

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
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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 27 November

Public Mass and live - stream

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jeremiah 33: 14-16, Ps 24, 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2, Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

2pm Church open

230pm Marion Hawkins RIP

Sunday 28 November

Public Mass and live - stream

10am For you, the People of the Parish

Monday 29 November

Live - stream Mass

Advent Feria

Isaiah 2: 1-5, Ps 121; Matthew 8: 5-11

10am Owen Healy RIP

Tuesday 30 November

Public Mass and live – stream

Feast of St Andrew, Apostle

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

930am Church open 10am Talitha Rose RIP

Wednesday 1 December

No Mass today

Feast of St Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr

1 Corinthians: 4: 9-13; Ps 33; Luke 9: 23-26

Thursday 2 December

Public Mass and live - stream

Advent Feria

Isaiah 26: 1-6; Ps 117; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

930am Church open 10am Holy Souls (HB)

Friday 3 December

No Live – stream today

Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest: *First Friday; Migrants’ Day*

Isaiah 29: 17-24; Ps 26; Matthew 9: 27-31

Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy.

Saturday 4 December

10am to 1030am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baruch 5: 1-9, Ps 125, Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11, Luke 3: 1-6

2pm Church open

230pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 5 December

Public Mass and live - stream

10am Kevin Oliver RIP

4pm *Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction*

Parish Priest

St Mary’s Catholic Academy

Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle

Safeguarding Rep

Fr Martin Pratt

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.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for December – Catechists

Let us pray for catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for Faithful Departed

We pray for the repose of the soul of John Broun, Marion Hawkins and those who have died recently and due to Covid-19. *Due to data protection legislation, in order for a name to be printed in this newsletter, the consent of the next of kin needs to be given.*

Anniversaries

Doris Winifred Barrett, James Joseph O’Brien, Teresa Alcock, Joseph Barlow, Michael Hughes, Robert Murfin, Mary Carding, Stanislaw Dymn, Elizabeth Earley, Stanislaw Joslow, James Stewart, Sadie Knight, Lilian Oliver, Iris Mary Sheldon, Eileen Veronica (Vera) Stevenson, Harry Wright, Dennis Raymond Hulland, Basil Laurence Saum, Norman Clulow, Ludovic Kempinski, Honoria McTigue, Mark Andrew Hammond.



Dear friends, it is the Season of Advent and the Church's New Year! It is also our period of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. As both a new year and a time of preparation, Advent is a great opportunity to be more resolved and focused on Christ.

This year, let's mark Advent with an enthusiastic opening of our hearts to the Lord. Let's refocus on him so that we can celebrate Christmas with devotion. **Here is our plan for Advent:**

Let's join the celebration of Mass Sunday Masses is celebrated in church on Saturday afternoon at 230pm and Sunday morning at 10am. If you are unable to join us in person, please join the live-stream on the Parish Facebook page; if you can't join Mass live, please watch the recording later in the day. If you are hesitant about being in church, why not come to Mass on either a Tuesday or a Thursday at 10am when the congregation is smaller.

Let's pray Please keep 5 minutes of prayer every day during this holy season. During Advent, let's pray the Angelus. This ancient prayer honours Christ's incarnation and is a great accompaniment to this season.

The angel of the Lord declared unto to Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail, Mary ...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail, Mary ...

The Word was made flesh, And dwelt among us. Hail, Mary ...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let's go to Confession Confessions or the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in church on Saturday mornings between 10am and 1030am. The Sacrament will be celebrated in the narthex area of the church and we ask you to wear a face covering and maintain social distance. You can always speak with Fr Martin to arrange another time for Confession. In Confession, God never tires of forgiving us.

Pope Francis wants us to be a Synodal Parish The Pope wants us to walk together, focused on Christ and knowing that we are valued members of the Church each capable of making a contribution to its life and mission. Every parish in the Church is being asked to take part in this two-year process. Very soon I will give you a questionnaire to discuss and complete. There are no right or wrong answers. You can complete it individually or with family and friends. The purpose is that everyone knows you are a valued member of the Church and our parish.

Repairs to the church This week, a number of masonry repairs have been completed on the north side of the church. A scaffold has been put up at the west gable to repoint and repair the masonry around the rose window. The works are making some additional demands which are taking a lot of my time. For me, I am thinking about the repairs to the church in this way: "Work as hard as you can on at least one thing and see what happens."

Step 4 of the Government's response to Coronavirus The current high number of infections in our postcode area, the number of vulnerable people attending Mass and the number of people who attend Mass and return home to vulnerable relatives, have deemed it necessary to continue with the cautious approach which is already in place.

- **At Mass** - we continue with NHS Track and Trace; sanitising hands; social distancing; and, use of face coverings. The Bishops of England and Wales continue to ask us to use these measures to keep everyone safe and prevent the spread of the virus.
- **Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation** - in the church narthex. Bring a face covering.
- **Baptisms and Weddings** – please be in contact with Fr Martin.
- **The celebration of Christian Funerals** We shall have a gradual and phased reintroduction with the following routines:

NHS Track and Trace	Use of hand sanitizer	Social distancing	Use of face coverings
Limit of 50 people	A team of volunteer cleaners and stewards		The organ cannot be used and no singing
- Unfortunately, the Polish Mass and face to face parish meetings remain suspended.
- **Ventilation in church** Please keep in mind that ventilation is a proven way of reducing the spread of the virus. During all public Masses, the main door of the church and the internal doors will remain open. Please bring a coat!
- **Vaccines** If you are 12 -15 or over 50 you are eligible to receive either the first vaccine dose or a booster dose. Your doctor will be pleased to help you.
- **Volunteers** I am incredibly grateful to all our cleaners and stewards. They have kept the church open during this period. If you can help – even in a small way – it will be greatly appreciated. Please be in contact with me at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
- **Are you hesitant about coming back to Sunday Mass?** Please know that you are most welcome to come to Mass on Tuesday at 10am.

Christmas at St Mary's Can you help us to celebrate Christmas? Can you help as a volunteer steward or cleaner this Christmas? A sign-up sheet will be placed at the back of the church for volunteers for our Christmas Masses. We are looking for ideally a minimum of 4 stewards and 4 cleaners, except Friday 31 December and Saturday 1 January when there will be fewer parishioners attending and less of a workload. Many of the current volunteers are unable to help in more than a couple of Masses, but there are some who are prepared to help out in more, and some willing to double up with both stewarding and cleaning. Obviously any extra help would be greatly appreciated and will enable us to have more public Masses.

Christmas Flowers Next weekend, 4 – 5 December, there will be a second collection for Christmas Flowers in the church. Can you help with flower arranging? This year, this will take place on Thursday 23 December after the 10am Mass. If you can help, please contact me at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk or call the presbytery.

Christmas Raffle We want to raise £500 to secure our live-streaming on the Parish Facebook page. I can donate an old laptop computer. To enable it to work a new hard drive will be required, a new camera including a microphone and WIFI extension. From this weekend, raffle tickets will be on sale at the end of Mass £1 for 5 tickets. The prizes include a bottle of scotch, a bottle of wine and a box of Roses. The draw will take place on Sunday 19 December.

Children's Handmade Christmas cards The amazing pupils at St Mary's Academy have made Christmas cards which will be on sale from next weekend. The cards are of two designs. A pack of 4 cards is £2.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 28 November	3pm in the Market Square – The Blessing of the Crib
	630pm Advent Carols at All Saints' church – please take a face covering.
Monday 29 November	630pm Bible Book Club
Saturday 4 December	230pm Family Mass
Sunday 19 December	4pm Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints' church – please take a face covering.

Second Collections

This weekend SVP for meals on wheels at Christmas Saturday 4 / Sunday 5 December Christmas flowers

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.

Collections 7 Nov 21 GA £120.16 Non GA £130.99 Johnson Assoc £169.07 **14 Nov 21** GA £155.50 Non GA £97.44

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