

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 20 January 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Sunday of the Word of God
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 24; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

6.15pm Mass Ellen, John and John Jr Wright (RIP)
Sunday 21 January 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Devine Office
10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm At St Edward’s church: Christian Unity Service

Monday 22 January **Memorial of St Vincent, deacon, first martyr of Spain**
2 Samuel 5:1-7,10; Ps 88; mark 3:22-30
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Jean Green (RIP)

Tuesday 23 January **Memorial of St Nicholas Owen, layman, martyr**
2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19; Ps 23; Mark 3:31-35
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Mrs Thelma Swiercz (Spec Int)

Wednesday 24 January **Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
2 Samuel 7:4-17; Ps 88; Mark 4:1-20
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 25 January **Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle**
Acts 22:3-16; Ps 116; Mark 16:15-18
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Maureen Kelly (RIP)

Friday 26 January **Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops**
2 Timothy 14:1-8; Ps 95; Mark 4:26-34
1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy Celebrant’s Intention

Saturday 27 January 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Racial Justice Sunday
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Ps 94; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28
6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 28 January 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Piotr Zwierski (RIP)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Mrs Alice Murray	
St Mary’s Catholic Academy	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
Safeguarding Rep	Mr Malcolm Sproat	sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
	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
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

Parish Safeguarding The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Malcolm Sproat. He can be contacted at: sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for January For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

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.

Please pray for the sick Jenny Kirkham, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura- Zwierski, Fr Anthony Dykes.
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 Let’s pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Paul Lomas, Fr Christopher Greaney, and Fr Sandy Brown

Anniversaries for this week: Alexandra Duffy, Teresa Gallagher, Rose Palin, Henry Swietek, Josef Jeremi, Zofia Dziurdzik, 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

Dear friends, on this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Church observes the Sunday of the Word of God. This is a great gift from Pope Francis! The Word of God, the Bible, the Sacred Scriptures are the heart of the life and mission of the Church. At the beginning of last week, Pope Francis met Biblical Scholars in audience at the Vatican, when he stressed that studying, meditating and reflecting on the Bible and the sacred texts be oriented to the heart of the Church which is the people of God.

During our Sunday Masses this weekend, your Bibles will be blessed and the Parish Readers will be blessed for their important service to our parish.

At home today, please take some time to read and reflect on one of your favourite Bible passages and meditate on what in that passage inspires and encourages you in your life of faith.

Sunday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Last Sunday it was a joy to welcome Lynne from St Edward's to 10am Mass and we sent Pip to St Paul's for Exchange Sunday. Today (Sunday) there is a Service for Christian Unity which will be held at St Edward's church at 4pm.

Church cleaners I would like to express my thanks to those parishioners who stay behind after Sunday Mass to clean the church and those who meet once a week to polish the brasses. They do an amazing job to keep our beautiful church in top condition for all of us to use. If you could help with the church cleaning on a Sunday morning or would like to join the group that polish the candlesticks, please let me know.

Year of Prayer We are well underway for the Year of Prayer and the spiritual preparation for the Jubilee Year next year. I encourage you to keep up your 5 minutes of prayer every day! Keep going! No one can fail in their prayer. If you can, please do join at 930am on Sunday morning at St Joseph's chapel, Morning Prayer from the Divine Office, the Church's Official Prayer book. Last Sunday, we started this to an enthusiastic response. Let's work together to pray the Church's Official Prayer.

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

Administration of Holy Communion Due to the prevailing risk, the norm for receiving communion remains on the hand. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please come to the Altar at the end of the congregational procession as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue.

Going into hospital If you are going into to hospital, there is now no obligation for the hospital to inform its chaplaincy department of your admission. When admitted to hospital, please ask the hospital to be in contact with their chaplain. Alternatively, be in contact with me and I make contact with the chaplain for you.

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 BRCDTR St Mary's, Leek. If you are not already taking part 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!

World Mission Sunday 2023 Fr Tony Chantry, the National Director for Mission, has written to thank you for your generous collection for World Mission Sunday last October which raised £137.08.

North Staffordshire Deanery

Pilgrimage to Walsingham The Walsingham Association is organising a three-day pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham from Wednesday 20 to Saturday 23 March 2024. The cost for the pilgrimage together with en suite accommodation is £354, and in budget accommodation is £297. There are a few more places left, but hurry! For more information and bookings please contact Mary Shirley on maryroseshirley@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ Catholics and their families Do you, or anyone close to you, identify as LGBTQ+? Archbishop Bernard wishes to listen to your experience within the Church in the Archdiocese of Birmingham and in the spirit of the Synodal Pathway. You are invited, along with your family and friends to a meeting facilitated by Mgr Mark Crisp and his team to share experiences and discuss how the Archdiocese can continue to develop its pastoral response to anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. This meeting is open to those who are aged 18 and over. The meeting will take place from 6.30pm -8.00pm on Friday 26 January at St Teresa's Church, Trent Vale, ST4 6SR.

A new volunteer chaplain for Leek College The Chaplaincy of the University of Derby, which has pastoral care for Leek College, is looking for someone who can offer at least two hours each week, on a flexible basis, to be the Chaplain for Leek College. The ideal candidate would require: good interpersonal, communication and pastoral skills; the ability to relate effectively to staff, Further Education students (that is students studying vocational subjects, aged 16-19 years old); and, who is comfortable working among people of all faiths and none. For more details and an application form, please contact Ingrid Keith, the Chaplaincy Co-ordinator, at i.keith@derby.ac.uk For an informal conversation, please call Ingrid on 01298 330376. The closing date for applications is Friday 16 February.

Collection Gift Aid £139.00 Non Gift Aid £119.04 Total £258.04

Have a good week! With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Martin