

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 24 September <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Amos 6: 1, 4-7; Ps145; 1 Timothy 6: 11-16; Luke 16: 19-31</i> 6pm Vigil Mass for Sunday, Christopher Rogers RIP	
Sunday 25 September <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Piotr Zwierski RIP 4pm Rosary and Benediction	
Monday 26 September <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	Feria in Ordinary Time Job 1: 6-22; Ps16; Luke 9: 46-50 9.40am Rosary 10am Martyn Wilkes RIP	
Tuesday 27 September <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	Memorial of St Vincent de Paul, Priest Job 3: 1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Ps87; Luke 9: 51-56 9.40am Rosary 10am For you, the People of the Parish	
Wednesday 28 September <i>Public liturgy</i>	Feria in Ordinary Time Job 9: 1-12, 14-16; Ps87; Luke 9: 57-62 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)	
Thursday 29 September <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels Apocalypse 12: 7-12; Ps137; John 1: 47-51 9.40am Rosary 10am Rosemary Kirkham RIP	
Friday 30 September	Memorial of St Jerome Job 38: 1, 12-21, 40: 3-5; Ps138; Luke 10: 13-16 1.30pm Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy, parents and parishioners are welcome!	
Saturday 1 October <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Habakkuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4; Ps94; 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14; Luke 17: 5-10</i> 6pm Family Mass, Toby Higgins RIP	
Sunday 2 October <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Janusz Szura 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 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 714944
Safeguarding Rep	Appointment pending Archdiocese of Birmingham NSPCC	tel 0121 230 6240 tel 0808 800 500
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01782 676400 ext 76400 tel 01625 663386

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.

Anniversaries: Denis Higgins; Sydney Robert Carding; Leopold Folga; Hilda May Jones; Derek Richard Robinson; Teresa Ann Hampton; Christopher McMullen; Derek Oswald Wedge; Annie Reynolds; Catherine (Queenie) Beatrice Gould; Alice Patricia Murphy; Jose Campanorio; George Hambleton; Annie Nixon; Frederick Lindop; Samuel Hulme; Pauline Gonzalez; Michael Drury; Valerie Pegg; Dermont (Derek) Smith; Joseph Cooper; William O’Connor; Mary Agnes Hanley; John Ross McCreedy; Ethel Pownell; Gladys May Shaw; Arthur Stubbs; Archibald Ball; Francis Keates; Janek Chrzanowski; Edith Mycock; Elizabeth Barker; Robert Barnard Patalong; Jean Mary Quinn; Maria Cumbo



Dear friends, on Thursday evening, 10 parishioners accompanied me to the Opening Meeting of the Parish Visitation. During the meeting we were informed that Archbishop Bernard will be visiting St Mary's. He will be visiting the parish to meet you. You are his parishioners and it is right that you have the chance to meet with him. The Visitation is not an inspection.

Since the last Visitation in March 2018, there have been huge changes to our lives: the pandemic, the cost of living, the impact of the war in Ukraine, and how the media reports all of this to us. We are to provide the Archbishop with some key parish statistics and your responses to the Synodal Pathway. All of this will need to be in the context of a realistic look at future structures that are viable. You will know that there are fewer people coming to church for Mass and in a short time there will be less than 100 priests for the parishes in our Archdiocese. We will not be able to sustain our current practice too far into the future.

With this in mind, I am reminded of the Parable of the fig tree (Luke 9:6-9)

"Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' " "Sir," the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

I need **your support**, friends! Let's be responsible for our part of the vineyard. Let's nurture it. Let's make it grow so

that it will produce good fruit. I believe that we can reverse the trend. Let's be bold. Let's show that we want God in our lives. I want to encourage you to these actions:

- Let's return to Mass - I want to invite those who have not been to Mass since the beginning of the pandemic; those whose children will be receiving First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation next year: let's support the children in the best way by bringing them to Mass!
- Let's return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Let's set aside 5 minutes every day to pray.
- Let's share our time, talent and treasure.

Mini Vinnies Tuesday 27 September 2pm at St John's, Alton, St Vincent de Paul day Mass for the Mini Vinnies. The Mini Vinnie groups from the primary schools in the Painsley MAC will be celebrating their patron saint on Tuesday afternoon. Parishioners are welcome to come too!

October, the month of the Rosary Almost every weekday we pray the rosary before Mass: the group of parishioners in church are our parish prayer group with people joining online. We pray for a number of intentions: some for particular causes in our parish, others for events we see and hear about in the news. If you can support the daily prayer of the rosary especially during the month of October I am sure that it will strengthen your prayer and faith.

Deanery Station Mass Tuesday 18 October 7pm Can help on this occasion, please? It is my hope that a good number of people will come from the parishes across the deanery. We need some help with stewards to welcome people to the church and guide people at Holy Communion, and with refreshments after Mass. If you can help, please sign the list at the back of the church.

A million rosaries Tuesday 18 October Children are being encouraged to pray the rosary for peace and harmony in the world on 18 October: it would be great if we could join them! Let's take up this initiative and be part of something great!

St Mary's Calendar for 2023 I am delighted to announce that we have our very own calendar for 2023. The 2023 calendar includes some great photos of our church and will be a most fitting addition to your kitchens, home offices and as gifts to your relatives and friends. The calendars will be on sale after Mass priced just £5 – a very reasonable price for a quality product, with all money raised going to parish funds.

Painsley Catholic College Parish Links meeting Painsley Catholic College is inviting two parishioners to be Parish Links: as numbers of priests and people attending Mass grow smaller, it is vital that we continue to build links with our Catholic Schools and with other local parishes. Could you help with this? The next meeting will take place at Painsley Catholic College on Thursday 6 October at 11am. If you can help, please be in contact with Fr Martin.

Vacancy, Head of Safeguarding The Archdiocese of Birmingham is seeking a Head of Safeguarding. The post holder will manage the operations of the safeguarding team, who operate in accordance with the statutory framework and the Catholic Church's safeguarding policies and procedures. Following a period of significant change and improvement, now is an exciting time for an experienced safeguarding professional to join this friendly and creative team to further develop and embed excellence in safeguarding practice. This will be a rewarding role for an experienced safeguarding professional. Closing date 3 October. To find out more, please go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs

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. The envelopes mean they can claim 25% Gift Aid on qualifying gifts at no additional cost to parishioners.

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. There are patterns available at the back of the church

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 thousands of other young international pilgrims. Full details can be found via an information pack on the Kenelm website: <https://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/wyd-lisbon-2023.html>, you require any further support please contact anna.howard@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Missio Red Box Collections Please don't leave donations at the presbytery. Make cheques payable to 'Missio Red Box'. Mark the reverse side of the cheque with reference – BIR131 and send in the post to Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU.

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.

North Staffs Vocations Group The vocations Group is hosting a Holy Hour for vocations at St George & St Martin, Birches Head, on Tuesday 27th September, starting at 7pm. All are welcome to join the group as they pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Dates for your diary

Monday 26 September	Bible Book Club on Zoom 6.30pm
Thursday 29 September and 13 th October	SVP meeting after 10am Mass
Friday 7 October	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Tuesday 18 October	7pm Deanery Station Mass at St Mary's
Tuesday 1 November	All Saints' Day

Holy Days of Obligation Tuesday 1 November All Saints' Day

Second Collections This weekend there will be a second collection for 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 £60.70 Gift Aid £174.00 Total £234.70

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