

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 25 March 10am to 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession
Public liturgy and live-stream **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45
6pm Josie Rattigan INTS

Sunday 26 March 10am Piotr Zwierski RIP
Public liturgy and live-stream 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Monday 27 March **Lent Feria**
Public liturgy and live-stream *Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps 22; John 8:1-11*
9.40am Rosary 10am Mary Houston RIP.

Tuesday 28 March **Lent Feria**
Public liturgy and live stream *Numbers 21:4-9 Ps 101; John 8:21-30*
9.40am Rosary 10am Shella Bird RIP

Wednesday 29 March **Lent Feria**
Public liturgy *Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dan 3; John 8:31-42*
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 30 March **Lent Feria**
Public liturgy and live stream *Genesis 17:3-9; Ps 104; John 8:51-59*
9.40am Rosary 10am PJ Lennon RIP

Friday 31 March **Lent Feria**
Public liturgy *Jeremiah 20:10-13; Ps 17; John 10:31-42*
Please note change of time 11am School Mass. For you, the people of the Parish.
3pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 1 April 10am to 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession
Public liturgy and live-stream **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27
6pm Family Mass Judith and John Broun RIP

Sunday 2 April 10am Donor’s Intention
Public liturgy and live-stream 4pm Stations of the Cross 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 0808 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

Pope’s prayer intention for March Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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.

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: Edward Carding, Patrick Joseph Wallace, Sarah Mary Fitchett, Jack Casey, Doris Julia Kidd, Audrey Sheila Paulukiewicz, Sister M Paul, Joan Barlow, Audrey Margaret Oulsnam, Piotr Zwiercki, Nancy Flanagan, Amelia Cox, Katherine Pointon, Maud Agnes Smith, William Astles, Father Thomas Cockburn, Joseph McCullagh, Wincenty Swieca, Francis (Frank) Joseph Sheldon, Winifred Ena Birks, Mary Booth, Margaret Mary Foster, Joseh Kosak, Frank Nash, Constance Raybone, Thomas Spencer, Ellen Warbrick, Harold Hambleton, Edith Hudson, Mrs Keates, Dorothy Knight, Gertrude M Chell, William Stanley Pugh, Jack Trafford, Mrs Dymn, Annie Ingham, Francis Prendergast, Sister Teresa Davies I.B.V.M., Josephine Poultney, Charles Henry Malkin, Roddy, Edward Mottershaw, Angela Mosley, Eileen Mooney, Patrick Lawlor.

Dear friends, We have started the last two weeks of the Season of Lent. Traditionally, these weeks were known as Passiontide in honour of the Lord's suffering and death. In church, the statues have been covered to add greater solemnity to these weeks. At Mass, the Preface at weekday Masses captures the mood of this stage of Lent, "For through the saving Passion of your Son the whole world has received a heart to confess the infinite power of your majesty, since by the wondrous power of the Cross your judgement on the world is now revealed and the authority of Christ crucified."

Next week, we shall be observing Holy Week. It is the most important week in the Christian calendar and I am keen to invite you to the Holy Week ceremonies and to take a full and active part in them. If you haven't been to Mass in church for a while, it will be great to see you! Let's give the Lord a priority in our lives this Holy Week. Here's what will be taking place and how you can take part:

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday at the beginning of Holy Week celebrates Christ's entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem. Weather permitting, before both Masses we shall gather in the Avenue to recall Christ's arrival at Jerusalem. Mass on this Sunday is also marked by the proclamation of the Passion from Matthew's Gospel. At both Masses, I would like to invite ...

- 2 additional readers to proclaim the Passion.

Thursday 6 April Holy Thursday 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper re-remembers the Last Supper, the Washing of the Feet, the establishment of the Eucharist (Mass and the Blessed Sacrament) and the Priesthood. At the end of Mass, there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of repose with watching into the night, recalling Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. I would like to invite

- A reader for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading
- 12 people to have feet washed during Mass
- A Eucharistic Minister
- Can you pray in church after Mass?

Friday 7 April Good Friday 3pm Celebration of the Passion. This solemn liturgy is characterised by three actions: the proclamation of the Passion from John's Gospel; the Veneration of the Cross; and, Holy Communion

- A reader for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading
- 2 additional readers to proclaim the Passion
- 4 people to assist with the Veneration of the Cross
- 2 candle bearers
- 2 Cross bearers
- 2 people to prepare the altar cloths
- A Eucharistic Minister

Saturday 8 April Holy Saturday 7pm Easter Vigil. This is known as the "Mother of all Vigils" because of its importance as the most important act of worship in the Church's liturgical books. There are four parts: the Service of Light, we gather outside the church at the New Fire to bless and light the Paschal Candle and process into the church with lighted candles; the Liturgy of the Word which includes three Old Testament readings, an Epistle and a Gospel reading; next, the Renewal of Baptismal Promises – this is the moment our Lenten programme is aiming at – and the blessing of Holy Water; finally, the liturgy of the Eucharist. I would like help with

- Preparing, lighting and extinguishing the New Fire
- 2 people to assist with lighting candles at the New Fire and for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- 4 readers to proclaim the Bible Readings
- If you can help with any of these, please do sign the list in the sacristy.
- 2 people to unveil the statues during the singing of the Gloria
- A Eucharistic Minister

The Easter Duties The Church wants us to receive the spiritual benefits of the Lord's death and resurrection. We are invited to be at Mass, receive Holy communion and go to Confession between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Ecumenical events during Lent At St Wulstan's Wolstanton on Sunday 26 March at 4pm, an Ecumenical Service for Lent, with a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion. The service will be followed by light refreshments. All welcome.

Good Friday, Friday 7 April, Annual Walk of Witness This year, it is our turn to lead the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness in the centre of Leek. I am grateful to the group of people who will be helping with this on Good Friday. There is a need for marshals to ensure the procession is safe. If you can help with this please let me know.

Archbishop Bernard's Pastoral Letter Last weekend at Mass, I read the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter in which he reminded us of his vision for our Archdiocese, "We are called 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." He also asked us to, "try to see co-responsibly what needs to change for the good of the Church's mission within your parish or across the wider deanery." I am incredibly grateful to you for everything that you do that shows we are co-responsible for the life and mission of our parish. There are two roles where I am looking for help at the moment:

- I am looking for two or three maintenance teams of at least two people to conduct monthly visual maintenance checks. This includes one grotty job of cleaning grids. If you can help, I will be very grateful to you.
- I am looking for a team of two or three to assist with opening and locking the church on Saturday evenings for Mass. If you can help with these, please let me know.

St Mary's SVP The dedicated SVP Group is continuing to support elderly, isolated and lonely parishioners with meals on wheels. This outreach work is greatly appreciated by those who benefit from receiving the meals and the assurance of contact. This weekend, 25 – 26 March, we shall have a second collection for the SVP so that the group can continue this outstanding mission.

Second and other collections

This weekend 25 – 26 March A collection for our Parish SVP Group.

Easter Weekend Is one of the collections for Parish Priest and forms a major part of his income.

Good Friday, 7 April Annual collection for the Holy Places and Shrines of the Holy Land

15 -16 April Mission appeal by the Spiritan Fathers. Their Congregation was founded in 1703. Today there are over 3000 professed members of the Congregation with lay Associates. Their mission continues in more than 60 countries around the world. Here is a link to their website <https://spiritans.co.uk>

Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The Archdiocese of Birmingham is organising a Pilgrimage to Walsingham on 13 May 2023. Pilgrims are invited to arrive at the Shrine from 11am. There will be time for them to visit the Slipper Chapel and Chapel of Reconciliation, the Shrine shop and café before Mass at 1.30pm in the Chapel of Reconciliation. At 3pm there will be a procession to the Priory ruins in the Village which will conclude with a time of Prayer at the site of the Holy House. Please let Fr Martin know if you are interested in going by 16 April. If you would like more information about Walsingham and its significance as the Nation Shrine to Our Lady and as a place of pilgrimage in pre-reformation England, you can visit www.walsingham.org.uk

Westminster Trip. Karen Bradley MP is arranging a Coach trip to London and a tour of Westminster on Friday 12 May 2023. The trip offers the opportunity to join a private tour of Parliament and visit some areas not normally open to the public including the Houses of Commons and Committee room. The coach departs from Robin Hood Travel, Macclesfield Road Leek ST13 8PS tickets are £25 to cover the coach. If you are interested in going please contact Karen Bradley's office on 01538 382421 for more information.

Dates for you Diary Monday 3 April 7pm Penance Liturgy with confessions at St Augustine's Meir

Collection Last week's collection Gift Aid £145.00 Non- Gift Aid £136.18 Total £281.18

With my Prayers and best wishes Fr Martin