

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 21 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29; Ps 66; Apocalypse 21: 10-14, 22-23; John 14: 23-29</i> 2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish	
Sunday 22 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	10am Martin Hopkins 4pm Rosary and Benediction	
Monday 23 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i> <i>(please note change of time)</i>	Easter Feria <i>Acts 16: 11-15; Ps 149; John 15: 26-16:4</i> 6pm Fr Paul Hughes (Spec Int) (JA)	
Tuesday 24 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	Easter Feria <i>Acts 16: 22-34; Ps 137; John 16: 5-11</i> 10am Piotr Zwierski RIP (HK)	
Wednesday 25 May <i>No Mass</i>	Memorial of St Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church <i>Acts 17: 15, 22-18:1; Ps 148; John 16: 12-15</i>	
Thursday 26 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD <i>Acts 1: 1-11; Ps 46; Ephesians 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 46-53</i> During the day Mass will be celebrated for the children at St Mary’s Academy 6pm In Thanksgiving (GC)	
Friday 27 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop <i>1 Thessalonians 2:2-8; Ps 116; Luke 10: 1-9</i> 10am In Thanksgiving (HK) 3pm May Devotions	
Saturday 28 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>Acts 7: 55-60; Ps 96; Apocalypse 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20; John 17: 20-26</i> 2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish	
Sunday 29 May <i>Public Mass and live-stream</i>	10am Gary Leggett 4pm Rosary 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 493777
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

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for May: For faith-filled young people; We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary’s life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Please pray for the sick Moyra Chadwick, 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.

Anniversaries Annie Josephine Munday; Carmel Brookes; Josef Grzegorzek; Panteley (Peter) Skuba; John Gell; Angela Rose Bird; Lorraine Catherine Kaczorowski; Feliks Milaszkiwicz; Wilfred Charles (Bill) West; Joseph Ambrose Mernagh; Terence Alfred Bowyer; Christine Rose Davies; Mary Collier; Kathleen Anne Quirk; Stanislaw Naroloski; May Frith; Harold Leo Sheldon; Mary Alfreda Pilney (Freda).



Dear friends,

Let's prepare for Pentecost: "When Pentecost Day came around, the apostles had all met ..." (Acts 2:1)

I invite you to support the return to weekly attendance at Sunday Mass that is the Sunday Obligation will recommence from Pentecost Sunday, the weekend of Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 June. We can call it "Return to Mass Sunday"! Pentecost was the beginning of the Church, Pentecost this year will be a brand new start for all of us.

I know that some people still don't feel safe. It is for this reason that the Catholic Church in her wisdom and compassion teaches us that when someone is prevented from being at Mass due to illness, caring for the sick, and legitimate fear, there is no breach of the Sunday Obligation.

On Sunday 5 June, Bishop David McGough will lead our celebration of Mass. Please do come along and join the return to Mass.

After Mass on that day there will be a social gathering so that we can catch up and meet one another. There will be light refreshments available. If you can come along and if you can help, please sign the list at the back of church.

I look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful church. You will be most welcome. It will be great to see you after the last two extraordinary years. While there are no legal restrictions in place, we want to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. So we ask that:

- You 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.
- The church will be ventilated.

Let's get ready for Pentecost which is one of the three most important days in the Christian calendar.

- Let's be at Mass – Saturday at 230pm, Sunday at 10am
- Let's go to Confession – Saturdays 10am – 1030am or on request.
- Let's share our time – can you help with Sweep and Clean on these days? -Friday 27 May from 330pm and Saturday 28 May from 1030am
- Let's pray for 5 minutes every day. As we prepare for Pentecost let's use this prayer written by Pope Pius X:

O Holy Spirit of light and love, to you I consecrate my heart, mind and will for time and eternity. May I be ever docile to your Divine inspirations and to the teachings of the holy Catholic Church whose infallible guide you are. May my heart be ever inflamed with the love of God and love of neighbour. May my life faithfully imitate the life and virtues of Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him, with the Father, an you, Divine Spirit, be honour for ever.

Can you help, please? I am very grateful to the teams of stewards and cleaners who have made it possible to have public Mass in church over the last two years. If you can help to clean the church after the Sunday Mass and if we can get at least one more team of 5 people it will share the workload. If you can spare 30 minutes on a Sunday after Mass, please let me know. Send an email to stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Altar Serving The Ministry of Altar Server is one of the most important in the Church. Altar Servers and their families can be involved in the life and mission of the parish. If you are in School Year 4 and above and would like to build up our parish as an Altar Server, please ask a parent to be in contact me!

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.

A Synodal Parish In our recent Synod Questionnaire you mentioned the following areas as priorities for our parish and for personal encouragement.

- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession** - This is celebrated on Saturdays between 10am and 1030am. If you can't make this time, please do call to make an appointment.
- **Reaching out to families, young people and children** – It is great to see and to hear children at Mass especially on Sundays; it is a sure sign that we have a future generation. I encourage parents to bring their children to Mass. At the beginning of the pandemic we were told about the importance of keeping children at school for their education. It is now very important to bring the children to church for Mass and the Sacraments to ensure that their Spiritual Development is continued.
- In the last week, I have had more contact with the Chaplaincy at Leek College. Please "like" and "follow" the Chaplaincy on their Facebook page, "Buxton and Leek Chaplaincy". The Parish Newsletter will be circulated to all parents of students at Painsley Catholic College in Cheadle, and I will be in contact with the Scout and Cub packs.
- **Understanding the Scriptures** - We shall continue to have Sunday Mass sheets with the Bible Readings; there has been a change for financial reasons. There will be similar sheets for Weekday Masses. There is Bible Book Club on Monday evenings on Zoom: at present we are reading the Book of Exodus. If you wish to join, please let me know.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 26 May Ascension Thursday: Mass will be celebrated at School during the day and a Parish Mass will be celebrated at 6pm
Friday 27 May 1030am St Mary's Catholic Academy Jubilee Celebration
330pm Sweep and Clean

Saturday 28 May 1030am Sweep and Clean
Monday 30 May 1030am Meeting for Eucharistic Ministers

Thursday 2 – Sunday 5 June HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee extended Bank Holiday

St Mary's Parish Piety Stall the reopening will take place very soon with new stocks of First Communion and Confirmation cards; rosaries, crucifixes and Mass Cards. There is also a vacancy at the Piety Stall. I am looking for a volunteer to look after the Piety Stall at Sunday Mass. If you would like to take on this role, please chat to Sue who does the ordering and looks after the Piety Stall on Saturdays.

Gift Aid declarations I am very grateful to those who have recently signed new Gift Aid declarations. This is very kind of you! Please return your signed declaration either to Marie or me.

Queens Jubilee Celebrations On Friday 27th May St Mary's Catholic Academy warmly invites parishioners to join them in their Jubilee celebrations. Firstly, a time capsule is being created and is to be buried on the morning of 27th May. The children and staff will be writing letters to their future selves about their hopes, aspirations and dreams. The school would welcome letters also from Parishioners, so that the Parish and School are united together in the time capsule. Any letters requested to be delivered to St Mary's Catholic Academy by Monday 23rd May. Secondly, the parish are invited to attend a Jubilee themed bingo session from 10:30am-11:15am. Refreshments will be provided. Participants are asked to arrive at 10:30am through the main school entrance. All visitors will be required to sign in at the front office. Please contact the school - 01538 493888 with any questions.

Important notice if you or a relative will be going into Hospital at the Royal Stoke University Hospital To ensure that you or your relative receives a visit from a member of the Catholic Chaplaincy, for the next few weeks, at least, at the Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital in Stafford, if you are admitted as a patient, even if they know you are a Catholic, the chaplaincy will not be automatically informed, and neither will anyone ask you if you want a visit. In order to be visited, you must contact the chaplaincy office – 01782 676400 for Stoke and 01785 887659 for County. Sacraments can still be administered at the bedside, even if someone has Covid (the office needs to be informed beforehand).

Food Bank There has been an appeal for donations of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. Items can be left in the basket at the back of the church. Donations of perishable food items can be left at St Mary's Academy, Cruso Street.

Collection 8 May 22: Gift Aid - £115.00 Non-Gift Aid - £121.39 Total £236.39 Second Collection (Clergy Training Fund) - £173.97
Collection 15 May 22: Gift Aid - £106.00 Non-Gift Aid - £75.61 Total £181.61 Second Collection (Diocesan Ukraine Appeal) £226.96

With prayers and best wishes for you and your family as we continue to celebrate Christ's Resurrection,
Fr Martin