

**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’.**

**Saturday 2 April**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Isaiah 43: 16-21; Ps 125; Philippians 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11*  
2.30pm Family Mass, Anne Lynch

**Sunday 3 April**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

10am For you, the People of the Parish  
4pm Penance Liturgy with the opportunity of individual confession

**Monday 4 April**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

**Lent Feria**

*Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps 22; John 8: 12-20*  
10am Fr Paul Hughes (Spec Int)

**Tuesday 5 April**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

**Lent Feria**

*Numbers 21: 4-9; Ps 101; John 8: 21-31*  
10am Victoria RIP

**Wednesday 6 April**

*No Mass*

**Lent Feria**

*Daniel 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95; Dan 3; John 8: 31-42*

**Thursday 7 April**

*Public Mass and live – stream*

**Lent Feria**

*Genesis 17: 3-9; Ps 104; John 8: 51-59*  
10am Binory Joseph RIP

**Friday 8 April**

**Lent Feria**

*Jeremiah 20: 10-13; Ps 17; John 10: 31-42*  
Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Academy  
3pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday 9 April**

*Public Mass and live – stream*

10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

*Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps 21; Philippians 2: 6-11; Luke 23: 1-49*  
2.30pm For You, the People of the Parish

**Sunday 10 April**

*Public Mass and live – stream*

10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)  
4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

**Parish Priest**

**Parish Administrator**

**St Mary's Catholic Academy**

**Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle**

**Safeguarding Rep**

Fr Martin Pratt

Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz

Mrs G Turner

Mrs R Waugh

Appointment pending

Archdiocese of Birmingham

NSPCC

Mrs M Lawton

University Hospital North Midlands

Macclesfield District Hospital

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**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.*

**Pray for the Faithful Departed** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Laurence Crowe. He was the Parish Priest of Our Lady's, Lillington, near Leamington Spa. When I was ordained a deacon in 1999, I was appointed to Our Lady's for a short time.

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for April:** We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

**Anniversaries:** Elsie Murphy, Annie Spencer, Adam Nech, William Spencer, Irene Kuszniarska, Raymond John Plant, Terry Elizabeth Bradley, Gertrude Furby, Anthony Laurence Davies, Sister Martha Cliff I.B.V.M., Mary Spencer, Joseph Anthony Rushton, Michael Horgan, Tadeusz Bielecki, Vincent Kwiatkowski, Edith Hudson, Mrs Keates, Dorothy Knight, Gertrude M Chell, William Stanley Pugh, Jack Trafford, Mrs Dymn, Annie Ingham, Francis Prendergast



Dear friends,

We start the fifth week of Lent which is traditionally known as Passiontide; that is the time when the church honours Christ's suffering and death. In church the statues and crucifixes have been veiled; these will be removed so that we can celebrate Easter with great joy and solemnity. During weekday Mass, the Gospel readings continue to be taken from John's Gospel, and there is a special preface used before the Eucharistic Prayer.

I want to encourage you to continue with your Lenten disciplines. If you haven't done anything for Lent there is still time to take up a practice of prayer, charity or fasting. The sacrifice made will be worth it!

I want to invite you to support the Holy Week liturgies this year. The last two years, these solemn celebrations have taken place in a reduced manner to ensure that everyone is

safe. Let's make the time for the Lord and come to the church for these Holy Days which are central to our Christian belief. I want to encourage parents to bring the children to witness and to take part in these celebrations. Here's what's happening during Holy Week:

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

### **Can you help during Holy Week, please?**

Next weekend, we celebrate Palm Sunday and commemorate the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. For both Masses, weather permitting, we shall gather in the avenue for the blessing of palms and the procession.

**Holy Thursday** - would you have your feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's supper? If so, please bring your own towel and sit on an Aisle seat. After the homily, I will pour warm water over your feet.

**Good Friday** - I would like to invite some young people to read at Stations of the Cross at 10am.

**Holy Saturday** - during the Easter Vigil, there is a custom of removing veils from the statues which have been covered; could you help with unveiling the statues during the Easter Vigil? Please let me know.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession** In a change to the schedule today (Sunday) at 4pm we shall have a short Penance Liturgy with the opportunity of individual confession. One of the priests from the Deanery will be here to help.

**A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church** We are at a great moment when we can work together and build up our parish in a number of ways. In the recent Synod Questionnaire, some of the replies offered help in a number of ways. If that was you, please let me know! The offers of help were with: Reading at Mass, singing at Mass, joining the SVP, computer literacy.

You may not have been comfortable with the questionnaire for the Synod. However, you may feel comfortable by indicating your agreement and support with some of the items which were identified in the questionnaire. There are summaries of the responses and if one of these points is relevant to you, please tick or circle the relevant point or points.

**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 early Spring: 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** 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 this Sunday, 3 April, at 4pm
- **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 2 / Sunday 3 April	Easter Flowers
Friday 15 April	The Holy Places in the Holy Land

This week, the second collection is for flowers at Easter. I am very conscious that there have been a number of second collections recently. Please only give that which you are able.

**Preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation** I want to encourage the parents and the families of the children preparing for these important occasions that it is crucial to be at Sunday Mass. We are preparing the children for communion with God and preparing them for communion with the Church - with the people of the parish who will witness the faith when you are at church. Over the last few weeks it has been good to see more families at Mass, and it is great to see you; the sacrifice which you are making will be worth it! Let's all encourage the families of all the children to bring them to Sunday Mass in church. My offer to the parents still stands: if you would like a refresher course in the Catholic faith over the next few weeks, please let me know. I am praying to St Joseph every day for the children and their families.

**200 Club** At present there are 70 members of the parish 200 Club. Membership is £12 for the year. In this way your membership contributes to the ongoing mission and maintenance of our parish enabling us to make sure all the annual servicing of the heating, electrical appliances, and other safety checks can happen; it also enables us to maintain all the property to a high standard; and helps with the purchase of all the items which are needed for the celebration of the liturgy in church and allows the pastoral work and evangelisation to continue.

**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 in the coming weeks.

**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.

**Dates for your diary**

Monday 4 April	Bible Book Club at 630pm
23- 24 April	Mission Appeal – this year the annual appeal is for the Society of African Missions.
20 -24 June	Vocations' Week at St Mary's Academy
Saturday 9 July	Leek Club Day. Soon we will be asking for volunteers to help ensure the Day is safe.

**Gift Aid** Are you a UK taxpayer? If so, and if you sign a Gift Aid declaration, the UK Government will add 25p to each pound you donate to our parish. For more information and how to sign up to Gift Aid, please be in contact with Marie. Her email address is [ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)

**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](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk).

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