

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 04 December

Public Mass and live - stream

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baruch 5: 1-9; Ps 125; Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6

2pm *Church open*

230pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 05 December

Public Mass and live - stream

10am Kevin Oliver RIP

4pm *Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction*

Monday 06 December

Live - stream Mass

Advent Feria

Isaiah 35: 1-10; Ps 84; Luke 5: 17-26

10am Joan Greenwood RIP

Tuesday 07 December

Public Mass and live – stream

Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 40: 1-11; Ps 95; Matthew 18: 12-14

930am *Church open* 10am Christopher Rogers RIP

Wednesday 08 December

No Mass today

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Genesis 3: 9-15, 20; Ps 97; Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12; Luke 1: 26-38

Thursday 09 December

Public Mass and live – stream

Advent Feria

Isaiah 41: 13-20; Ps 144; Matthew 11: 11-15

930am *Church open* 10am Rosemary Emery RIP (S&PB)

Friday 10 December

No Live – stream today

Memorial of St Edmund Gennings, Priest, Martyr

Isaiah 48: 17-19; Ps 1; Matthew 11: 16-19

Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy.

Saturday 11 December

Public Mass and live - stream

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Is 12; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18

2pm *Church open*

230pm Dennis Wilkes RIP

Sunday 12 December

Public Mass and live - stream

10am Janusz Szura (Special Intention)

4pm *Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction*

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 0800 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 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.

Anniversaries

Bernard Oliver, Ignacy Czajka, Alexander James Moss, James 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, Irene Mary Harris, Francis John Burn

Dear friends, this weekend please pray for the Pope while he is making an Apostolic Visit to Cyprus and Greece.

Welcome! I would like to introduce to you Geraldine Duffy-Jentz, our new Parish Administrator. Geraldine has already started work during the week. While there is still so much uncertainty with Covid, Geraldine will work between the parish office and her home on two days each week. You can contact Geraldine by email administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk.

The Blessing of the Crib The short blessing will now take place on Monday 6 December at 3pm in the Market Square.

Can you help? Thursday 23 December 2pm Church cleaning for Christmas. If you can help with cleaning the church in preparation for our celebration of Christmas, please let me know by email at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Christmas at St Mary's This year, Christmas will be a little different.

Here are the times of Masses over the Christmas period:

Friday 24 December, 2021

Christmas Eve

230pm Mass 6pm Mass

Saturday 25 December, 2021

Christmas Day

10am Mass

Sunday 26 December, 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

10am Mass

There will be a booking system for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; these details will be made available in the coming days. I am very grateful to our amazing volunteers who have signed up to enable these Masses to take place. If you are able to help, please do let me know. If you can help in any small way, it will be greatly appreciated.

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

Let's join the celebration of Mass Sunday Mass is celebrated in church on Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm 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 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 south side of the church. A scaffold has been put up at the west gable to repoint 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** - 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 Flowers This weekend 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, also a new camera including a microphone and WIFI extension. 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 **Saturday 4 December 2.30pm** Family Mass, **Monday 6 December 3pm** Blessing of the Crib,

Sunday 19 December 4pm, Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints' church – please take a face covering.

Second Collections This weekend: 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.

Collection 20 – 21 Nov Gift Aid £116.50 Non GA £136.26 7-28 Nov Gift Aid £137.15 Non GA £156.01 SVP £194.68.

Edge@Alton Sunday December 12 at the Soli Centre in Alton, from 3:30pm until 5:15pm. Our 'cosy night in' will be a time for friendship and plenty of fun as we celebrate this festive season in our faith together. We welcome young people in school years 6,7 and 8, and new members are always welcome! For more information or to book a place please email: edgeataltont@gmail.com

Archdiocese of Birmingham Climate Action Group: Live More Simply this Advent and Christmas. All are welcome to join the next online meeting of the Diocesan Climate Group on Tuesday 14 December at 7pm via Zoom.

Please register here: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/living-more-simply-this-advent-and-christmas



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