

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 26 February

Public Mass and live - stream

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7; Ps 91; 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58; Luke 6: 39-45
2.30pm Mary Furlong RIP

Sunday 27 February

Public Mass and live - stream

10am For you, the People of the Parish
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 28 February

Public Mass and live – stream

Feria in Ordinary Time

1 Peter 1: 3-9; Ps 110; Mark 10: 17-27
10am Betty McFarlane RIP

Tuesday 01 March

No Mass

Feast of St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales

Philippians 3: 8-14; Ps 1; Matthew 5: 13-16

Wednesday 02 March

Public Mass and live - stream

Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent, Day of Prayer and Fasting for Ukraine

Joel 2: 12-18; Ps 50; 2 Corinthians 5: 20-6:2; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
The Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at St Mary’s Academy
5pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction
6pm Dr Joseph RIP

Thursday 03 March

Public Mass and live - stream

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Ps 1; Luke 9: 22-25
10am Fr Christopher Dwyer

Friday 04 March

Friday after Ash Wednesday, First Friday, Women’s World Day of Prayer

Isaiah 58: 1-9; Ps 50; Matthew 9: 14-15
Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy in the morning
3pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 05 March

Public Mass and live – stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Deuteronomy 26: 4-10; Ps 90; Luke 4: 1-13
2.30pm Family Mass: For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 06 March

Public Mass and live – stream

10am Eric Arthur Duffin RIP
4pm Stations of the Cross

Parish Priest

Parish Administrator

St Mary’s Catholic Academy

Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle

Safeguarding Rep

Fr Martin Pratt

Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz

Mrs G Turner

Mrs R Waugh

Appointment pending

Archdiocese of Birmingham

NSPCC

Mrs M Lawton

University Hospital North Midlands

Macclesfield District Hospital

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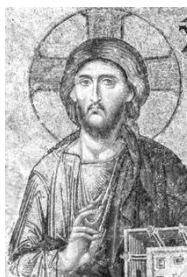
Please pray for the sick Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Brian Dale, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, David Wright, Janusz Szura and those who are in self-isolation and have been diagnosed with Covid-19.

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.

Let’s pray for the Faithful Departed We remember in our prayers Marie Lowe

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for February: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Anniversaries Francis Salt, James Malkin, Ernest Birch, John Tatton, Giuseppe Cumbo, Eileen Elizabeth Arrowsmith, Hilda Chadwick, Mrs Coyne, Albert Briscoe, Christine Kirkham, Denis Heywood, Martin McNeilly, Jan Szelko, Christopher David Williams, Stanley Pocock, Sister Baptist Haslam, Annie McDonough, Hilda Barker, Basil Walmsley, James Birchenough, Arthur Hambleton, Wilfred Spencer, Mary Joan Plant, Kathleen Mary Smith



Dear Friends,

Last Wednesday morning, during the weekly Audience, Pope Francis asked that the worldwide Church makes this coming Wednesday, 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Ukraine. Pope Francis said, "I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

With this in mind, I ask for your support with our observance of Ash Wednesday. During the morning, at St Mary's Academy, there will be a Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes. At 5pm there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction in church, followed by Mass at 6pm.

A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church I am incredibly grateful to you for your amazing response to the Synodal Questionnaire. On Thursday evening, at the Parish Council Meeting we went through all of your great responses. The next stage has two elements: there is a response to the diocesan committee receiving the feedback from the 224 parishes; and, feedback which we will use in our parish.

Initially, among the priorities which you have highlighted for our parish in the next 5 years, the most repeated is for a greater engagement with parents, children and young people. I do agree with all the parishioners who have identified this as a priority and I want to encourage parents to support the spiritual development of their children and their place in the life and mission of the worldwide Church and our parish. I do encourage the parents of the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation to attend the meeting in church on Monday 7 March at 4pm.

Your responses to the questionnaire also highlighted these areas where you said you wanted more encouragement, the most repeated topics are encouragement for prayer; for the Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession; and, more explanation of Church Teachings. I can respond to these in practical ways in the weeks and months ahead.

Preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation There will be a meeting for the parents of children in School Year 3 and Year 6 at St Mary's Academy who would like to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year. The meeting will take place on Monday 7 March at 4pm in church. The parents of children in School Year 4 and Year 5 who chose to wait till this year will also be expected to attend this meeting also.

For me, as your Parish Priest, I want parents and carers to see the value and importance of their child's spiritual development; I want your faith to be enriched by this process just as much as your child will be; and, I want parents to see the significance and the satisfaction that your child derives from being a valued and respected member of the worldwide Church and being part of its life and mission.

Both St Mary's Academy and I expect parents of children to attend the preparation meeting on Monday 7 March; sign the consent form for their children to attend the Sacramental Preparation in school; and, the children preparing for these sacraments to attend Sunday Mass every week with their families.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Children in School Years 7 and 8 at Painsley Catholic College A preparation programme for children in School Year 7 and Year 8 who weren't able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation due to the restrictions of the pandemic has been arranged at Painsley Catholic College. Parents will have received an application form which requires my endorsement. There is an expectation that the children involved in this process be at Sunday Mass with their family every Sunday.

Easter Duties The Church wants every member to receive Spiritual Benefits from Mass and Confession and asks us to make the Easter Duties; going to Confession, going to Mass, and receiving Holy Communion. In our diocese, the time for making the Easter Duties is between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Lent at St Mary's 2022 The Church's season of Lent will begin on Wednesday 2 March, Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent reminds us of the sacred dignity which we received at our Baptism. The 40 days of Lent prepare us to celebrate and to take part in the 4 most important days of the Christian calendar: Holy Thursday's evening Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday's Solemn Celebration of the Passion; Holy Saturday evening's Easter Vigil; and, Easter Sunday's celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Please do come to these four principal celebrations of our faith.

On Ash Wednesday, there will be a Liturgy of the Word with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at School during the day and a Parish Mass at 6pm. During Lent this year, let's prepare for Easter and renew our Christian living by

Going to Mass Let's encourage one another to be at Mass.

Going to Confession The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession is celebrated in church on Saturdays between 10am and 1030am.

Praying for 5 minutes every day As a parish of prayer let's be united in these intentions:

- For peace; that we will be stewards of creation; for an end to the pandemic
- For the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation

These are helpful internet resources for daily prayer: Word of Fire – Bishop Robert Barron writes a daily Gospel reflection, sign up at wordonfire.org Dynamic Catholic – This year there is a chance to follow two Lent reflection courses, sign up at dynamiccatholic.com/lent

Sharing time, talent and treasure Our parish needs your support more than ever before! Can you help:

With cleaning the church on Sundays after Mass - With the Ministry of Welcome at Saturday afternoon Mass and Sunday morning Mass - With our Parish SVP - With brass cleaning in church - Can you help support these collections during Lent:

Saturday 5 / Sunday 6 March St Chad's Cathedral Saturday 12 / Sunday 13 March CAFOD Lent Fast
 Saturday 26 / Sunday 27 March St Mary's Parish SVP Saturday 2 / Sunday 3 April Easter Flowers
 Friday 15 April The Holy Places in the Holy Land

The Edge@Alton Youth Group has made rosary decade beads, bookmarks and Easter Candles to raise money for the Donna Louise children's hospice. There will be a basket of items on sale at the back of church in the coming weeks.

Being Safe in Church The latest Covid Risk assessment was conducted during the week. Let's continue to "Love one another as Christ has loved us" and make sure that we keep one another safe when we are in church by continuing to use the hand sanitizer, wear face coverings, maintain a social distance.

- Child altar servers can resume when adult servers receive DBS updates.
- The phased reintroduction of singing at Mass can begin with face coverings while singing.
- Prearranged Face to face meetings to be held in the narthex; groups to make arrangements for meetings either immediately following Mass or other times with a church key holder. All surfaces: chair backs, desk tops are to be cleaned after the meeting by those in attendance.
- Continue with limited numbers attending Baptisms if taking place after Mass. Baptisms can take place during Mass.
- Weddings and Funerals can take place with all these precautions in place.

Leek Club Day 2022 The Club Day will take place this year on Saturday 9 July. Planning is underway and very soon we will be asking for volunteers to help to ensure the Day is safe and successful.

Leek Lent Groups

Tuesday 8th at 7.30pm: Methodist Circuit Lent Zoom Group: 'A river through the desert'.

Via Zoom. ID: 962 5280 3313 Passcode: 129589 - contact Rev Eleanor for a course booklet: 01782503228 eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk

Wednesdays 7.30pm, March 9, 16, 23, 30, & April 6: Churches Together Lent Group at Trinity - "Embracing Justice"

In a world where justice is often about power, we will explore how God's justice brings about transformation, healing and hope for all.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 2 March Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent: A Day of Prayer and Fasting for Ukraine.
 Friday 4 March Women's World Day of Prayer at the Leek Salvation Army Citadel, 730pm
 Saturday 5 March Family Mass at 230pm
 Monday 7 March First Holy Communion and Confirmation Meeting for parents at 4pm in church
 Monday 14 March Bible Book Club at 630pm
 Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June Extended Bank Holiday to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

At Facebook Mass we can't have a collection Thank you to those who have used the "Donate" button on the Parish Website. If you would like to donate by standing order, please send an email to me at the Parish Office at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk.

Collection Gift Aid - £75.00 Non Gift Aid - £60.50 Total - £ 135.50 Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

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