

**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](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryleek)**

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

**Saturday 27 August**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Ecclesiasticus 3: 17-20, 28-29; Ps 67; Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24; Luke 14: 1, 7-14*

6pm Vigil Mass for Sunday, Sarah Millward RIP

**Sunday 28 August**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am Piotr Zwierski, RIP

4pm Rosary and Benediction

**Monday 29 August**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist, Martyr**

*1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Ps 118; Mark 6:17-19*

9.40am Rosary 10am For you, the People of the Parish

**Tuesday 30 August**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Memorial of St Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, virgin, Martyrs**

*1 Corinthians 2: 10-16; Ps 144; Luke 4: 31-37*

9.40am Rosary 10am Mary Bogan RIP

**Wednesday 31 August**  
*Public liturgy*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**

*1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Ps 26; Luke 4: 38-44*

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

**Thursday 1 September**  
*Public liturgy*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**

*1 Corinthians 3: 18-24; Ps 23; Luke 5: 1-11*

11.30am Funeral Mass for Martyn Wilkes

**Friday 2 September**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Feast of St Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church, First Friday**

*1 Corinthians 4: 1-5; Ps 36; Luke 5: 33-39*

9.40am Rosary 10am Mr E.A. and Mrs B. Duffin RIP

**Saturday 3 September**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Wisdom 9: 13-18; Ps 89; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33*

6pm Vigil Mass for Sunday, Ray Cossburn RIP

**Sunday 4 September**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)

4pm Rosary and Benediction

**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

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**Gift Aid Co-ordinator**  
**Hospital Chaplaincy**

Mrs M Lawton  
University Hospital North Midlands  
Macclesfield District Hospital

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**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for August:** *We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.*

**Please pray for the sick:** Pam Webb, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, 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.*

**Prayers for the Faithful Departed** Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Martyn Paul Wilkes. Martyn’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 1 September at 11.30am. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Winifred Wright; Terence Wheatley; Pamela Ann Porter; William Moss; Annie Dawson; George Skaer; Georgina Jane Annable; Kathleen Margaret Taylor; Ann Jane Hambleton; Eliza Jane Hall; Mabel Kelsall; Dorothy Lomas; Albert Bowcock; Emel Swacez; Kenneth Pownell; Edna Finn; Sister Paschal Wallis IBVM; Norman Greenwood; Mrs Flannery; Joan Talks; Henryk Swiercz; Frank Clarke; Zofia Lazowska



Dear friends,

I would like to acknowledge my gratitude to you for your continuing support to our parish. We are all indebted to the large number of parishioners who volunteer and give of their time to the mission of our parish in many ways including maintenance, administration, and the very practical ways of opening and locking the church before and after Mass especially on those occasions which are out of the regular routine. I am very grateful to the teams – it is sensible that this is done by teams of at least two people – who do this for both weekend Masses and weekday Masses. Our parish is dependent on the kind-hearted volunteers who help in this way. If you can help with, please let me know.

Here is the last instalment of the article “Why go to Confession?” **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)

**GOD NEVER GETS TIRED OF FORGIVING US, BUT SOMETIMES WE GET TIRED OF ASKING FOR HIS FORGIVENESS. (POPE FRANCIS, MARCH 2013)**

After having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year. Anyone who is aware of having committed a mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion, even if he experiences deep contrition, without having first received sacramental absolution. The Church strongly recommends the habitual confession of venial sins, as this helps the faithful form their conscience, fight against evil inclinations, welcome Christ’s healing, and make progress in the life of the Spirit. Children must go to the sacrament of Penance before receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

Christ’s call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This ... is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church who, “clasping sinners to her bosom, [is] at once holy and always in need of purification, [and] follows constantly the path of penance and renewal” (Lumen Gentium, 8). This endeavor of conversion is not just a human work. It is the movement of a “contrite heart,” drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first (cf. Ps 51:19; Jn 6:44; Jn 12:32; and 1 Jn 4:10).

The process of conversion and repentance was described by Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son, the centre of which is the merciful father (Lk 15:11-24). The fascination of illusory freedom, the abandonment of the father’s house; the extreme misery in which the son finds himself after squandering his fortune; his deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed swine, and still worse, at wanting to feed on the husks the pigs ate; his reflection on all he has lost; his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father; the journey back; the father’s generous welcome; the father’s joy – all these are characteristic of the process of conversion. The beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet are symbols of that new life – pure, worthy, and joyful – of anyone who returns to God and to the bosom of his family, which is the Church. Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of his Father’s love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful a way. (CCC, 1428, 1439, 1457)

**Parish Visitation** This week, the Archbishop has written to all the priests of those parishes which will receive a Parish Visitation in the next two years. It is the Archbishop’s wish that the topic for reflection during the Visitation is the parish’s response to the Diocesan Vision and to its own Synodal Process. The Diocesan Vision is, “Our Vision is 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.”

Within this broad vision there are four areas of Church life to focus on: Evangelisation, Formation, with a particular emphasis on Catechesis, Liturgy and Worship and Social Outreach to those in need. We shall also share our response to the Synodal Process on any further steps that have been taken. The Visitation is not an inspection but an affirming and listening dialogue about how the parish is living out the vision now and how it will do so in the future. I hope that the Visitation will assist both clergy and parishioners in taking practical steps to put into practice the Diocesan Vision. The Opening Meeting will be at Holy Trinity, Newcastle, on Thursday 22 September at 7pm. It is important that we have a good representation at this meeting. If you are willing to attend this meeting and willing to take someone with you, please let me know by email.

**Tuesday 18 October: Deanery Station Mass** We have been asked to host this Mass and are inviting parishioners from the neighbouring parishes.

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

**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](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk) - Sunday 23 October, Sunday 27 November + 200 Club, Sunday 18 December + 200 Club

**Back to School** The new academic year is a few weeks away. Here are some key dates for everyone to know:

**Friday 9 September** 10am Mass in church with Year 6: parents and friends are welcome to attend Mass; the other classes at School will join online.

**Saturday 10 September** 6pm Family Mass in church. Children, parents and families are welcome for Education Sunday: let’s make God a part of this new school year and ask for His blessings on our learning and teaching

**Thursday 15 September** 4pm Meeting with parents of children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023.

Parents and carers are advised that the compulsory meeting will take place in church on Thursday 15 September at 4pm. It is essential that parents and carers attend this meeting with their children. I would also like to inform parents of children who will be starting school Year 3 in September that the baptism of children aged 7 years old and over wishing to be Baptised must attend a course of instruction. Parents are asked to contact Fr Martin and attend Mass.

**School Mass** This year school Mass will be celebrated on Friday afternoons.

**Let’s be dynamic Catholics, let us:**

- Be at Mass every Sunday: Sunday Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am and go to Confession once a month: Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Saturday 10am – 1030am or by making an appointment.
- Praying for 5 minutes every day and sharing our time and talent and treasure.

**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.

**Can you help?** The next parish Sweep and Clean is on Saturday 17 September at 10.45am. Please let Fr. Martin know if you can help.

**Dates for your diary**

Saturday 27 August	10.45 Faith for Kids in the Narthex
Monday 29 August & 12 September	SVP Meeting after 10am Mass, Bible Book Club on Zoom 6.30pm
Saturday 10 September	6pm Family Mass in church for Education Day
Thursday 22 September	7pm Deanery Visitation – Opening Meeting at Holy Trinity, Newcastle.
Tuesday 18 October	7pm Deanery Station Mass at St Mary’s
Thursday 15 September	4pm in Church: Meeting for parents of children who will receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation during 2023
<b>Holy Days of Obligation</b>	Tuesday 1 November All Saints’ Day
<b>Second Collections</b>	10/11 September Catholic Education Service 17/18 September Catholic Evangelisation
	24/25 September 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 £ 95.13 Gift Aid £134.65 Total £ 229.78

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