Wednesday 23 February <i>No Mass today</i>	Memorial of St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr James 4: 13-17; Ps 48; Mark 9: 38-40
Thursday 24 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Feria in Ordinary Time James 5: 1-6; Ps 48; Mark 9: 41-50 10am Fr Chris Dwyer (JA)
Friday 25 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Feria in Ordinary Time James 5: 9-12; Ps 102; Mark 10: 1-12 10am In thanksgiving (HK)
Saturday 26 February <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7; Ps 91; 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58; Luke 6: 39-45 2.30pm Mary Furlong RIP
Sunday 27 February <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	10am For you, the People of the Parish 4pm Rosary and Benediction

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 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

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.

Let’s pray for the Faithful Departed We remember in our prayers Fr Gabriel Maguire CSSP and Mgr John Heslin.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for February: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Anniversaries Gladys Hulme, Bridget Josephine Wood, Eljasz Holubowski, David William Fairclough, Mary Shakespeare, Peter Gordon Pointon, Patrick Reilly, Edward Malkin, Terence Patrick Quirk, William Lowe, Richard Bielecki, Sandra Owen, George Joseph Camillus Gunia, Karen Helen Fuidge, Eileen Miriam Morton, Francis McDonough, Gertrude E Beck, Robert John Walmsley, Frederick Donald Stanmore, Barbara Gunia



Dear friends, this weekend marks the second weekend before the Season of Lent and the eighth before Easter. In the Church's traditional calendar, it is known as sexagesima Sunday that is the sixtieth day before Easter. The prayer which would have been used was a vibrant appeal to God, "... mercifully grant ... that we may be protected and defended from all adversity." As we look ahead to Lent, let's take some time to consider our prayer during the season. There are some suggestions below.

A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church! We're on the way of walking, talking and listening to each other as we focus on Christ who calls us to "Love one another as he has loved us." Thank you for your response to the questionnaire. I have received more replies during the week. Pope Francis and every Parish Priest want you to know that you are valued members of the worldwide Church and we want you to be proud of it!

Preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation There will be a meeting for the parents of children in School Year 3 and Year 6 at St Mary's Academy who would like to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year. The meeting will take place on Monday 7 March at 4pm in church. The parents of children in School Year 4 and Year 5 who chose to wait till this year will also be expected to attend this meeting also.

For me, as your Parish Priest, I want parents and carers to see the value and importance of their child's spiritual development; I want your faith to be enriched by this process just as much as your child will be; and, I want parents to see the significance and the satisfaction that your child derives from being a valued and respected member of the worldwide Church and being part of its life and mission.

Both St Mary's Academy and I expect parents of children to attend the preparation meeting on Monday 7 March; sign the consent form for their children to attend the Sacramental Preparation in school; and, the children preparing for these sacraments to attend Sunday Mass every week with their families.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Children in School Years 7 and 8 at Painsley Catholic College A preparation programme for children in School Year 7 and Year 8 who weren't able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation due to the restrictions of the pandemic has been arranged at Painsley Catholic College. Parents will have received an application form which requires my endorsement. There is an expectation that the children involved in this process be at Sunday Mass with their family every Sunday.

Easter Duties The Church wants every member to receive Spiritual Benefits from Mass and Confession and asks us to make the Easter Duties; going to Confession, going to Mass, and receiving Holy Communion. In our diocese, the time for making the Easter Duties is between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Lent at St Mary's 2022 The Church's season of Lent will begin on Wednesday 2 March, Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent reminds us of the sacred dignity which we received at our Baptism. The 40 days of Lent prepare us to celebrate and to take part in the 4 most important days of the Christian calendar: Holy Thursday's evening Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday's Solemn Celebration of the Passion; Holy Saturday evening's Easter Vigil; and, Easter Sunday's celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Please do come to these four principal celebrations of our faith.

On Ash Wednesday, there will be a Liturgy of the Word with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at School during the day and a Parish Mass at 6pm.

During Lent this year, let's prepare for Easter and renew our Christian living by

Going to Mass Let's encourage one another to be at Mass. Sunday Masses are: Saturday at 230pm and Sunday at 10am. For weekday Masses check the Parish Newsletter or the Parish Facebook page.

Going to Confession The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession is celebrated in church on Saturdays between 10am and 1030am. God never tires of forgiving us.

Praying for 5 minutes every day As a parish of prayer let's be united in these intentions:

- For peace; that we will be stewards of creation; for an end to the pandemic
- For the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation

These are helpful internet resources for daily prayer:

Word of Fire – Bishop Robert Barron writes a daily Gospel reflection, sign up at wordonfire.org

Dynamic Catholic – This year there is a chance to follow two Lent reflection courses, sign up at dynamiccatholic.com/len

Sharing time, talent and treasure Our parish needs your support more than ever before! Can you help to:

- Clean the church on Sundays after Mass
- With Sweep and Clean on Friday 25 February from 2pm
- With the Ministry of Welcome at Saturday afternoon Mass and Sunday morning Mass
- With our Parish SVP
- With brass cleaning in church
- Can you help support these collections during Lent

Saturday 5 / Sunday 6 March

St Chad's Cathedral

Saturday 2 / Sunday 3 April

Easter Flowers

Saturday 12 / Sunday 13 March

CAFOD Lent Fast

Friday 15 April

The Holy Places in the Holy Land

Saturday 26 / Sunday 27 March

St Mary's Parish SVP

Being Safe in Church The latest Covid Risk assessment was conducted during the week. Let's continue to "Love one another as Christ has loved us" and make sure that we keep one another safe when we are in church by continuing to use the hand sanitizer, wear face coverings, maintain a social distance. We can now safely resume the phased reintroduction of

- Child altar servers can resume when adult servers receive DBS updates.
- The phased reintroduction of singing at Mass can begin with face coverings while singing. Initially two hymns at Mass: a thanksgiving hymn after the administration of Holy Communion and a recessional hymn.
- Prearranged Face to face meetings to be held in the narthex; groups to make arrangements for meetings either immediately following Mass or other times with a church key holder. All surfaces: chair backs, desk tops are to be cleaned after the meeting by those in attendance.
- Continue with limited numbers attending Baptisms if taking place after Mass. These celebrations will take place in the narthex which is well ventilated. Baptisms can take place during Mass.
- Weddings and Funerals can take place with all these precautions in place.

Leek Club Day 2022 The Club Day will take place this year on Saturday 9 July. Planning is underway and very soon we will be asking for volunteers to help to ensure the Day is safe and successful.

Dates for your diary

Friday 25 February

Sweep and Clean – please let me know that you can help.

Wednesday 2 March

Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent

Friday 4 March

Women's World Day of Prayer at the Leek Salvation Army Citadel, 730pm

Monday 7 March

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Meeting for parents at 4pm in church

Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June

Extended Bank Holiday to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

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 - £126.00

Non Gift Aid - £57.00

Total - £183.00

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

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