

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 July
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Isaiah 66: 10-14; Ps 65; Galatians 6: 14-18; Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20
2.30pm Family Mass, For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 3 July
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Private Intention (MF)
11.30am Sacrament of Baptism

Monday 4 July
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
Hosea 2: 16-18, 21-22; Ps 144; Matthew 9: 18-26
9.40am Rosary 10am Anna Renshaw (Spec Int) (IZ)

Tuesday 5 July
Public liturgy and live-stream

Memorial of St Modwen (Staffordshire), Virgin
Hosea 8: 4-7, 11-13; Ps 113B; Matthew 9: 32-38
9.40am Rosary 10am Donor’s Int

Wednesday 6 July
Public liturgy

Feria in Ordinary Time
Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 104; Matthew 10: 1-7
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Thursday 7 July
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
Hosea 11: 1-4, 8-9; Ps 79; Matthew 10: 7-15
9.40am Rosary 10am Edward Szczotka RIP

Friday 8 July
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
Hosea 14: 2-10; Ps 50; Matthew 10: 16-23
Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy
3pm Rosary and Benediction

Saturday 9 July

No Mass due to Leek Club Day

Sunday 10 July
Public liturgy and live-stream

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Deuteronomy 30: 10-14; Ps 68; Colossians 1: 15-20; Luke 10: 25-37
10am Kathleen Greenward RIP
3pm *St John’s, Alton (Alton Castle)*. Mass with the Edge@Alton Youth Group. All Welcome!

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

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The Pope’s Prayer Intention for July: *We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; May their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility*

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: Philip George Emery; John Patrick Finn; Kathleen Hazelwood; Eileen Winifred Pyssa; Angela Gandolfo; Gertrude Hughes; Sheila Joan O’Donnell; Ryszard Ochuke; Mrs Butler; Frank Kazywicki; Percy Hambleton; Norman Talks; Sheila Mary Borg; Miss May McGlynn; Marguerita Clarke; James Stanmore; Anne Wagstaff; Ernest Bowyer; Joseph Rushton; Joseph Cichosz; John (Jack) Traynor; Kate Challinor; Eugeniusz Stirzemski; Clive William Owen; Fred Goodfellow; Teresa Bonaccorsi



Dear friends,

Returning to Sunday Mass As we return or take up a new, resolute focus of being at Mass in church after lockdowns imposed by the pandemic, we have a great opportunity to renew our belief in both the Mass and the real, Sacramental presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist. Here is the next part of the article on the real presence:

Properties of the Eucharistic Presence Christ's mode of presence in the Eucharist is a marvellous mystery. According to Catholic faith Jesus Christ is entirely present, with his glorified Body, under each of the Eucharistic species, and also in each fragment that results from the division of the species, such that even though the bread may be broken in pieces Christ is not divided. (cf. CCC, 1377). This is a unique mode of presence, one that is invisible and intangible; it is also permanent: once the Consecration has taken place, it lasts as long as the Eucharistic species last.

Eucharistic worship Faith in Christ's real presence in the Eucharist has led the Church to offer the cult of latria (that is, adoration) to the Blessed Sacrament, both during the liturgy of the Mass (and therefore she asks us to genuflect or bow deeply before the consecrated species) and also outside the celebration of Mass: reserving the consecrated hosts with utmost care in the Tabernacle, presenting them to the faithful for solemn veneration, carrying the Host in procession, etc. (cf. CCC, 1378).

Reasons for reserving the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle:

- principally to be able to give Holy Communion to the sick and other faithful who cannot get to Mass;
- also so that the Church can offer adoration to God our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament (especially during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in Benediction, in the Procession with the Blessed Sacrament on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, etc.);
- and also so that the faithful can always adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, through frequent visits. As John Paul II said, "Let us be generous with our time in going to meet him in adoration and in a contemplation that is full of faith and be ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease."

There are two great liturgical feasts (solemnities) on which this Sacred Mystery is celebrated in a special way: Holy (or Maundy) Thursday, the commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist and Holy Orders, and Corpus Christi, the solemnity

Saturday evening Mass The 6pm Mass will be reinstated with effect from Saturday 16 July. There will be no Mass at 230pm next Saturday, 9 July, due to the Club Day celebrations in the centre of the town.

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.

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 The most recent Parish Council meeting took place recently and I am very keen to pursue the priorities which you indicated on the questionnaires. One of the most repeated topics was addressing the shortage of clergy.

Everyone is aware that there are not enough priests for the number of parishes. There are more and more parishes being merged or amalgamated and having to share one priest where in the past there were two priests serving two separate communities. At the recent conference of clergy which I attended we were told that in less than 5 years there would be less than half of the current number of priests working in parishes in the diocese.

If each of the 240 parishes of our diocese supported and encouraged one man to go to the seminary there would be no shortage of priests for parishes. It is important for all of us to support and encourage vocations: the vocation to marriage is good! Married life is a witness of the love that God has for his people. The vocation to single life is good! Single people give a positive and credible witness to their Baptism and Confirmation. The vocation to priesthood is good! I thank God every day that I can serve him in this way.

We share the universal call to be holy and become the best version of ourselves because we want God in our lives. Let's give real encouragement to one another in the different ways that we live the Christian life. When we are at Mass, we see and speak to one another and give a bold witness to our shared communion with each other and all our brothers and sisters around the world. To the married couples, to the single people, to you if you are considering a religious vocation: you are doing great! Keep up the good work! Let's remember our mission: "Love one another."

From this weekend, we shall restart the Vocations Prayer calendar. Please sign up to pray for Vocations for one day during July. The list is at the back of the church. During August, we shall have a day of prayer for Vocations. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for a day and you are invited to come to church to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

It is more and more important that we, together as a parish, support the life and mission of our Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools exist to make Christ known. Let's continue to encourage families to come to Mass in church especially those who don't come often. Please "like" and "follow" both St Mary's Catholic Academy and Painsley Catholic College on Facebook. Send a message assuring the schools of your prayers.

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 helps their spiritual development. If you want to start altar serving, working as a member of a team, having an important role in our parish, being a leader of the people, please see Fr Martin.

Painting and decorating – the toilet at the back of the church requires decorating; the external walls of the garage; and the statue of St Therese in the avenue. Could you and a group of friends look after the sanctuary and two side chapels – with dusting and vacuuming?

Parish Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Hednesford, Sunday 3 July The annual pilgrimage Mass at the shrine of Our Lady will take place later today (Sunday). We are asking that people make their own way to Hednesford as we do not have enough people wishing to go from St Mary's to cover the cost of hiring a minibus. Please take your own folding chair.

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. Please speak to Joe Sullivan if you would like to volunteer. There are sign-up sheets at the back of church for the following: procession marshals; barrier marshals; and marketplace marshals. If you wish to join the procession at St Mary's Academy at 13:45pm, there is a separate sign-up list at the back of church.

Dates for your diary

Monday 4 July	630pm Bible Book Club on Zoom
Saturday 2 July	230pm Family Mass
Saturday 9 July	Club Day: No 230pm Mass on this day.
Sunday 10 July	Social gathering after Mass
Saturday 16 July	6pm Mass restarts
Sunday 10 July & 14 August	Monthly Parish Social after Mass

Holy Days of Obligation

Sat 13 & Sun 14 Aug	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday 1 November	All Saints

Second Collections Collection

9-10 July; Apostleship of the Sea		
Gift Aid £150.00	Non Gift Aid £83.87	Peter's Pence £115.96

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