

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 Facebook @stmaryleek

**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

Saturday 26 November
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Ps121; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44

6pm Piotr Zwierski RIP

Sunday 27 November

10am For you, the People of the Parish

12.30pm Market Square, Leek: Blessing of the Crib

Public liturgy and live-stream

4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 28 November

Public liturgy

Advent Feria

Isaiah 4: 2-6; PS121; Matthew 8: 5-11

9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Tuesday 29 November

Public liturgy

Advent Feria

Isaiah 11: 1-10; PS71; Luke 10: 21-24

9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Wednesday 30 November

Public liturgy

Feast of St Andrew, Apostle

Romans 10: 9-18; PS 18; Matthew 4: 18-22

9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Thursday 1 December

Public liturgy

Feast of St Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr

1 Corinthians 4: 9-13; PS33; Luke 9: 23-26

9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Friday 2 December

Public liturgy at School

First Friday

Advent Feria

Isaiah 29: 17-24; PS26; Matthew 9: 27-31

1.30pm Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy. Parents and parishioners are welcome.

Saturday 3 December

Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11: 1-10; PS 71; Romans 15: 4-9; Matthew 3: 1-12

6pm Family Mass: Joe Clarke RIP (GC)

Sunday 4 December

Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)

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 493777

Safeguarding Rep

Appointment pending

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

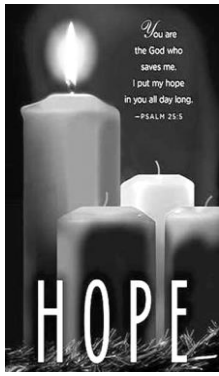
tel 01625 663386

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for December: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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.

Please pray for the Faithful Departed We pray for the repose of the soul of Dorothy Frost. Dorothy’s Funeral Liturgy will take place on Thursday 8 December at 1130am, here at St Mary’s

Anniversaries: Frances Hambleton; Malcolm Kidd; Frederick James Malkin; Eileen Edith Hoof; Carol Sheldon; James Moss; Sister Bonaventure Quirke I.B.V.M.; Patricia Loys Miners; Francis Evans; Alma Betty Millicent Healy; Florence Moss; Irena Grzegorzec; John Mountford; John Joyce; Gertrude Mary Donnelly; Donald Kirkby Brough; Mary Agnes Burgess; Mary Magdalene May; Edward Salt; Father Charles Eagle (PP 1924-1936); Tadeucz Bodgafurk; Beatrice Mary Robinson; Patricia Anne Upton; Patrick Doherty; Elizabeth Steele; Amy Chilcott; Evelyn Kwiatkowski; Rose Ada Flanagan; Horace Edward Millward; Emily Wain; Walter Andrews; Talitha Rose (Tally); Eileen Veronica (Vera) Stevenson; Harry Wright; Dennis Raymond Hulland; Basil Laurence Saum; Norman Clulow; Ludovic Kempinski; Honoria McTigue; Mark Andrew Hammond



Dear friends, this weekend we begin the Season of Advent which marks the beginning of a new Church Year. In this short period, the Church prepares to celebrate Christ's birth and to look forward to that time when Christ will return to bring completion to all things. The season of Advent also acknowledges Christ's abiding presence in the Church. So, let's live like Christ is present! The Church describes Advent as, "... period of devout and expectant delight."

During this Season, **let's encourage each other to ...**

... **be at Mass** Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am. For weekday Mass check the Parish Newsletter.

... **go to Confession** Saturday from 10am. If you can't make this, please contact Fr Martin at the presbytery.

... **pray for 5 minutes everyday** There are no rules about prayer. Set aside 5 minutes every day to be in God's presence.

- **The "Walk with Me" prayer books** are available in church – there is brief reflection for each day of Advent and Christmas. This year, the daily meditations are based on the Psalm at Mass.

- **Dynamic Catholic** has two Advent experiences this year to help you prepare for the Best Christmas

Ever. Sign up and receive short, inspiring videos in your email inbox every day for free to help you focus on what makes Christmas important. www.dynamiccatholic.com

- **Bishop Robert Barron**, the Bishop of Winona-Rochester, USA, has a daily Bible Reflection based on the Mass readings. Sign up for free daily emails at www.wordonfire.org

- **The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney**, Australia, has launched a companion for the Sundays of Advent which can be downloaded free. Sign up at www.sydneycatholic.org

... **share your time, talent and treasure**

- Could you make a donation to help the parish SVP group reach out to lonely and isolated parishioners?
- Could you help the Leek Food Bank. There is a need for the following items: hair shampoo and conditioner; shower gel; anti perspirant; tooth brushes. Tinned soup, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit; rice pudding, custard; uht milk; tinned potatoes; jam; instant noodles
- Could you support CAFOD's World Gifts project? There are leaflets in church.
- Could you help with Sweep and Clean on Thursday 22 December after Mass?

Parish Council Meeting On Thursday evening we had our latest Parish Council Meeting. There have been regular Parish Council Meetings held in the Narthex with a limited number of people so that those who are present are safe during the meetings. The minutes of the meeting will be available soon either sent as an email or copies available in the church. Here are some more items which I want to draw to your attention

I need your help! Stewards and cleaners. I need some help with both stewards at Saturday evening Mass and stewards and cleaners at the Sunday morning Mass. Ideally, it would help if two people could help on both days. If you can help, please let me know.

A message of thanks and gratitude to the ladies who arrange the flowers in church The members of the Parish Council extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to Margaret and Gayle for their service to our parish by preparing and arranging the flowers in our church to enhance the dignity of the Sunday Masses. The carefully prepared arrangements uplift our celebrations of Mass. We would like to encourage you in this service to our parish.

A synodal parish in a synodal Church

Reaching out to young people and their families Last weekend the students from Painsley Catholic College were at our Saturday evening Mass. They lead the music and singing, they Read, prepared and lead the Bidding Prayers. It was an encouraging occasion and part of our priority to build better and strong links with our local Catholic Secondary School. On Wednesday, a good number of parishioners attended the Christmas party hosted by Painsley and had a great time! It is my wish that we continue to build more links with those who are students at Painsley and their families, by encouraging them to be at Sunday Mass and to have an active part in the life and mission of our parish. Next year the Painsley students will lead the music and read at Mass at least once each term. If you know of relations, friends and neighbours who have youngsters at Painsley, please do encourage them to return to Mass at St Mary's: they will be most welcome!

The Sacrament of Confession Here is the next part of the article on Why go to Confession? Please don't be afraid of Confession. Pope Francis has told priests to help people with this important sacrament. The next extract is . **Why ask for forgiveness from a man and not from God directly?**

Only God can forgive sins (Mk 2:7). Since he is the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, "The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (Mk 2:10), and exercises this divine power: "Your sins are forgiven" (Mk 2:5; Lk 7:48).

Further, by virtue of his divine authority he confers this power on the Apostles (cf. Jn 20:21-23) and their successors to exercise in his name. Christ has willed that his Church should be the sign and instrument of the forgiveness and reconciliation that he acquired for us at the price of his blood. But he entrusted the exercise of the power of absolution to the apostolic ministry. Therefore the priest hearing Confessions acts "in the name of Christ" and "it is God himself" who, through the priest, tells us: "Be reconciled with God" (cf. 2 Cor 5:20). (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1441-1442)

Edge at Alton Could you be an occasional volunteer? Can you offer to be an extra pair of hand at our sessions with young people from your parish and across the Staffordshire Moorlands? We promise you a few hours of faith and fun with about 15 (but this number is growing!) fabulous young people who are so keen to be able to meet and know themselves, one another and Christ better. Please contact us by emailing: edgeatalton@gmail.com

Christmas Raffle Raffle Tickets are available! We had a great response last weekend! We are raising money to repair the driveway to the presbytery. Can you take some tickets and sell them to your neighbours please? The draw will take place on Sunday 18 December.

Christmas cards More Christmas cards will be arriving soon. These latest editions have the scene depicted in the stained glass window. My thanks to Andrew for the photographs.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 27 November

Sunday Social and 200 Club

1230pm Market Square, Blessing of the Crib

Saturday 10 December

2pm – 3pm

CTDL Carol Singing outside Trinity Church. All welcome!

Thursday 22 December

Sweep and Clean after Mass

Second collection

Today for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

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