

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 March **SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
Public Mass and live - stream *2 Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16; Ps 88; Romans 4: 13, 16-18, 22; Luke 2: 41-51*
2.30pm Edward & Mary Szczotka RIP

Sunday 20 March **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**
Public Mass and live - stream *Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; Ps 102; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9*
10am For you, the People of the Parish
4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Monday 21 March **Lent Feria**
Public Mass and live - stream *2 Kings 5: 1-15; Ps 41-42; Luke 4: 24-30*
10am Special Intention RA (JA)

Tuesday 22 March **Lent Feria**
Public Mass and live - stream *Daniel 3: 25, 34-43; Ps 24; Matthew 18: 21-35*
10am Edward Walmsley RIP (S&PB)

Wednesday 23 March **Lent Feria**
No Mass *Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9; Ps 147; Matthew 5: 17-19*

Thursday 24 March **Lent Feria**
Public Mass and live – stream *Jeremiah 7: 23-28; Ps 94; Luke 11: 14-23*
10am Hazel Berrisford (Spec Int.)

Friday 25 March **SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8-10; Ps 39; Hebrews 10: 4-10; Luke 1: 26-38
Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy in the morning
3pm *Rosary: The Joyful Mysteries: Praying for peace*

Saturday 26 March 10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Public Mass and live – stream *Joshua 5: 9-12; Ps 33; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32*
2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 27 March
Public Mass and live – stream 10am Eric Arthur Duffin, RIP
4pm Stations of the Cross 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.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for March: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Anniversaries Mary Lewis, George Albert Hill, Stefan Kowalczyk, Vera Mary Piggott, Sidney Francis Hurst, Sister Anne Antonia Mckee I.B.V.M., Elsie Nash, Alice Coyle Cooper, Jane Munday, Evelyn Carding, Joan Doreen Shufflebotham, John Goodfellow, Martin James Moran, Elsie Moran, Marie Theresa Balay, John Brindley, Audrey Oulsnam, 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



Dear friends,

Last Tuesday, Pope Francis announced that next Friday, 25 March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, he will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. During one of the apparitions of Our Lady to the children of Fatima on 13 July 1917, Our Lady asked that Russia be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. Following the Fatima apparitions there have been various acts of consecration to Our Lady. In 1942, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Our Lady and in 1952 he consecrated Russia to Our Lady. In 1964, Pope Paul VI renewed the consecration of Russia. This Friday, 25 March, I invite you to come to church for Rosary at 3pm when we shall pray for peace and an end to the war in Ukraine.

I want to invite you to take a full and active part in the Holy Week ceremonies. For the last two years, these celebrations, central to our Christian faith, have been curtailed due to the virus. This year we can celebrate them in their entirety. The 40 days of the Season of Lent prepare us to celebrate these days four days. Here's

what's happening during Holy Week this year:

Thursday 14 April	Friday 15 April	Saturday 16 April	Sunday 17 April
6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	10am Stations of the Cross for families 3pm Liturgy of the Passion	10am Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows 7pm Easter Vigil	10am Easter Sunday Mass

Help during Holy Week Can you help with our Holy Week ceremonies, please? The last two years, it hasn't been possible to have all the traditional elements of these liturgies. If you can help, please let me know by sending an email to me at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk. Could you assist with:

Thursday 14 April, 2022 - Having your feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper? I pour (warm) water over your feet. Bring your own towel.

Friday 15 April, 2022 - Could you help with Reading at the Stations of the Cross for families? The Veneration of the Cross during the Liturgy of the Passion? Holding the Crucifix so that people can make their act of veneration?

Saturday 16 April, 2022 - Lighting candles for the members of the congregation at the Easter Vigil?

A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church and looking at a new way of doing things. I am incredibly grateful to you for completing and returning the Synod Questionnaires. We are now on the journey! The replies have been collated and will be both available for all and sent to the diocesan office in Birmingham.

Looking ahead it is important that we begin to plan for the next 10 years. It is crucial that we remain united. There is the very likely possibility that you will have to share your Parish Priest with another parish or parishes. This will mean significant changes due to the geographical location of St Mary's to our nearest neighbouring parish.

It is important that we establish our expectations and our boundaries so that we are ready for any significant changes which may be ahead. Have a look at the video which I posted on the Parish Facebook page. Initially, we shall have to establish clear boundaries on the use of the presbytery. Its primary use is a private residence: the word, "presbytery" means the house of the presbyter, the priest; traditionally there would have been two priests and a live-in housekeeper. That is not the case anymore. In the meantime, face to face meetings can take place in the narthex of the church immediately after morning Mass. Meetings can be at other times when key holders are available; this may take some forward planning. Each group will have to ensure that they conduct their own risk assessment before meetings commence and that cleaning takes place after every meeting.

Following the last two extraordinary years, I now need your help more than ever before. Both the Church and the parish need your loyalty. We are not able to go back to how things were two years ago or expect that someone else will be there. Can you help with the following:

- Cleaning the church after Mass on Sundays. There are currently two teams who have been doing this for us since July 2020. Can we make two more teams of 5 people, please? Are you interested in becoming a Reader and being part of a rota for the Saturday Mass?
- Being part of the welcome ministry (Stewards) on Saturday and Sunday? Are you interested in becoming an Altar Server?
- Opening and closing the church before and after Mass on Saturday and Sunday and setting up for Mass and the smooth running of the sacristy.
- Encouraging your family and friends to return to Mass in church.
- Being part of a winter weather team to move snow and put down grit.
- Could you join the St Vincent de Paul Society or the Knights of St Columba?
- Sweep and Clean on Friday 1 April immediately following Stations of the Cross – I want to put up the veils for Passiontide and Holy Week.

Thank you to those people who have been in contact with me and offered their help and support with opening the church on Saturday and Sunday, with joining a rota for Readers on Saturdays, and with restarting the brass cleaning group. I am very grateful to the parishioners who regularly attend daily Mass: a number of people now have their own job to make sure that daily Mass is ready.

Being safe in church while at Mass or other occasions I am very grateful to you for your continuing co-operation with our desire to keep each other safe while in church. I am aware that some people are comfortable with not wearing a face covering, and there are others who are not ready for this. Personally, I am not ready to do without a face covering for my own personal, private reasons. So we ask in church:

- Use the hand sanitizer when we arrive and when we leave.
- Wear a face covering if you wish; face coverings must be worn when singing.
- Singing is being introduced gradually; hymn books can be used.
- The church is to be ventilated: It is Leek and it's winter: wear a good coat, please!
- The cordons on the benches will remain except for one side aisle where the cordons have been removed.
- Be mindful of others: someone on your bench may be vulnerable or the person on your bench may be returning home to someone vulnerable.
- Baptisms can take place either during Mass or after Mass; Weddings and Funerals can take place with limited numbers and the other mitigations in place.

Lent at St Mary's 2022 Here is a very helpful summary which I found in another Parish Newsletter: During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "Alleluia!" At the end of Lent Masses there is the traditional Prayer over the People which has been used during the Season of Lent for many centuries and renewed with the current edition of the Roman Missal. The liturgical colour for vestment is violet except on the Fourth Sunday of Lent when there is an option for rose coloured vestments. There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled from the fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday. We shall save it all up and let rip with sound, light and colour at the Easter Vigil when we celebrate the Resurrection. During Lent, let's prepare for Easter and renew our Christian living by

- **Going to Mass** Let's encourage one another to be at Mass.
- **Going to Confession** The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession is celebrated in church on Saturdays 10am to 1030am.
- **Praying for 5 minutes every day** As a parish of prayer let's be united in these intentions: For peace in Ukraine; that we will be stewards of creation; for an end to the pandemic and for the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation
- **Can you help support these collections during Lent:**

Saturday 19/ Sunday 20	Collection for the Ukraine	Saturday 26 / Sunday 27 March	St Mary's Parish SVP
Saturday 2 / Sunday 3 April	Easter Flowers	Friday 15 April	The Holy Places in the Holy Land

The Edge@Alton Youth Group has made rosary decade beads, bookmarks and Easter Candles to raise money for the Donna Louise children's hospice. There will be a basket of items on sale at the back of church.

Mass cards I have had some bespoke Mass cards printed with images from two of the stained glass windows in church: one design is for Mass for the Deceased and the other for a Special Intention. The Mass cards are £1 each.

North Staffordshire Catholic Deanery Holy Trinity CAFOD/Live Simply group present Lenten Reflections with the Gospels, Pope Francis's Laudato Si', and stories from around the world. On the Tuesdays of Lent at Coolock, Stubbs Gate, ST5 1LH at 7pm.

Dates for your diary Monday 21 March Bible Book Club at 630pm

Saturday 9 July Leek Club Day. Soon we will be asking for volunteers to help ensure the Day is safe.

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 email me at the Parish Office. stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk.

Gift Aid Envelopes These are now available to collect from the back of church. Could you 'Gift Aid' your donation to St Mary's? If you are a UK tax payer and sign a gift aid declaration, the UK government will add 25p to every £1 you donate. Please see Father Martin or Marie.

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