

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 28 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 12-13; Ps 145; 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31; Matthew 5: 1-12

6pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 29 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Piotr Zwierski RIP

4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 30 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 11: 32-40; PS30; Mark 5: 1-20

9.40am Rosary 10am Holy Souls (HB)

Tuesday 31 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest

Hebrews 12: 1-4; PS21; Mark 5: 21-43

9.40am Rosary 10am Sheila Bird RIP (VA)

Wednesday 1 February
Public liturgy

Feria in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 12: 4-7, 11-15; PS102; Mark 6: 1-6

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

Thursday 2 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3: 1-4 PS23 Luke 2: 22-40

9.40am Rosary 10am Agnes McKeown RIP

Friday 3 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

Memorial of St Blase, Bishop, Martyr

Hebrews 13: 1-8; PS 26; Mark 6: 14-29

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

Saturday 4 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Isaiah 58: 7-10; PS111; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5; Matthew 5: 13-16

6pm Margaret Delicata RIP, **Family Mass with the Sacrament of Baptism**

Sunday 5 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Anthony Delicata RIP

4pm 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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The Pope’s Prayer Intention for January: For educators - We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

Can you set aside one day each month to pray for Vocations? If so, could you sign the list at the back of church, please.

Mass for Vocations Thursday 2 March, 7pm at St Giles, Cheadle.

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 Bruce Hargreaves. The arrangements for Bruce’s Funeral are: Monday 13 February 1130am Funeral Liturgy in church followed by committal at Carmountside at 1pm.

Anniversaries: Stanislaw Gutkowski; Pamela Helen Bristow; Brian Thomas Ball; Sister Wilfred Jemmison I.B.V.M.; Dorothy Walker Graham; John Manuel; Richard Byrne; Stephen Christopher Walmsley; Josef Ignatowicz; Mary Winifred Booth; Joseph Carding; Winifred Mary Lovatt; Johanna Williams; May Shaw; Cyril Shenton; Bernard Hargreaves; Albert Stapleton; Eric M Bowcock; Robert E Trafford; Roylance Wakelind; Richard Byrne; George Finney; Mr Charles; James Boyle; John Frain; Nobby Jones; Edith Flanagan; Jack Flanagan; Mr Morgan; Mary Machin; Edith Plant; Jessie Higgins; Doreen Joan Kirkham; Eleanor Roby; Jess Jones; Jean Margery Bowyer; Leonard Folg



Dear friends, last Sunday afternoon we hosted the annual Christian Unity Service. It was a great occasion with Pastors and parishioners coming to St Mary's from a number of the Christian communities in the town. Among the congregation was the Salvation Army Band, readers from St Edward's, Trinity Church and St Chad's House. It was a thoroughly uplifting occasion! I am incredibly grateful to all those who helped with the refreshments after the service.

Holy Moments How many Holy Moments have you made this week? Don't stop! Keep collaborating with God and making Holy Moments at work, at home, and on those occasions when you are bearing witness to your belief in God.

At our Parish Council Meeting on Thursday it was reported and I was pleased to learn that people are enjoying the book *Holy Moments: A handbook for the rest of your life*, saying that it is easy to read with a very engaging and accessible style. If you haven't received your copy, please do collect a copy from the back of church this weekend.

St Mary's SVP The Parish SVP Conference has asked me to convey their thanks for the recent donations which enabled them to send more meals to lonely and isolated parishioners as well as supporting some families. This is an amazing Holy Moment! Keep making Holy Moments!

The Christmas Raffle I am incredibly grateful to you for this year's Christmas Raffle which raised £587.10. We are raising money to resurface the first part of the driveway to the presbytery which is in a poor state of repair. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who bought tickets and donated prizes! Thank you!

Sacramental Preparation at St Mary's Academy:

- **Sacramental Preparation at St Mary's Academy Sacramental Application Forms** These were distributed at our meeting in church last September. Those parents who have not received an application form are asked to see me after Mass. Please ensure these application forms are completed and returned to School as a matter of urgency.
- **The Sacramental Preparation classes** These classes take place in School every Thursday. I attended these classes last week. Please make sure that the consent forms to attend these classes have been signed and returned to School. It is essential that the children attend all Sacramental
- **Attending Sunday Mass** I do appeal to the parents and carers of the children preparing for these Sacraments to attend Sunday Mass with your child. The Church's obligation to be at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is not meant to be an additional burden, but to show how, we as Catholics, treasure what is truly important to us. I would like to acknowledge it is good to see that some families are attending Mass regularly. I know that a number of children are part of Associations and Sports' Clubs; regular attendance at meetings and practices for these groups is essential. It is the same for Sacramental Preparation. If you choose not to attend Mass the celebration of the Sacraments for your child will be a shallow occasion. Please do support your child in this important part of their Sacramental Preparation. Sunday Masses at St Mary's: Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am.

Ordinary Fridays Our Catholic life observes Friday with special respect because of the Lord's Passion and Death. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus asks us to observe the First Fridays by attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays; it was one of the 12 promises the Lord made to St Margaret Mary during the sixteenth century and has been part of Catholic life ever since. As Catholics we also observe Fridays as days of penance by offering a form of self-denial in thanksgiving for the Lord's gentle mercy and our personal desire for conversion of heart. The Church does not prescribe, however, that fish must be eaten on Fridays. It never did. Abstinence always meant the giving up of meat rather than the eating of fish as a substitute. What the Church does require is that its members abstain on Fridays from meat or some other food or that they perform some alternative work of penance. Here are some practical suggestions for an act of penance on Fridays

- by abstaining from meat or some other food
- by abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement
- by making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross
- by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad
- by making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely

St Chad's House Here are some of the upcoming events:

- **Sunday 26 February 3pm – 6pm** Afternoon tea - Come and join us for some lighthearted chat with tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake. Feel free to bring your favourite boardgame to share.
- **Thursday 2 March 10am – 3pm** Quiet Day With led times of prayer and reflection as well as time for quiet space, and a light lunch, as we learn about our patron saint and namesake, St Chad, monastic founder, abbot, and first bishop of Lichfield.
- **Saturday 4 March 10am -12noon** All welcome for tea, coffee and chat and some delicious homemade cake

Parish pilgrimage to Knock The proposed pilgrimage to Knock will take place from 22 – 26 May 2023. The fare is £659 per person, plus £150 for single supplement. The five day trip will be based at the Knock House Hotel a short distance from the shrine, in includes return flights from Manchester to Knock, 10kg luggage allowance, priority boarding, and trips to Ballintuber Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Westport. There is a minimum number of 20 people to make the pilgrimage possible. *I need to have confirmed numbers no later than Monday 30 January for the pilgrimage to go ahead.* If you would like to go, please be in contact with Fr Martin as soon as possible, please.

200 Club It's time to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. Please fill out one of the envelopes at the back of the church and enclose cheques of £12 for your annual membership. Cheques should be made out to BRCDTR St Mary's, Leek.

Since the pandemic the numbers subscribing to the 200 Club have substantially reduced. Please consider joining the parish 200 Club this year as it raises valuable funds for the running of St Mary's church and the costs associated with our Masses. There are two monthly cash prizes to be won!

Thank you! I have received thanks from Missio for the World Mission Sunday Collection last October which raised £119.74.

Kenelm Youth Trust Bethsaida is a free online course for those wanting to know more about youth ministry in a parish setting. It consists of six sessions and participants will receive a diocesan certificate, as well as covering a wealth of topics and information about the what's, where's, why's and how's of helping young people to meet and grow in the Catholic faith. To sign up or find out more please visit: kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/bcysbethsaida.html

Dates for your diary

Monday 30 January	6.30pm Bible Book Club on Zoom
Thursday 2 February	7pm Journey in Faith
Saturday 4 February	6pm Family Mass
Wednesday 8 February	7.30pm Churches together in Leek and District
Saturday 11 February	10am Sweep and Clean
Saturday 18 February	12noon Holy Trinity Newcastle, Intercultural Mass
Wednesday 22 February	Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent

Collection Non Gift Aid - £159.11 Gift Aid - £86.00 Total - £245.11

With best wishes to you and your family, Fr. Martin