

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
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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 3 September
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Wisdom 9: 13-18; Ps 89; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33
6pm Vigil Mass for Sunday, Ray Cossburn RIP

Sunday 4 September
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 5 September
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 5: 1-8; Ps 5; Luke 6: 6-11
9.40am Rosary 10am John Connor RIP

Tuesday 6 September
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 6: 1-11; Ps 149; Luke 6: 12-19
9.40am Rosary 10am Tony Lester RIP

Wednesday 7 September
Public liturgy

Feria in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 7: 25-31; Ps 44; Luke 6: 20-26
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Thursday 8 September
Public liturgy and live-stream
Please note change of time

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Romans 8: 28-30; Ps 12; Matthew 1: 1-6, 18-23
8.30am For you, the People of the Parish

Friday 9 September
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-27; Ps 83; Luke 6: 39-42
9.40 Rosary 10am Mass in Church for School Years 3 and 6, Vocations to the Priesthood

Saturday 10 September
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14; Ps 50; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15: 1-32
6pm Vigil Mass for Sunday, Fr Tommy Cockburn RIP

Sunday 11 September
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Sheila Siddell RIP
4pm Rosary 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
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The Pope’s Prayer Intention for September: For the abolition of the death penalty. *We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person may be legally abolished in every country.*

Please pray for the sick: Pam Webb, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, 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.

Prayers for the Faithful Departed We are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of David Wright. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Dionisy (Dennis) Rydzkowski; Joseph Pointon; Gerard (Gerry) McMullen; Margaret Anne Coates; Michael Depczynski; Tadeusz Wojdak; Samuel Hambleton; Esther Gordon; Barbara Elizabeth Priest; John William Barker; Margaret Byrne; Margaret Addy; George Broda; Martin Ernest Kane; Edna Mary Johnson; Eileen Whittaker; Ann Mary Spencer; Alojzy Borkowski; Mary Thelma Enid Shenton; Sister M Magdalen I.B.V.M.; Alf (Adolf) Shelton; John Edward Kenneth Chilcott;



Dear friends, I am incredibly grateful to you for your help and support. There have been some generous responses to my appeal for help especially with opening and locking the church before and after Mass. We cannot expect that someone else will "be there" to open or lock the church because that person may always be present: we should not put anyone under that pressure! It is not reasonable or realistic.

Parish Visitation The Archbishop has written to all the priests of those parishes which will receive a Parish Visitation in the next two years. It is the Archbishop's wish that the topic for reflection during the Visitation is the parish's response to the Diocesan Vision and to its own Synodal Process. The Diocesan Vision is, "Our Vision is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour."

The Visitation is not an inspection but an affirming and listening dialogue about how the parish is living out the vision now and how it will do so in the future. The Opening Meeting will be at Holy Trinity, Newcastle, on Thursday 22 September at 7pm. It is important that we have a good representation at this meeting. If you are willing to attend this meeting and willing to take someone with you, please let me know by email.

The New Academic Year

This week will see the start of a new academic year. Let's put God into the new school year; let's pray for both St Mary's Academy and Painsley Catholic College. If you can, send a message of support to Mrs Turner at St Mary's and Mrs Waugh at Painsley and like and follow the schools on social media.

Here are some important dates: Friday 9 September 10am Mass in Church for Yr 6 and Yr3

Saturday 10 September 6pm Family Mass for Education Sunday

Thursday 15 September 4pm Meeting with parents of children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023.

Parents and carers are advised that the compulsory meeting will take place in church on Thursday 15 September at 4pm. It is essential that parents and carers attend this meeting with their children. I would also like to inform parents of children who will be starting school Year 3 in September that the parents of children aged 7 years old and over wishing to be Baptised must attend a course of instruction. Parents are asked to contact Fr Martin and attend Mass.

School Mass This year school Mass will be celebrated on Friday afternoons.

24 – 25 September Second Collection for Father Hudson's Care This year's annual parish collection for Father Hudson's Care is on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th September. They are very grateful to the Archdiocese and our parish for the support following the serious disruption caused by the pandemic. This is the 120th anniversary of the founding by Mgr. George Hudson who said, "One of the great changes in social outlook of the last thirty years is the recognition of the fact that the child of the poor has the same right to the amenities of life as the child of the rich." Mgr. George said this nearly 100 years ago and this still inspires their work with all people, not only children. He believed that Lazarus does not have to wait till he dies to receive the benefits of God's creation. As in previous years, they will be sending gift envelopes to parishes across the Archdiocese. The envelopes mean they can claim 25% Gift Aid on qualifying gifts at no additional cost to parishioners.

Leek Fair Trade Group The Leek Fairtrade Group has kept the flag flying for Fair Trade in Leek since its formation many years ago. Hence the notices proclaiming Fair Trade at the 5 entrances to the town of Leek. Now it needs some new blood on its committee to ensure its survival. If there is anyone who would be interested in joining Leek Fairtrade Group, to help in ensuring we stay a Fair Trade town and promote Fairtrade fortnight, please contact John Fisher at johnfisher@uwclub.net. We also try and involve our local schools in Leek Fairtrade.

Tuesday 18 October: Deanery Station Mass We have been asked to host this Mass and are inviting parishioners from the neighbouring parishes.

Sunday 13 November: Remembrance Sunday Poppy display Following the great success of last year's display of knitted poppies for Remembrance Sunday, we are going to repeat the project this year with the hope a bigger and better and brighter display in the Avenue. If you can knit some bright red poppies following the same pattern as last year, please let us know by sending a message to stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Sunday Social We shall hold these on the following Sundays after 10am Mass. If you can help with setting up and clearing afterwards, please let us know at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk - Sunday 23 October, Sunday 27 November + 200 Club, Sunday 18 December + 200 Club

World Youth Day, 2023 The Kenelm Youth Trust are offering an exciting opportunity for young people aged 16-30 years to experience the Universal Church in Lisbon at the beginning of the school summer holidays next year. They have a limited number of places available for their pilgrimage group which will be participating in a full formation programme over the next 12 months as well as travelling together to Portugal at the end of July 2023, spending a week hosted by a Portuguese parish and then experiencing the full World Youth Day weeklong programme in Lisbon with the thousands of other young international pilgrims. This culminates with an open air prayer vigil and Papal Mass. Full details can be found via an information pack on the Kenelm website: <https://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/wyd-lisbon-2023.html>

It would be wonderful to have some young people from North Staffs among the pilgrims! Should you require any further support please contact anna.howard@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Season of Creation 2022 The Holy Trinity Laudato Si Group invite you to join them for reflections and prayer with the Gospel, Laudato Si and stories from around the world. These are stand alone gatherings and not a course and are taking place at the Coolock Pastoral Centre in Newcastle under Lyme, in September – Tuesdays 6 + 13, Wednesdays 21 + 27 and October 4 at 7pm. Please contact Philip Mayland on 07717 221971

Let's be dynamic Catholics, let us:

- Be at Mass every Sunday: Sunday Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am
- Go to Confession once a month: Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Saturday 10am – 1030am or by making an appointment.
- Praying for 5 minutes every day
- Sharing our time and talent and treasure.

Can you help? The next parish Sweep and Clean is on Saturday 17 September at 10.45am. Please let Fr. Martin know if you can help.

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.

Dates for your diary

Monday 5 September	Meeting for Eucharistic Ministers after 10am Mass
Thursday 8 September	7pm Journey in Faith
Saturday 10 September	6pm Family Mass in church for Education Day
Monday 12 September	SVP Meeting after 10am Mass, Bible Book Club on Zoom 6.30pm
Thursday 22 September	7pm Deanery Visitation – Opening Meeting at Holy Trinity, Newcastle.
Tuesday 18 October	7pm Deanery Station Mass at St Mary's

Thursday 15 September 4pm in Church: Meeting for parents of children who will receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation during 2023

Holy Days of Obligation Tuesday 1 November All Saints' Day

200 Club The August draw took place last Sunday. The winners have been notified.

Second Collections 10/11 September Catholic Education Service 17/18 September Catholic Evangelisation

24/25 September Fr Hudson's: The social care agency 23/24 October Missio

5/6 November Johnson Associates for sick and retired priests

19/20 November Catholic Youth Services 3/4 December Poor Parishes

Collection Non Gift Aid £74.65 Gift Aid £148.00 Total £ 222.65

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