

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
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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 29 January <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 70; 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:-13; Luke 4:21-30 2pm Church open 2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish
Sunday 30 January <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	9.30am Church open 10am Joan McKenna Floyd RIP 4pm <i>Live-stream: Rosary and Benediction</i>
Monday 31 January <i>Live - stream Mass</i>	Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest, Patron saint of young people 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Ps 3; Mark 5:1-20 10am For you, the People of the Parish
Tuesday 1 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Feria in Ordinary Time 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3; Ps 85; Mark 5:21-43 9.30am Church open 10am Holy Souls (HB)
Wednesday 2 February <i>No Mass today</i>	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life Hebrews 2:14-18; Ps 23; Mark 2:22-40
Thursday 3 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Memorial of St Blaise, Bishop, Martyr, Patron saint of those suffering illnesses of the throat 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chronicles 29; Mark 6:7-13 9.30am Church open 10am Oliver Kirk RIP
Friday 4 February	Feria in Ordinary Time, (First Friday) Ecclesiasticus 47:2-11; Ps 17; Mark 6:14-29 Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy
Saturday 5 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 6:1-8, Ps 137; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11 2pm Church open 2.30pm Family Mass: Michael Stafford RIP
Sunday 6 February <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	9.30am Church open 10am Joan Greenwood RIP 4pm <i>Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction</i>

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 714944
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

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 February: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Please pray for the Faithful Departed We pray for the repose of the souls of Barbara Duffin and Fr David Lloyd, a retired priest of the diocese.

Anniversaries 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, Doreen Joan Kirkham, Eleanor Roby, Jess Jones, Jean Margery Bowyer, Leonard Folga, Mabel Leese, Eileen Johnson, Winifred Mary Boswell, Margaret Whittaker, Anthony John Hammon



Dear Friends, **St Mary's, Leek: A Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church** Are you ready for the journey? Pope Francis wants you and me to be valued members of the Synodal Church. This means we are committed to walking, talking and listening together. There will be occasions when we don't agree and that is okay. This pathway which Pope Francis has started is arguably the most significant moment in the Church's history since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. Let's join together in this. For me, I want this to be a process which brings us together and inspires us with new enthusiasm to have an interest in both the things of God and of the Church, so that each member of our parish knows that they are valued and has a role, and those who are on the margins know that they are always welcome. Next weekend, there will be a questionnaire for you to take home. There are two themes or topics based on our Parish Mission Statement, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Saturday 5 February 230pm Family Mass

I want to invite you to the next **Family Mass** which will be celebrated in church on **Saturday 5 February at 230pm**.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been reminded of the importance of the children being in school to receive a good education. Sport clubs and uniformed associations have also reopened with mitigations in place to ensure the safety of children and their families. It is also

important that our children and young people continue with their spiritual development and know of their valued place in our parish.

At St Mary's church we continue with safety mitigations to give reassurance to everyone who comes to Mass in our parish; many of us return home to someone who is vulnerable to the virus, and we all want to remain healthy.

At the beginning of the month of March, the Church will begin the Season of Lent when we remember the sacred dignity which God gave to us on the day of our baptism. I would like you to consider using this special period of the Church's year to be at Mass every Sunday. The weekend Masses are on Saturday at 2.30pm and Sunday at 10am.

Covid 19 and guidance for churches, January 2022 During the week, the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, in agreement with Public Health Officials, released its latest guidance for safe use of churches. We have been advised that the main mitigation against serious health issues arising from covid infection is to be fully vaccinated; this means two doses plus a booster dose for anyone aged 16 or over. The Catholic Church in England and Wales supports the vaccination programme and encourages people to be vaccinated.

While scientific consensus informs that society is moving from pandemic to endemic, a risk remains with gatherings for sustained periods in enclosed spaces and there needs to be continued caution. This has to be balanced against the need to move forward safely. So, I don't consider it to be prudent to change suddenly from our current situation as many members of our parish are themselves vulnerable to serious illness, many members of our church-going population return home to vulnerable relatives with weakened immune systems and some people may not feel comfortable with a sudden change.

I have been given a date for the completion of the repairs to the church and it is at that point that the Covid Risk Assessment will be reviewed. I have informed the diocesan authorities about this and I have their full support.

With immediate effect, the Track and Trace list can now be stopped. If someone tests positive for Covid 19 after being at Mass in our church, I will, as I did at the beginning of this week, put a message on the Parish Facebook page. At present there is no requirement for those who have been "double-jabbed" i.e., received two vaccine doses, to self-isolate. We encourage regular lateral flow testing.

So, for the time being we will continue with the following:

- Use of face coverings
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit
- Keep a 1m distance
- Ventilation of the church is important. Please bring a coat!
- Lateral flow testing: please test yourself regularly so that if you know you have the virus you stay at home
- Feeling ill: if you feel unwell, please stay at home and do not risk passing on the virus to others

Parish pilgrimage to Harvington Hall in Worcestershire

St Nicholas Owen lived during the 16th and 17th centuries and was a skilled carpenter. To show his devotion to the celebration of Mass and the life and ministry of priests, he built hides in the homes of Catholics with the purpose of protecting priests during the times of religious persecution. In our diocese, we have Harvington Hall near Kidderminster which has been a place of pilgrimage for a number of years as it was a location for priests to hide. Among those priests was St John Wall, also a martyr of the 17th century. If you would like to make a visit to Harvington Hall later this year, please let me know and I would be happy to make the arrangements.

200 Club

A huge thank you for your generous response to the appeal to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. If you would like to join, please contact the parish office. The subscription is £1 per month. A draw takes place after Mass on the last Sunday of the month with cash prizes for the winner and runner up. Cheques should be made out to: **BRC DTR St Mary's Leek**. The more subscriptions, the bigger the cash prize.

Repairs to the church and Sweep and Clean

During the week, part of the scaffold has been removed. It is possible to see some of the masonry repairs to the rose window at the west gable of the church. I am sure that you agree that the church is looking great! I have been informed that the repairs should be complete by 21 February. Towards the end of that week, on Friday 25 February could we do Sweep and Clean from 2pm onwards? We could do a thorough clean of the church and the grounds. In the church, a large amount of dust has settled on the arches and under the rose window. If we could get the scaffold set up and clean these hard-to-reach places, I would be very grateful.

Dates for your diary

Monday 31 January	630pm Bible Book Club
Saturday 5 February	2.30pm Family Mass
Sunday 6 February	Accession Day
Friday 25 February	2pm onwards Sweep and Clean
Wednesday 2 March	Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent
Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June	Extended Bank Holiday to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

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.

<u>Collection</u>	Gift Aid -£265.00	Non-Gift Aid -	140.30	Total £411.30
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Thank you for your generous support of our parish!

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