

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 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 Joe Clarke RIP (GC)

Sunday 4 December
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 5 December
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feast of St Birinus, Bishop
1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23; Ps116; Matthew 9: 35-37
9.40am Rosary 10am Kevin Oliver RIP

Tuesday 6 December
Public liturgy and live-stream

Advent Feria
Isaiah 40: 1-11; Ps95; Matthew 18: 12-14
9.40am Rosary 10am Talitha Rose RIP

Wednesday 7 December
Public liturgy

Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Isaiah 40: 25-31; Ps102; Matthew 11: 28-30
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Thursday 8 December
Public liturgy and live-stream

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Genesis 3: 9-15, 20; Ps97; Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12; Luke 1: 26-38
9.40am Rosary 10am Nancy and Dan Brough
11.30am Funeral Liturgy for Dorothy Frost

Friday 9 December
Public liturgy and live-stream
Please note change of time.

Advent Feria
Isaiah 48: 17-19; PS1: Matthew 11: 16-19
9.30am Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy. Parents and parishioners are welcome.

Saturday 10 December
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10; Ps145; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11
6pm Angela Bird RIP

Sunday 11 December
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am For you, the People of the Parish
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
Mrs M Lawton
University Hospital North Midlands
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The Pope’s Prayer Intention for November: For children who suffer: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

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: Bernard Oliver; Elizabeth Stanmore; Ignacy Czajka; Alexander James Moss; Stafford; Priscilla (Rose) Tipton; Roy Marren; Father George Rafferty (PP 1967-1977); Margaret Greenwood; Winifred Johnson; Antoni Kukulski; Rose Roscoe; Derek Joseph Boswell; William Flannery; Jozef Stefan Nawrot; Malcolm Ernest Mothershaw; William Wright; Elsie Gell; Irene Mary Harris; 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



Dear friends, thank you for your support last weekend with the beginning of the Season of Advent, the Church's New Year. I am incredibly grateful to you for supporting the blessing of the crib in the Market Square last Sunday lunch time; it was a very positive act of witness!

As we continue to celebrate this holy 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?

Christmas Masses These are the times for this year's Christmas Masses at St Mary's ...

Saturday 24 December

6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 25 December

12 Midnight Mass

10am Mass during the day

Dear friends, I need your help ...

... Thursday 22 December Sweep and Clean immediately after Mass

... Stewards for the Christmas Masses: I am appealing for your help to ensure that the Christmas Masses are uplifting occasions for everyone. If you can help with welcoming parishioners to the church, distributing Mass sheets and hymn books, and ushering at Holy Communion, please let me know.

A synodal parish in a synodal Church Here is the next part of the article on Why go to Confession? Please don't be afraid of Confession. **HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE GO TO CONFESSION?**

GOD NEVER GETS TIRED OF FORGIVING US, BUT SOMETIMES WE GET TIRED OF ASKING FOR HIS FORGIVENESS. (POPE FRANCIS, 17 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. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1428, 1439, 1457*)

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 The new Christmas cards have arrived. These latest editions have the scene depicted in the stained glass window. My thanks to Andrew for the photographs. The cards are on sale for £4 for a pack of 10 cards.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 8 December

SVP Meeting after Mass

Saturday 10 December

2pm – 3pm CTDL Carol Singing outside Trinity Church. All welcome!

Thursday 22 December

Sweep and Clean after Mass

Collection Sunday 20 November

Gift Aid £122.70 Non-Gift Aid £92.50 Second Collection Catholic Youth Service £109.94

Collection Sunday 27 November

Gift Aid £141.50 Non-Gift Aid £127.05 Second Collection Poor Parishes £76.23

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