

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 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

Monday 6 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

Memorial Of St Paul Miki and his Companions, Martyrs
Genesis 1:1-19; Ps 103; Mark 6:53-56
9.40am Rosary 10am George Kutty Kuxian

Tuesday 7 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time
Genesis 1:20-2:4; Ps 8; Mark 7:1-13
9.40am Rosary 10am Augustin Perumpawspalli

Wednesday 8 February
Public liturgy

Feria in Ordinary Time, Day of prayer for the victims of trafficking
Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17; Ps 103; Mark 7:14-23
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

Thursday 9 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feria in Ordinary Time, World Day for Sick
Genesis 2:18-25; Ps 127; Mark 7:24-30
9.40am Rosary 10am Sheila Bird RIP (VA)

Friday 10 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin
Genesis 3:1-8; Ps 31; Mark 7:31-37
1.30pm Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy, Parents and parishioners are welcome!

Saturday 11 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; Ps 118; Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:14-37
6pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 12 January
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Janusz Szura (spec int)
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Parish Priest
Parish Administrator
St Mary’s Catholic Academy
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle
Safeguarding Rep

Fr Martin Pratt tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Alice Murray
Mrs G Turner tel 01538 493888
Mrs R Waugh tel 01538 493777
Appointment pending
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Gift Aid Co-ordinator
Hospital Chaplaincy

Mrs M Lawton ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
University Hospital North Midlands tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
Macclesfield District Hospital tel 01625 663386

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for February: For Parishes. We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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: Mabel Leese; Eileen Johnson; Winifred Mary Boswell; Margaret Whittaker; Anthony John Hammond; William Manuel; Mary Agnes Mitchell; Paul Kurdziej; Kathleen Leek; Catherine Birch; Margaret Mary Williams; Jeffrey Hugh Proctor; Denis Ball; Jeffrey Nixon; Mary Ellen (Eileen) Swann; Mercy Elaine Jane McDonough; Michael Moran; Edith Trafford; Richard Milaszkiwicz; Rosemary Kirkham; Mary Eileen Rushton; Marjorie Whitworth; Josephine Ann Keating; Dr Cappil Phillip Joseph



Dear friends, **Welcome!** It is a great joy to welcome Alice, our new Parish Administrator. Please do make her welcome. Alice officially started on Friday and is in a handover period with Geraldine.

The Season of Lent is only a few weeks away! The Church's calendar used to designate the third Sunday before Lent as Septuagesima – meaning seventieth day before Easter. It marks the beginning of a seventeen day period of getting ready to begin the Holy Season of Lent. It is the carnival season culminating with Shrove Tuesday.

The purpose of this Sunday, Septuagesima; next Sunday, Sexagesima; and, Quinquagesima, is solely to alert us to the upcoming Season and that we will prepare ourselves so that we are ready to take up the spiritual practices associated with Lent.

The prayer which would have been used at the beginning of Mass on Septuagesima Sunday before the changes implemented at the Second Vatican Council prays, "Graciously, hear the prayers of Thy people, we beseech Thee, O Lord: and add glory to Thy name by mercifully delivering us from the evils we rightly suffer for our sins." So, we can look ahead and plan when we will go to Confession before Easter. Some people go to Confession on Saturday morning, others call and make another arrangement, while others will go to Confession at another church. I do encourage you to make the opportunity to go to Confession.

Ash Wednesday will be Wednesday 22 February this year. Mass for Ash Wednesday will be at 7pm with Bishop David.

During the Season of Lent this let's make more Holy Moments. Among them, let's

... be at Mass on Sunday because we want to be at Sunday Mass: imagine how it would be if 200, 300, 400 Catholics gathered for Sunday Mass every week in our church!

... go to Confession to receive God's forgiveness

... to spend 5 minutes in prayer everyday

... to share our time, talent and treasure

Getting ready for the Easter Triduum During Lent we are preparing ourselves to celebrate the Easter Triduum which is the shortest but, by far, the most important liturgical season. During Lent we are making spiritual preparations so that we can take part in the four most important liturgical celebrations of the year: Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday's Solemn Celebration of the Passion; Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil; and, Easter Sunday Mass. I do appeal to you to come to church to take part in these celebrations of our Salvation. The times will not be too different from last year. Let's make each of these celebrations Holy Moments celebrating our salvation!

During Lent we make spiritual preparations by prayer, fasting and acts of charity.

... could you pray for peace in Ukraine; an end to the pandemic; for our parish; for those parishioners who haven't been to Mass for a long while; for St Mary's Academy and Painsley Catholic Academy; for the children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation; for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life;

... could you fast from chocolate, alcoholic, drinks, the midmorning biscuits, butter, uncharitable conversation, impatience; bitterness; resentments;

... could you make a donation to the Parish SVP Group's mission of sending meals to isolated and lonely? Could donate some non perishable food for the Food Bank?

BBC TV Pilgrimage series Do look out for Pilgrimage on BBC TV and iPlayer. Seven celebrities make their way to the shrine of Fatima, learning about each other's faith traditions, the meaning of faith today and, about themselves. bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09w7lc0

Good Friday, Friday 7 April, Annual Walk of Witness This year, it is our turn to lead the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness in the centre of Leek. I haven't made any plans yet, but if you can help with singing, music, reading please let me know.

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 will be attending the classes this 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 Preparation classes.
- **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.

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

<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Saturday 4 February	6pm Family Mass
	Monday 6 January	6.30pm Bible Book Club on Zoom
	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 - £.81.93 Gift Aid - £ 92.00 Total - £. 173.93

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