

**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](mailto: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 26 March**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Joshua 5: 9-12; Ps 33; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32*  
2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish

**Sunday 27 March**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

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

**Monday 28 March**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

**Lent Feria**

*Isaiah 65: 17-21; Ps 29; John 4: 43-54*  
10am Trevor Smith RIP

**Tuesday 29 March**

*Public Mass and live - stream*

**Lent Feria**

*Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12; Ps 45; John 5: 1-3, 5-16*  
10am Holy Souls (HB)

**Wednesday 30 March**

*No Mass*

**Lent Feria**

*Isaiah 49: 8-15; Ps 144; John 5: 17-30*

**Thursday 31 March**

**Lent Feria**

*Exodus 32: 7-14; Ps 105; John 5: 31-47*  
Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Academy

**Friday 01 April**

*No Mass*

**Lent Feria**

*Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22; Ps 33; John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30*  
3pm Stations of the Cross  
Sweep and clean

**Saturday 02 April**

*Public Mass and live – stream*

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Isaiah 43: 16-21; Ps 125; Philippians 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11*  
2.30pm Family Mass      Anne Lynch

**Sunday 03 April**

*Public Mass and live – stream*

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

**Parish Priest**

Fr Martin Pratt

tel 01538 382385 [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator**

Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz

[administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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

tel 0121 230 6240

NSPCC

tel 0800 800 500

**Gift Aid Co-ordinator**

Mrs M Lawton

[ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)

**Hospital Chaplaincy**

University Hospital North Midlands

tel 01782 676400 ext 76400

Macclesfield District Hospital

tel 01625 663386

**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.*

**Pray for the Faithful Departed** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Laurence Crowe. He was the Parish Priest of Our Lady's, Lillington, near Leamington Spa. When I was ordained a deacon in 1999, I was appointed to Our Lady's for a short time.

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for March:** For a Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

**Anniversaries:** Rose Cockburn, Father Thomas Cockburn, Sister M Paul, Audrey Sheila Paulukiewicz, Joan Barlow, Audrey Margaret Oulsnam, Nancy Flanagan, Amelia Cox, Katherine Pointon, Maud Agnes Smith, William Astles, 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, Sister Teresa Davies I.B.V.M., Josephine Poultney, Charles Henry Malkin, Roddy, Edward Mottershaw, Angela Mosley, Eileen Mooney, Patrick Lawlor, Phyllis Birchenough, Josephine Taylor, Doreen Mary Szydelko



Dear friends, Dear Mothers and Mums,

Happy Mothering Sunday! I hope that you have a great day today. The Sacrament of Baptism concludes with a blessing for the parents and this is joyful prayer for the child's mother at Baptism: *God the Father through his son, the Virgin Mary's child has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May he bless the mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with her child in thanking God for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Holy Week 2022** I want to invite you to take a full and active part in the Holy Week ceremonies. For the last two years, these celebrations, central to our Christian faith have been curtailed due to the virus. This year we can celebrate them in their entirety. The 40 days of the Season of Lent prepare us to celebrate these days four days. Here's what's happening during Holy Week this year:

Thursday 14 April	Friday 15 April	Saturday 16 April	Sunday 17 April
6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	10am Stations of the Cross for families 3pm Liturgy of the Passion	10am Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows 7pm Easter Vigil	10am Easter Sunday Mass

I have had a great response to my requests for help during Holy Week. I am still looking for additional help with: Holy Thursday Mass and washing of feet – If you would like to join the others who will have their feet washed during Mass, please let me know.

Good Friday – reading at the Stations of the Cross for families, if some young people would like to read, please let me know.

Holy Saturday - during the Easter Vigil, there is a custom of removing veils from the statues which have been covered; could you help with unveiling the statues during the Easter Vigil? Please let me know.

**A Synodal Parish** We are truly a Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church. With your copy of this week's newsletter, I am pleased to let you have a copy of our parish feedback to the Synod. We haven't given all the responses word for word, but a summary which highlights very clearly your replies as part of the Synodal pathway.

You may not have been comfortable with the questionnaire for the Synod. However, you may feel comfortable by indicating your agreement and support with some of the items which were identified in the questionnaire. There are summaries of the responses and if one of these points is relevant to you, please tick or circle the relevant point or points.

One of the questions was: What skills do you have and would be willing to offer and use to help our parish in our mission? There were some great replies. Did you make these replies? If so, could you let me know who you are, please? I want to hear from those who said that they would Read at Mass in church; sing at Mass; be part of the Ministry of Welcome; First Aid Skills; would join the SVP; and, have computer skills. If you could let me know who you are, I will be incredibly grateful!

**Being safe in church while at Mass or other occasions** I am very grateful to you for your continuing co-operation with our desire to keep each other safe while in church. I am aware that some people are comfortable with not wearing a face covering, and there are others who are not ready for this. Personally, I am not ready to do without a face covering for my own personal, private reasons. So we ask in church:

- Use the hand sanitizer when we arrive and when we leave.
- Wear a face covering if you wish; face coverings must be worn when singing.
- Singing is being introduced gradually; hymn books can be used.
- The church is to be ventilated: It is Leek and it's winter: wear a good coat, please!
- The cordons on the benches will remain except for one side aisle where the cordons have been removed.
- Be mindful of others: someone on your bench may be vulnerable or the person on your bench may be returning home to someone vulnerable.
- Baptisms can take place either during Mass or after Mass; Weddings and Funerals can take place with limited numbers and the other mitigations in place.

**Lent at St Mary's 2022** During Lent, 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 10am to 1030am.
- **Praying for 5 minutes every day** As a parish of prayer let's be united in these intentions: For peace in Ukraine; that we will be stewards of creation; for an end to the pandemic and for the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation
- **Can you help support these collections during Lent:** 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

**200 Club** At present there are 70 members of the parish 200 Club. Membership is £12 for the year. In this way your membership contributes to the ongoing mission and maintenance of our parish enabling us to make sure all the annual servicing of the heating, electrical appliances, and other safety checks can happen; it also enables us to maintain all the property to a high standard; and helps with the purchase of all the items which are needed for the celebration of the liturgy in church and allows the pastoral work and evangelisation to continue.

**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.

**Mass cards** I have had some bespoke Mass cards printed with images from two of the stained glass windows in church: one design is for Mass for the Deceased and the other for a Special Intention. The Mass cards are £1 each.

**North Staffordshire Catholic Deanery** Holy Trinity CAFOD/Live Simply group present Lenten Reflections with the Gospels, Pope Francis's Laudato Si', and stories from around the world. On the Tuesdays of Lent at Coolock, Stubbs Gate, ST5 1LH at 7pm.

**Dates for your diary**

Monday 28 March	Bible Book Club at 630pm
Friday 1 April	Stations of the Cross followed by sweep and clean
Saturday 2 April	Family Mass at 2.30pm
23- 24 April	Mission Appeal – this year the annual appeal is for the Society of African Missions.
20 -24 June	Vocations' Week at St Mary's Academy
Saturday 9 July	Leek Club Day. Soon we will be asking for volunteers to help ensure the Day is safe.

**Gift Aid** Are you a UK taxpayer? If so, and if you sign a Gift Aid declaration, the UK Government will add 25p to each pound you donate to our parish. For more information and how to sign up to Gift Aid, please be in contact with Marie. Her email address is [ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)

**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 email me at the Parish Office. [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk).

**Collection** 12 -13 March - Gift Aid - £165.00 Non Gift Aid - £67.50 Total - £172.50 Cafod Collection - £194.18

**Collection** 19 -20 March - Gift Aid – £130.00 Non Gift Aid - £156.11 Total - £286.11 Ukraine Collection - £ 420.45

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