

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 Facebook @stmaryleek

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

Saturday 31 December
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Numbers 6:22-27; Ps 66; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21
6pm Vigil Mass, Piotr Zwierski RIP

Sunday 1 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Eric Arthur Duffin RIP

Monday 2 January
Public liturgy

Memorial of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church
1 John 2: 22-28; Ps 97; John 1: 19-28
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Tuesday 3 January
Public liturgy

Christmas Feria
1 John 2: 29-3: 6; Ps 97; John 1: 29-34
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Wednesday 4 January
Public liturgy

Christmas Feria
1 John 3: 7-10; Ps 97; John 1: 35-42
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)
5pm Vigil and Reception for Sheila Bird

Thursday 5 January
Public liturgy

Christmas Feria
1 John 3: 11-21; Ps 99; John 1: 43-51
10am Funeral Mass for Sheila Bird
2pm Early Vigil Mass at St Mary’s Academy, For you, the People of the Parish

Friday 6 January
Public liturgy and live-stream
First Friday

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, Holy Day of Obligation
Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ps 71; Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12
7pm Mass, Michael Stafford RIP, (JS)

Saturday 7 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7; Ps 28; Acts 10: 34-38; Matthew 3: 13-17
6pm Family Mass, Ray Cossburn RIP, (GC)

Sunday 8 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Mass with the Sacrament of Baptism, Sheila Bird RIP, (PW)
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
Macclesfield District Hospital

tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
tel 01538 493888
tel 01538 493777

tel 0121 230 6240
tel 0808 800 500
ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
tel 01625 663386

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 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 Sheila Bird. Reception at church will be on 4 January at 5pm and Funeral Mass will be on 5 January at 10am.
We pray for the repose of the soul of Bruce Hargreaves.

Anniversaries Ambrose Fayard; Alex Bunt; Colvin Hugh Parr; John Lawrence Campion; Edith Collier; Arthur Priestman; Dr. Jerzy (George) Surawy; Edward Wasilewski; James Anthony Dwyer; Jessie Iris Quinn, Edward Carding, Marie Rose Bird, Lida Kania, Ellen Coughlan, Waclaw Cztoch, Beryl Mary Davenport, Elizabeth Hirst, William Murfin, Vincent Harvey, Freda Milward Albert, Aleksander Menke, Joan Longthorn, George Clulow, John Nicholson, Elizabeth Barnes, Sister Zena Carus OCV, Muriel Galton, Pauline Teresa Pointon, Raymond Evan Cossburn



Dear friends,
 Happy New Year! Let's share the blessing of the Old Testament Levites from today's First Reading at Mass at the beginning of the New Year: 'The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.'" (Numbers 6:22-27)

I am incredibly grateful for your kindness this Christmas. Thank you so much for the very generous Christmas Offering, the cards and gifts. It was very encouraging to see so many people at the Masses for Christmas Day; it was a great boost for all of us!

At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to share with you some of the statistics of what's happened in our parish over the last year and what will be taking place in the next twelve months. In 2022, there were: Baptisms **10**, Receptions into Full Communion (Converts) **3**, First Holy Communion **8**, Confirmation **5**, Marriages **1**, Funerals **11**.

During the next twelve months we have the following to look forward to: there are 7

Baptisms already booked; there are two people receiving instruction ahead of being received into Full Communion with the Church; there is one wedding booked which will take place during May.

There are 8 children preparing for First Holy Communion and 13 young people preparing for Confirmation – I want to reach out to parents of these children and appeal to you to bring the children to Mass on Sunday. It is incredibly important. Some of the children are in associations and sports' clubs and attending the regular weekly meetings is essential. It's the same for preparing for the sacraments: if you don't bring your child to Mass, the receiving of the Sacrament will not have the value and meaning it should.

Pope Benedict XVI At the conclusion of his homily at the inauguration of his Petrine Ministry on Sunday 24 April, 2005, he made this clear exhortation which, I think, is a positive encouragement to everyone in the Church. Pope Benedict said, "if we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life. Amen."

Epiphany of the Lord: Holy Day of Obligation In church, we continue to celebrate Christmas. This week we shall celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord which is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be two Masses to fulfil the obligation: Thursday 5 January at 2pm at St Mary's School, an early vigil Mass will be celebrated: parents of children and parishioners wishing to be at this Mass will be required to sign in at school reception upon arrival; and, Friday 6 January at 7pm in church.

Holy Days of Obligation The Obligation to be at Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation is not meant to make life more demanding, but to show how important the celebration of Mass is to members of the Catholic Church. Being at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is also an act of community with every member of the Church around the world. It would not be Christian to refrain from being at Mass or suggesting that God can be worshipped at home. The correct Catholic action is to be with our brothers and sisters and to worship God in the best way which is the Mass.

Holy Days of Obligation 2023		Second Collections 2023:	
Friday 6 January	Epiphany of the Lord	Sunday 5 March	Cathedral Maintenance
Wednesday 22 February	Ash Wednesday – not a Holy Day, but a day on which many people want to be at church	Friday 7 April	Holy Places in the Holy Land
Thursday 18 May	Ascension of the Lord	Sunday 30 April	Clergy Training Fund
Thursday 29 June	Ss Peter and Paul	Sunday 21 May	Catholic Communications
Tuesday 15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sunday 18 June	Day of Life
Wednesday 1 November	All Saints	Sunday 2 July	Peter's Pence
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day	Sunday 9 July	Apostleship of the Sea
		Sunday 17 September	Catholic Evangelisation
		Sunday 24 September	Fr. Hudson's Society
		Sunday 22 October	Missio
		Sunday 5 November	Johnson Association
		Sunday 26 November	Catholic Youth Service
		Sunday 10 December	Poor Parishes of the Diocese

Christmas Raffle 2022 I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported this year's Christmas raffle by buying tickets or donating prizes. The prizes have been listed on the St Mary's Friends Facebook page and the majority of them have now been claimed. We are hoping to raise some money to pay for the resurfacing of the first part of the driveway to the presbytery with the proceeds of this year's raffle. Thank you for your generous support.

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. If you would like to go, please be in contact with Fr Martin as soon as possible, please.

St Mary's Parish Administrator The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek, seeks to appoint a part-time Parish Administrator located at the Parish Office, Compton, Leek. 10 hours per week, Monday and Friday, paid at £10.90 per hour. For full details, please contact Fr Martin. Closing date for letters of application and current CV is Friday 13 January, 2023. Applications to be sent to Fr Martin Pratt, St Mary's Presbytery, Compton, LEEK, ST13 5NH

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!

Dates for your diary

Thurs 5 / Fri 6 January,	Epiphany of the Lord, Holy Day of Obligation. There will be two Masses: Thursday 5 January at 2pm Early Vigil Mass at St Mary's Academy Friday 6 January at 7pm Parish Mass in church
Saturday 7 January 6pm	Family Mass
15 January	Exchange Sunday
Monday 16 January 12 noon	Trinity Church, we are leading prayers for Christian Unity
Sunday 22 January	Sunday of the Word of God – during both Sunday Masses, those who exercise the Ministry of Reader will be blessed during Mass.
Sunday 22 January 4pm	United Service here at St Mary's

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