

**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](mailto: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’.**

<b>Saturday 21 January</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sunday in Octave of Christian Unity; Sunday of the Word of God</b> <i>Isaiah 8: 23-9:3; PS 26; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17, Matthew 4: 12-23</i> 6pm Patricia Simpson RIP	
<b>Sunday 22 January</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Martyn Paul Wilkes RIP (M&GK), Sunday Social after Mass 4pm Annual United Service for Christian Unity	
<b>Monday 23 January</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	<b>Memorial of St Nicholas Owen, Martyr, Layman</b> <i>Hebrews 9: 15, 24-28; Ps 97; Mark 3: 22-30</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Bird RIP (VA)	
<b>Tuesday 24 January</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	<b>Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</b> <i>Hebrews 10: 1-10; Ps 39; Mark 3: 31-35</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Holy Souls (HB)	
<b>Wednesday 25 January</b> <i>Public liturgy</i>	<b>Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle</b> <i>Acts 22: 3-16 Ps 116; Mark 16: 15-18</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)	
<b>Thursday 26 January</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	<b>Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops, Collaborators of St Paul</b> <i>2 Timothy 1: 1-8 Ps 95; Mark 4: 21-25</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am For you, the People of the Parish	
<b>Friday 27 January</b>	<b>Memorial of St Angela Merici, Virgin, Founder of the Ursulines</b> <i>Hebrews 10: 32-39; Ps 36; Mark 4: 26-34</i> 1.30pm Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy, Parents and parishioners are welcome! Joan McKenna Floyd RIP	
<b>Saturday 28 January</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 12-13; Ps 145; 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31; Matthew 5: 1-12</i> 6pm For you, the People of the Parish	
<b>Sunday 29 January</b> <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Piotr Zwierski RIP 4pm Rosary and Benediction	
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 <a href="mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>St Mary’s Catholic Academy</b>	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
<b>Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle</b>	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
<b>Safeguarding Rep</b>	Appointment pending Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0800 800 500
<b>Gift Aid Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs M Lawton	<a href="mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Hospital Chaplaincy</b>	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for January:** For educators - We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

**Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**

Can you set aside one day each month to pray for Vocations? If so, could you sign the list at the back of church, please.  
Mass for Vocations Thursday 2 March, 7pm at St Giles, Cheadle.

**Please pray for the sick:** Jenny Kirkham, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura.  
*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.*

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed** We pray for the repose of the soul of Bruce Hargreaves. The arrangements for Bruce’s Funeral are: Monday 13 February 1130am Funeral Liturgy in church followed by committal at Carmountside at 1pm.

**Anniversaries:** Lily Cope; Alice Winifred Duffy; Claire Skerritt Stevens; Lilian Clowes; Sister Magdalen Love I.B.V.M; Mary Patricia Hall; Winifred Gertrude Rushton; David England; Jan Jurkieweill; John Hall; Sister M Joseph I.B.V.M; Sister Anne Manning I.B.V.M; Helen Ita Brough; Hilda Bowyer; Pamela Lawlor; Joan Kathleen McKenna Floyd; Veronica Rose; Lesley Margaret Salt; Gertrude Hall



Dear Friends, **Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard**

The Archbishop has sent a Pastoral Letter for this Sunday to mark both the Sunday of the Word of God and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**Holy Moments**

How many Holy Moments have you made during the week? During the week I heard from one parishioner how she received a copy of Holy Moments: A handbook for the rest of your life, from her friend. Keep making Holy Moments at home, at work, at school and in our parish!

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

This week is marked by the annual prayer for Christian Unity. Here's what has happened and still to take place this weekend:

**Exchange Sunday**

While we welcomed parishioners from St Paul's Church, Marie represented us at the Gateway Church, she writes, "I was pleased to represent St. Mary's on a recent exchange visit to Gateway Church during which I received a warm welcome from Paul Sherwin and the congregation. The service was joyful and uplifting with music and singing lead by talented musicians. The Bible study section on the theme of St. Paul's journeys was interesting and enlightening. Our churches may follow different routines as an order of service but we have a common religious theme of belief in scripture, praise and prayers. Thank you Gateway."

**Last Monday**, we led the Prayers for Christian Unity at Trinity Church. Thank you to everyone who supported this on Monday and during the rest of the week.

**Annual Service for Christian Unity**

Today (Sunday) we are hosting the annual Service for Christian Unity at 4pm. Please do come along and support this event and prayer.

**Good Friday Walk of Witness**

On Good Friday, Friday 7 April, it will be our turn to lead the annual Walk of Witness in the town centre.

**Invitation - try coming to a Weekday Mass in church**

It is very encouraging to see so many people at Mass each weekend. Every priest and every parishioner in every parish around the world is rebuilding after the lockdowns of the pandemic. If you haven't been to Mass in church for a while, would you consider being at a Weekday Mass when the congregation is smaller than at the weekend for Sunday Mass? There is plenty of room so that you can have a physical distance, some of the benches still have cordons to maintain that distance, there is sanitizer gel, and you are welcome to wear a face covering while in church.

Each parish is at its own stage in this rebuilding phase. Let's continue to be considerate of each other; not everyone is at ease with not wearing a face covering. I have asked that the Eucharistic Ministers continue to use sanitizer gel and wear a face covering for the administration of Holy Communion during Mass and at Eucharistic Services. Let's continue to look after each other by "Loving one another as Christ has loved us."

**Sacramental Preparation at St Mary's Academy**

**Sacramental Application Forms**

These were distributed at our meeting in church last September. Those parents who have not received an application form are asked to see me after Mass. Please ensure these application forms are completed and returned to School as a matter of urgency.

**The Sacramental Preparation classes**

These classes began on Thursday, 12 January and take place in School every Thursday. I will be attending these classes. Please make sure that the consent forms to attend these classes have been signed and returned to School. It is essential that the children attend all Sacramental Preparation Classes. A register of attendance is now taken to support this crucial aspect of spiritual development.

**Attending Sunday Mass**

I do appeal to the parents and carers of the children preparing for these Sacraments to attend Sunday Mass with your child. The Church's obligation to be at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is not meant to be an additional burden, but to show how, we as Catholics, treasure what is truly important to us. I would like to acknowledge it is good to see that some families are attending Mass regularly. I know that a number of children are part of Associations and Sports' Clubs; regular attendance at meetings and practices for these groups is essential. It is the same for Sacramental Preparation. If you choose not to attend Mass the celebration of the Sacraments for your child will be a shallow occasion. Please do support your child in this important part of their Sacramental Preparation. Sunday Masses at St Mary's: Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am.

**Holy Days of Obligation**

Here are the dates of the Holy Days of Obligation for this year:

Wednesday 22 February	Ash Wednesday	Tuesday 15 August	Assumption of Our Lady
Sunday 9 April	Easter Sunday	Wednesday 1 November	All Saints
Thursday 18 May	Ascension of the Lord	Monday 25 December	Christmas Day
Thursday 29 June	Ss Peter and Paul		

**Ordinary Fridays**

Our Catholic life observes Friday with special respect because of the Lord's Passion and Death. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus asks us to observe the First Fridays by attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays; it was one of the 12 promises the Lord made to St Margaret Mary during the sixteenth century and has been part of Catholic life ever since. As Catholics we also observe Fridays as days of penance by offering a form of self-denial in thanksgiving for the Lord's gentle mercy and our personal desire for conversion of heart. The Church does not prescribe, however, that fish must be eaten on Fridays. It never did. Abstinence always meant the giving up of meat rather than the eating of fish as a substitute. What the Church does require is that its members abstain on Fridays from meat or some other food or that they perform some alternative work of penance. Here are some practical suggestions for an act of penance on Fridays

- by abstaining from meat or some other food
- by abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement
- by making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross
- by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad
- by making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely

**Parish pilgrimage to Knock**

The proposed pilgrimage to Knock will take place from 22 – 26 May 2023. The fare is £659 per person, plus £150 for single supplement. The five day trip will be based at the Knock House Hotel a short distance from the shrine, in includes return flights from Manchester to Knock, 10kg luggage allowance, priority boarding, and trips to Ballintuber Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Westport. There is a minimum number of 20 people to make the pilgrimage possible. *I need to have confirmed numbers no later than Monday 30 January for the pilgrimage to go ahead.* If you would like to go, please be in contact with Fr Martin as soon as possible, please.

**200 Club**

It's time to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. Please fill out one of the envelopes at the back of the church and enclose cheques of £12 for your annual membership. Cheques should be made out to BRC DTR St Mary's, Leek. Since the pandemic the numbers subscribing to the 200 Club have substantially reduced. Please consider joining the parish 200 Club this year as it raises valuable funds for the running of St Mary's church and the costs associated with our Masses. There are two monthly cash prizes to be won!

**Kenelm Youth Trust**

The Bethsaida course is a free online course for those wanting to know more about youth ministry in a parish setting. There are six sessions with participants receiving a diocesan certificate. To find out more please visit – [kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/bethsaida](http://kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/bethsaida)

**Dates for your diary**

Monday 23 January	630pm	Bible Book Club on Zoom
Thursday 26 January	5pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Presbytery
	7pm	Journey in Faith

<b>Collection</b>	Non Gift Aid £138.90	Gift Aid £144.00	Total £ 282.90
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*With best wishes to you and your family, Fr. Martin*